

Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki

Hauraki Gulf Biosecurity

A collaborative partnership:
Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation

TMBC Webinar

Presenters: Wendy Zapart & Claire Warren

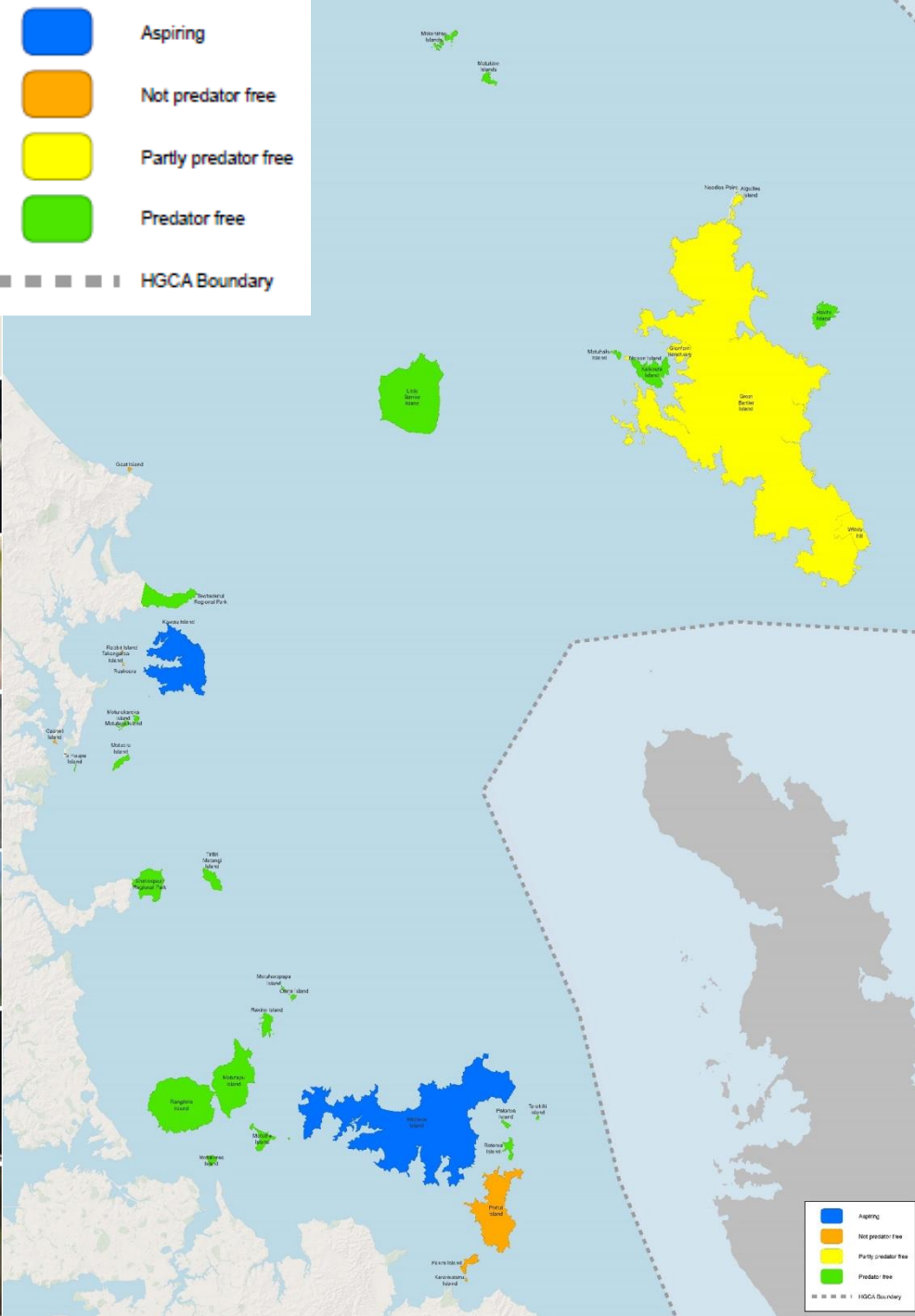
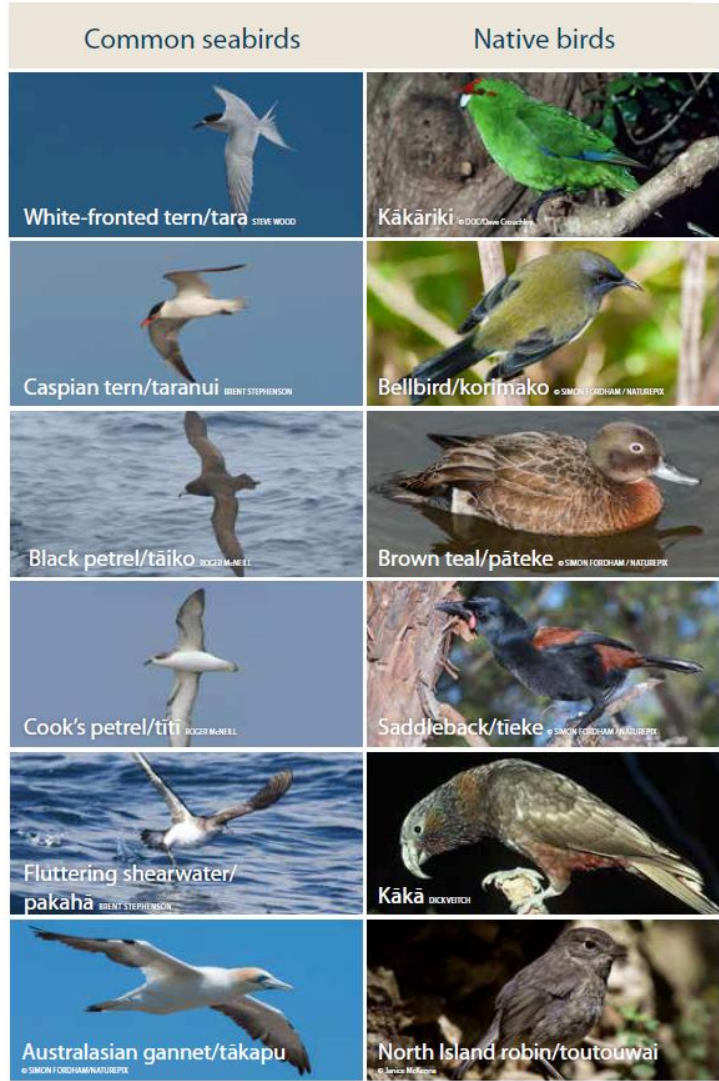
17 September 2025



