

This is the Biosecurity Pre-Clearance email we received in September 2025. **Note:** This is a new process, so the wording/questions may change over time. We have included the email we received so you know what to expect and can prepare accordingly.

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Kia ora,

We have noted you are on your way to New Zealand; we are looking forward to welcoming you and your vessel.

**Our records indicate that your Place of First Arrival will be: Marsden Cove (Whangarei) – Please confirm that this is correct AND provide us with an estimated time of arrival.**

Marine pests and diseases introduced to New Zealand on vessel hulls (biofouling) are a threat to our marine environment and resources. We estimate that up to 90 percent of non-indigenous marine organisms in New Zealand have been introduced via vessel biofouling. To help protect our unique environment, all vessels arriving in New Zealand are required to meet the biofouling requirements outlined in the [Craft Risk Management Standard for Vessels](#) (CRMS).

Most recreational vessels arriving in New Zealand fall under the **long-stay category** of the CRMS. This applies to vessels that plan to stay in New Zealand for **29 days or more**, or that intend to visit locations that are not designated [Places of First Arrival](#).

Meeting the **long-stay requirements** will allow you to sail freely in New Zealand waters.

We are now reaching out to vessels prior to arrival and requesting evidence of compliance. This means that for those able to send photos/videos/reports/etc. we can either confirm they meet the requirements or let you know of any issues (this may provide an opportunity to clean before arrival into New Zealand, reducing costs and delays on arrival). However, if you are unable to provide the evidence then MPI will continue to assess your hull on arrival in New Zealand as per previous years.

**To help us assess your biofouling management practices, please provide answers to the following questions:**

- What is the length of your vessel (metres)?
- When was your vessel last antifouled?
- When was the hull last cleaned?
- Were all hull and niche areas cleaned?
- Will the last hull cleaning date be within 30 days of your arrival into New Zealand?
- Has the vessel been stationary for more than 10 days since the last hull clean?
  - If yes, please provide details (e.g. number of days)
- When were the internal pipework/strainers last treated or cleaned? (Please provide a date or indicate if never treated).
- Do you have any comments or questions?

**If you have any evidence of hull cleaning, please share it with us.**

To meet the clean hull requirements for long-stay vessels, you can either:

- Provide evidence that shows the vessel hull and niche areas were cleaned less than 30 days before arrival, e.g. antifouling certificate, cleaning report, dated photos/videos.
- Show you have a booking at an [MPI-approved haul-out facility](#) within 24 hours of arrival

Please send your evidence to [vessels@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:vessels@mpi.govt.nz). If you wish to share files via link, please use the following [ShareFile link](#) as we are unable to open external links. Make sure all uploaded files include your vessel's name.

If evidence isn't provided prior to arrival, MPI may need to assess your vessel's hull on arrival in New Zealand. Please note that additional evidence, such as a dive report, may be required for larger vessels (20 metres or more), due to difficulties carrying out inspection from the waterline. Submitting your information early will help avoid delays and unexpected costs.

If fouling is found to exceed CRMS thresholds, MPI may:

- Restrict the vessel's itinerary
- Require the vessel to either leave New Zealand waters or enter an MPI-approved haul-out facility

Please be aware these actions will be at the vessel owner or operator's expense.

You can find more information and resources about biofouling requirements on the [MPI website](#).

Thank you for your support in protecting New Zealand's waters.