

TOP OF THE SOUTH ISLAND (TOS) MARINE BIOSECURITY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER No. 2 February 2010



Welcome to the second edition of the TOS Marine Biosecurity Partnership News.

Over the last three months TOS Marine Biosecurity have been busy;

1. Developing localised Risk Management Systems
2. Engaging more stakeholders and informing of the TOS strategy
e.g. boat haul-out operators, marina managers, shipping agencies etc.
3. Operating an ongoing Communications Plan
4. Regional Surveillance report (NIWA)

1. Developing Localised Risk Management Systems

The co-ordinators have been busy after a Scientific Workshop, and partnership, and management meetings in November and have begun drafting a comprehensive risk management plan.

The highest risk pathways and vectors have been identified and are the main focus of proactive work going forward. Having an appropriate response plan is also a priority, should the surveillance plans or some other source, identify the arrival of an unwanted or pest organism.

Because it is a mammoth task to eradicate marine pests once they arrive, the most important messages we can give are the same as MAFBNZ:

- **Keep your boat hull clean and antifouled to avoid spreading marine pests from location to location, and**



- **Report any unusual marine plants and animals to the freephone 0800 80 99 66**

2. Engaging more stakeholders and informing of the TOS strategy - haul-out operators, marina managers, shipping agencies etc.

We are encouraged by the interest and support shown towards the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy by those we have been in contact with.

The co-ordinators have been busy engaging with key stake holders to discuss their particular involvement with the marine environment and looking at ways we can be working together to keep our coastal waters clear of marine pests.

Shipping agents are being asked about their systems and processes for vessels entering the inshore zone. Russell is keen to work with this industry and other marine users to help reduce the risk of pests being introduced through vessel arrivals.

Communications with the key MAF people who are checking new vessels that enter our ports from overseas will also be ongoing.

We have begun visiting marinas and checking on moored vessels to see how they rate in regards to antifouling. Our Harbourmasters and marina managers have proved keen to support the TOS strategy.

After visiting the haul-out operators in Nelson, Picton, Havelock and Waikawa, we are pleased with their operations and policies for disposal of fouling material. They are all aware of the TOS strategy and have good MAFBNZ resources. We were able to hand out a few more resources and leave them our contact details if they have any further questions.

3. Communications Plan

We have developed a Communications Plan which identifies key audiences and potential allies in this endeavour. The following are some recent examples of activity in this area:

- Delivering MAFBNZ resources to dive shops and aquariums
- Talking to commercial and recreational divers and boaties and discussing the 0800 80 99 66 free phone number.
- Discussing TOS strategy with aquaculture personnel
- Initiating discussion with TOS coastal communities to inform them of the Strategy and its goals.

4. Regional Surveillance report (Don Morrisey Marine Ecologist National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd)

The summer 2009-2010 surveys of Nelson (which Russ Mincher came along on for a day) and Picton are complete (as are Wellington, Whangarei, Lyttelton and Tauranga), but we are still in the process of completing surveys of five other ports between now and the end of March. With regards to the Nelson survey, we captured a single individual of an introduced fish, the Australian bridled goby (*Arenigobius bifrenatus*) - a species that was first recorded in New Zealand in 1998 but has not previously been recorded further south than Tauranga. The

introduced seasquirt *Clavelina lepadiformis* (the light-bulb ascidian) was noted at several locations in Nelson Marina. This species was first recorded in New Zealand during the Summer 2008-2009 survey of Nelson and appears to be established in Nelson Marina. These species are not listed by MAFBNZ as species of concern. Nothing of particular note was recorded from Picton or Havelock.



Kate Willis from NIWA's CHCH office helping with the survey in Picton harbour. The starfish seen is native to New Zealand.

THE TOS CO-ORDINATORS ARE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE TALKS BACKED UP BY POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ON MARINE BIOSECURITY TO INTERESTED GROUPS. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A SPEAKER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOUR ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ANYTHING IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

Sue Campbell

Communications

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership

Email: sue@minchercampbell.co.nz Ph 03 579 5423 or cell. 027 460 8628