Hauraki Gulf Islands – ngā motu taonga

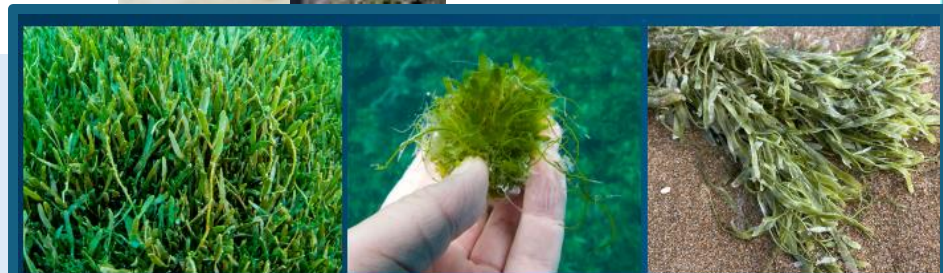
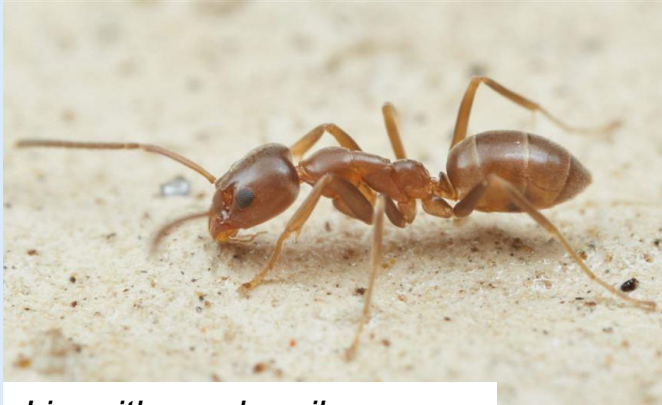
- **50+ islands:** 28 predator free > football field
- **Global biodiversity hotspot:** seabirds, lizards, plants & invertebrates – many endemic
- **High visitor numbers:** islands easily accessible to Auckland's 1.7 m people

