

## 5.18 Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*)

### Why is it a threat?

The Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) is a marine fouling species that forms dense colonies that could affect native species by competing for food and space. Recent studies have indicated impacts on the establishment of new generations of some species and on nutrient flow. The presence of dense colonies of this species could also change the underwater scenery of an area, potentially impacting on dive tourism activities. While Mediterranean fanworm has not yet been recorded to have had significant impacts on fisheries in New Zealand, it could become a nuisance to recreational and commercial fishers by clogging dredges and fouling other fishing gear when in high densities. This fanworm has been detected on some mussel farms in the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel region recently. Because mussels and fanworms are filter feeders, the productivity of mussels may be affected if the fanworm infestations become high.



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Mediterranean fanworm has been found within Picton Marina and on a small number of vessels that have entered Marlborough carrying fanworms amongst biofouling.

### 5.18.1 Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, prevent the establishment of Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) in Marlborough to eliminate adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

#### Intermediate Outcome:

<b>Exclusion</b>	<b>Eradication</b>	<b>Progressive Containment</b>	<b>Sustained Control</b>	<b>Site-led</b>
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#### Principle measures to achieve the objective

##### 1) Requirement to Act

Persons may be required to act where rules or statutory obligations dictate such.

##### 2) Advocacy and Education

Council may:

- a) Provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities targeted toward persons that operate within the marine environment.
- b) Promote industry requirements and best practice to persons that operate in the marine environment.
- c) Encourage any person to report any pests they find.
- d) Facilitate or commission research.

##### 3) Council Inspection and Service Delivery

Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors:

- a) Conducting in-water surveillance and/or inspection activities.

- b) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

## 5.18.2 Rules

### Rule 5.18.2.1

The owner or person in charge of a craft entering Marlborough must ensure that the fouling on the hull and niche areas of the craft does not exceed 'light fouling' unless:

- i) The craft is entering Marlborough for the purpose of a haul out. The haul out must be undertaken within 24 hours of arriving. Proof via receipt from a haul out facility must be provided upon request of an Authorised person, or
- ii) The craft is required to enter Marlborough in an emergency relating to the safety of the craft and/or the health and safety of any person on the craft, or
- iii) The craft is required to enter Marlborough in response to a declaration of a state of emergency acknowledged by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

**Note 1:** For ii) and iii) above, once the immediate danger to life or the craft has past, or declaration of emergency lifted, Rule 5.18.2.1 will apply to the craft.

**Note 2:** Rule 5.18.2.1 does not apply to craft that have entered New Zealand waters in compliance with the Craft Risk Management Standard (CRMS) for Biofouling in the period 2 months prior to either directly or subsequently entering Marlborough waters.

**Note 3:** An exemption to this Rule may be available. See section 5.18.3 below and also Section 7, page 94.

### Rule 5.18.2.2

The occupier of any place shall take all reasonable steps to destroy Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) that is identified to be harbouring on that place unless a management plan has been put in place, and approved by Council.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

### Rule 5.18.2.3

In undertaking steps to destroy Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*), the place (such as a craft or structure) shall first be slipped or contained within an encapsulation system and treated with biocode. If that is not practicable, Mediterranean fanworm may be removed in water by divers who are appropriately trained and all Mediterranean fanworm must be contained and returned to the surface for disposal to landfill.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

### Rule 5.18.2.4

Any person who suspects to have observed Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) in Marlborough shall notify Council within 24 hours of making the observation, detailing the location and situation of the suspected pest.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

**Note:** Mediterranean fanworm is also a notifiable organism by way of the Biosecurity (Notifiable Organisms) Order 2016. As such, the suspected presence of Mediterranean fanworm must also be reported to MPI in accordance with section 46 of the Biosecurity Act.

***Explanation of the rules:***

The purpose of Rule 5.18.2.1 is in accordance section 73(5)(e) in that it is prohibiting or regulating specified uses of goods that may promote the spread or survival of Mediterranean fanworm. The prevalence of Mediterranean fanworm in other parts of New Zealand, including the key recreational vessel hubs of Auckland and Whangarei Harbour, means the arrival of craft into Marlborough that are carrying bio-fouling are the biggest risk to the achievement of the proposed Exclusion Programme.

The purpose of Rule 5.18.2.2 is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) in that it is requiring an occupier of a place to destroy Mediterranean fanworm on that place. The effective management of Mediterranean fanworm, if identified, requires both rapid and intensive management to occur both initially and over the course of the ensuing years to prevent establishment. While in most instances the initial response will be led by the management agency under a management plan, this rule will also place a baseline requirement upon the occupier of that place to remain vigilant and continue to play an active role in preventing establishment.

The purpose of Rule 5.18.2.3 is in accordance section 73(5)(d) in it is regulating specified methods used to managing the pest. Using improper methods to remove and/or dispose of Mediterranean fanworm from the marine environment can result in unintended exacerbation of the pest population.

The purpose of Rule 5.18.2.4 is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) in that it is requiring a person notify the suspected presence of Mediterranean fanworm to enable the management agency to determine or monitor the presence or distribution of the pest. An Exclusion Programme relies upon preventing establishment of Mediterranean fanworm. For this to occur, early detection and intervention is crucial. While active surveillance will be part of the proposed management agency programme, passive surveillance and timely notification from all other persons will assist with detection and early intervention.

Council as the management agency will administer these rules.

### **5.18.3 Exemptions**

Exemptions to any of these rules may be developed by Council where necessary, or via application, and are assessed on a case by case basis. When applied for, they can be granted, granted with conditions or denied in accordance with section 78 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. The detailed process can be seen in Section 7 on page 94.