■ Aspiring
■ Not predator free
■ Partly predator free
■ Predator free
 HGCA Boundary



Biosecurity at a glance

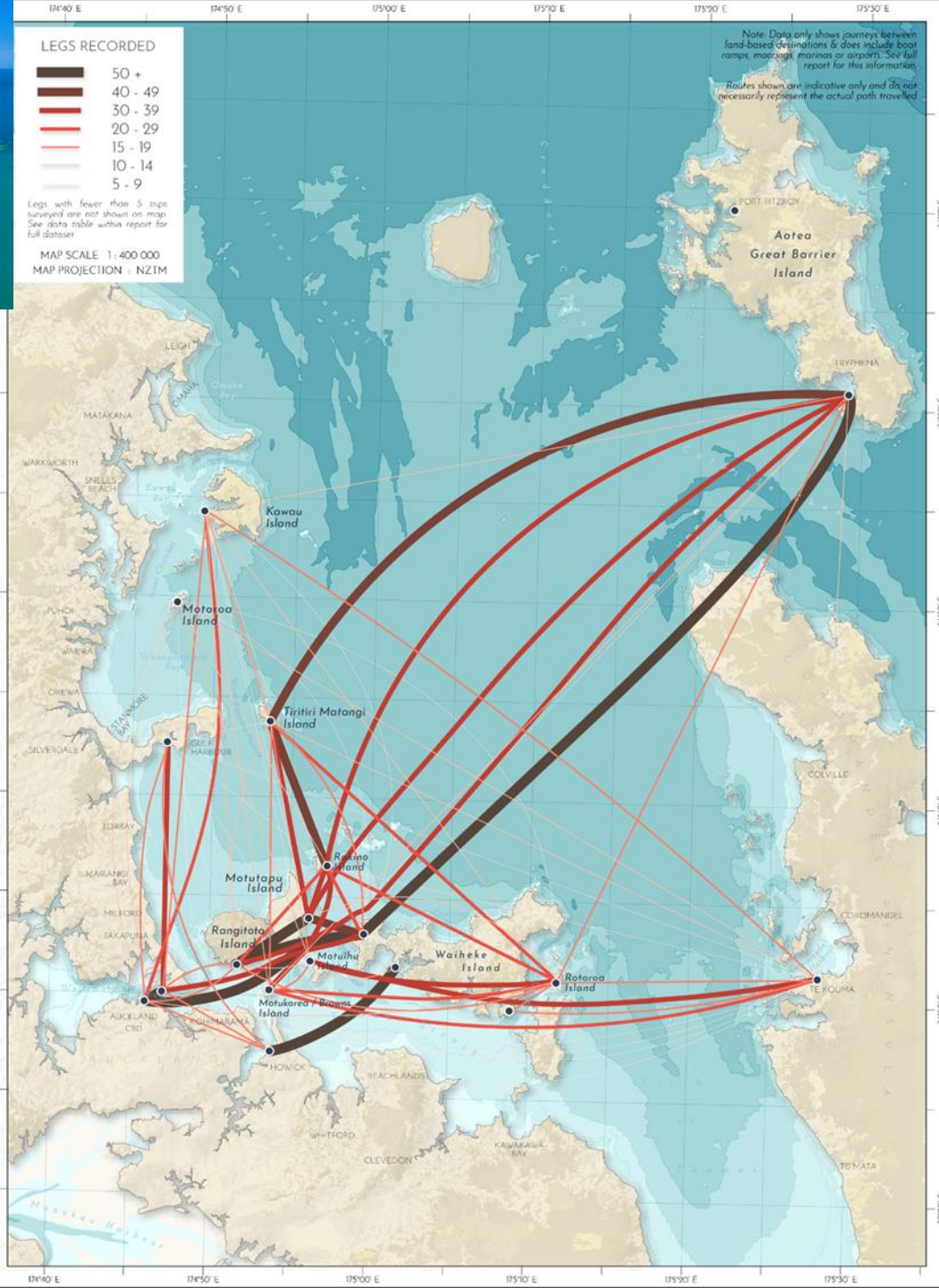
- **Vision:** Pest free islands, thriving terrestrial and marine ecosystems and native species
- **Key pests:**
 - rats (3 species)
 - mice; plague skinks
 - Argentine ants
 - kauri dieback disease
 - legislated unwanted organisms (more on that later)
 - Exotic caulerpa*
- **Biosecurity foci:**
 - Prevention
 - Surveillance
 - Incursion readiness/response
 - Advocacy/engagement



Exotic caulerpa is bright green with round, oar-shaped ends



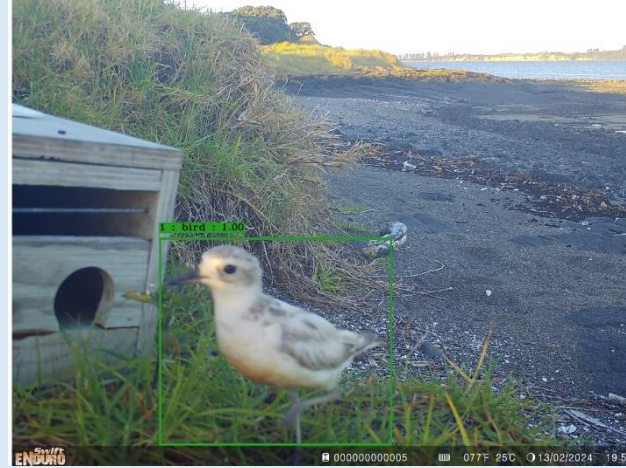
Key challenges



- Complex transport pathways (freight, tourism, private vessels)
 - Multiple barge and ferry sailings weekly with a range of freight types
 - 3 ferry sailings daily to popular tourist destination Rangitoto island
 - 10K+ private vessels in and around the Gulf
- Autonomous pest arrivals – islands within swimming distance
- Many islands & mixed tenure – inhabited, privately owned, māori and government owned
- A single agency can't manage the biosecurity threats alone
- Sustaining long-term effort and community engagement

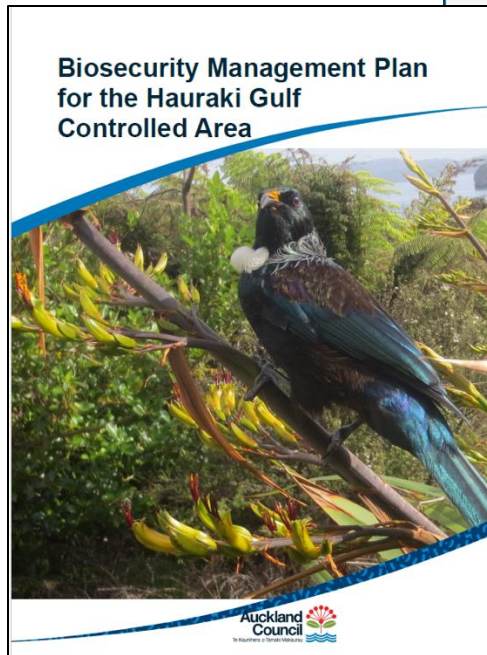
The pest prevention programme

- Underpinned by legislation (NZ Biosecurity Act 1993 > RPMP > Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice)
- Biosecurity focus areas:
 - **Prevention:** island biosecurity plans, vessel inspections, risk goods checks, marina and supply chain checks, infrastructure
 - **Surveillance:** early detection tools
 - **Response:** training, planning, resource sharing
 - **Advocacy:** raising awareness – public communications, biosecurity Ambassadors
- **Key tools:** Legislation, Pest Free Warrant, biosecurity officers with pest detection dogs (largest NZ council team)
- **Technical support** for best practice: pest ecology; guidelines; training
- **Funded** by regional household rates



Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice

- HGCAN 2020 (Auck. Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030):
 - 281 pests:
 - 44 animals
 - 2 pathogens
 - 235 pest plants
 - Includes marine species
 - Moveable buildings need inspection/approval before travel
 - Penalties for pest transfer: \$100k/\$200k
 - Penalties for failing to comply with direction: \$500k/\$10m



The Pest Free Warrant

- Very successful in Auckland; a desire to emulate elsewhere in NZ
- Now administered by AC supported DOC
- Reduces likelihood of pests on risk pathways – transport operators, quarantine facilities, others
- Initially voluntary; compulsory under CAN since 1 Jan 2024
 - Keep vessels, vehicles and gear **clean, pest free and well-maintained**.
 - Inspect** high-risk goods before travel.
 - Have **fit-for-purpose pest control measures** in place (e.g., rodent control, Argentine ant checks).
 - Engage passengers and staff** in biosecurity awareness and responsibilities.
 - Pass **yearly and spot audits** to confirm ongoing compliance.
- Intercepts* on vessels since 2016: 6 rodents; 22 plague skinks; 3 invertebrates
- Education strength = limited compliance action

Help keep our
Hauraki Gulf pest free

pestfreeaurakigulf.org.nz



SPRING INTO ACTION: A MONTH OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXCITING NEWS!

A Word from Our Biosecurity Team

As the seasons change, so do our activities, and with summer just around the corner and Christmas on the horizon, it's been a vibrant and busy month here. Our dedicated Pathways biosecurity advisors, alongside our incredible biosecurity dogs, have been hard at work safeguarding the Hauraki Gulf islands, actively undertaking surveys to ensure that no unwanted invasive species have arrived on our pest free islands. Additionally, early morning vessel checks, and risk goods checks are vital parts of our biosecurity efforts, helping identify and intercept potential threats so they don't get to one of the Hauraki Gulf islands.

PEST OF THE MONTH: MICE

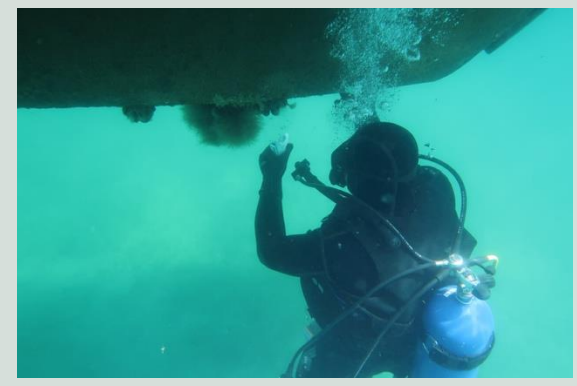
Warmer weather means more people are heading out for fishing charters, cruises, and



also means mice and other pests are active too. They may seek out food, hitching rides in hiking gear, bags, vehicles, or boats, so it's crucial for everyone to be aware of their presence.

Mice are highly adaptable and can reproduce quickly. A single mouse can have a litter of up to 12 pups every few weeks! This makes it easy for their population to grow rapidly if not controlled.



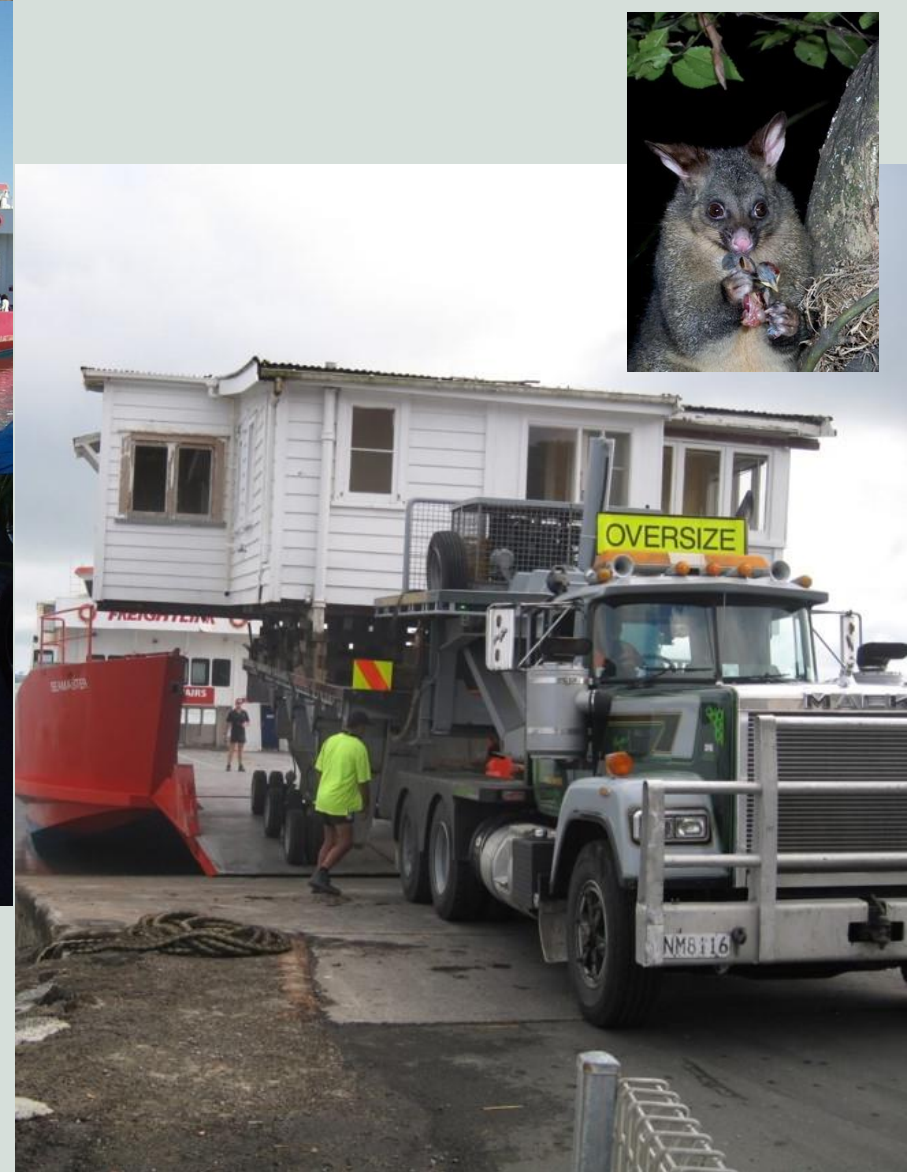


Partnership in action: Marina pest control, supply-chain checks, summer advocacy & comms (integrated messaging)

Trucks, cars, trailers	Vehicle
Bumper	
Front wheel hubs and mud guards	
Engine compartment	
Cabin floor & under floor mats	
Seats and behind seats	
Food storage places	
Tool boxes	
Chassis, cross members and deck	
Rear wheel hubs and mud guards	
Trailer Coupling	
Hose and reel attachments	
Water tanks and mixers	
Bumper	
Bulldozers/Diggers	Vehicle
Bucket, blade and blade frame	
Between hydraulic hoses and frame	
Engine bay	
Frame (especially where boom enters the body)	
Cabin floor	
Seats and behind seats	
Digger track / rollers / suspension	
Fuel tank compartment	

Small machinery	Vehicle
Engine	
Compactor plate's upper surface	
Scrub bar shaft	
Scrub bar safety guard area	
Fuel Containers	
Toolkits	
Engine	
Digger bucket and attachments e.g. auger bit, rock breaker etc	
ATV or similar	Vehicle
Wheels / hubs	
Mudguards	
Suspension	
Engine	
Under the seat	
Sea riders	Vessel
Check boats and yachts for any signs of pests. Make sure that all nooks and crannies are free of stowaways.	

For more information about Biosecurity contact:
 Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motiue, Tiritiri Matangi, Motuora, Haururu Islands
Colin Christie - 027 367 2420 (DOC)
 Rakino, Kawau, Great Barrier/Aotea, Motukorea and other Hauraki Gulf Islands
Brian Shields - 021 229 7511 (Auckland Council)



Partnership in action: barge checks before leaving the mainland

Value of DOC-AC collaboration



- Successful pest prevention and rapid response
- Improved outcomes through shared resources (e.g. Kawau Island pest eradication: logistics, ops, reputation, Te Tiriti partners representation)
- Model influencing other regional collaborations and internationally, e.g. PF Rakiura, RSPB (Biosecurity4Life)



Key opportunities – where to next?



- Can the Pest Free Warrant programme be emulated elsewhere in NZ or overseas?
- Public engagement – how to target diverse communities?
- Next level integration with marine biosecurity, e.g. proposed Clean Vessel Plan?
- Maintaining the gains – tools, tech, dogs...
- Pests that climate change will bring



Pātai - questions?

Contacts:

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DOC: cwarren@doc.govt.nz

Links to other resources:

<https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/hauraki-gulf/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/pestfreehaurakigulf>

Kawau: <https://working-towards-a-pest-free-kawau-island>

