

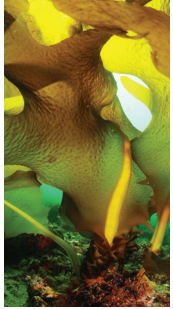
What are marine pests?

Marine pests are highly invasive non-native animals and plants that cause significant damage to the health of native marine ecosystems.

Marine pests reproduce quickly, producing large numbers of offspring and can rapidly spread to new areas. If established, they compete with native species by preying upon them, outcompeting them or overgrowing them.

Top concern marine pests

Japanese Kelp, *Undaria pinnatifida*



- Grows rapidly up to 3 metres in length.
- Potential to overgrow and exclude native algal species.
- Fouls boats and has microscopic stages that stay in the water for weeks, or can remain dormant attached to the hulls of vessels for several months.
- Established in Port Phillip and Apollo Bay.

Northern Pacific Seastar, *Asterias amurensis*



- Five arms with pointed upturned tips.
- Range in colour from yellow to purple.
- Voracious predator with a broad diet.
- Mature to adulthood quickly and reproduce on mass. Each female can produce between 15–25 million eggs.
- Established in Port Phillip.
- Populations have appeared in San Remo, Inverloch, Tidal River and Gippsland Lakes however are thought to be eradicated in these locations.

Pacific Oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*



- White to purple rough and sharp shell.
- Form large reefs which outcompete native oysters.
- Found in shallow estuaries, intertidal and subtidal areas.
- Established in Western Port and some areas in Port Phillip.

What is at stake?

Over 90% of the plants and animals living in Australia's southern waters are found nowhere else in the world. Victoria's marine national parks and sanctuaries have been established to represent and protect the diversity of our marine environment, its habitats and associated plants and animals. Once a marine pest becomes established in a new location, they can rarely be eradicated and pose significant threat to biodiversity.

The most effective control of marine pests is to prevent their introduction and stop their spread.

What can I do?

Marine pests are spread by both natural means and with human help. Moving boats and other water craft from areas with marine pests to new locations increases the risk of spread.

To help stop the spread of marine pests check, clean and dry your vessel and equipment:

- Use fresh water to thoroughly wash down boats, other watercraft, fishing gear, wetsuits, water toys, and other marine equipment after use.
- Dry boats and marine equipment thoroughly before moving to other areas.
- Be particularly vigilant when moving boats or equipment from water bodies known to have marine pests, particularly Port Phillip, to any other part of Victoria.
- Apply appropriate anti-fouling paints to boat hulls as per instructions for use.
- Never use marine pests as bait.

Report suspected sightings

People who spend time on the water or visit the coast can provide early warning of new marine pests or the spread of existing pests.

If you suspect you have seen a marine pest not currently known to the location please report your sighting.

Sightings must include a clear photograph of the suspected pest, an accurate date, time and location of where it was found and contact details to follow up for further information about the sighting.

Email suspected marine pest sightings to **marine.pests@ecodev.vic.gov.au** or call **136 186**

Please do not collect or remove suspected marine pests. Some pests can easily be mistaken for native species.

Copyright © Parks Victoria 2018
Call 13 1963
parks.vic.gov.au

Check Clean Dry

Stop the spread
of marine pests.



Check, clean and dry

To keep your boat free from marine pests, target the areas shown in the diagram.

Moored boats

- Slip and clean your boat regularly (at least every year and anytime there is a build-up of fouling).
- Apply antifouling paint correctly and as often as required by the manufacturer. Keep a record in your log book of all work done on your boat.
- Check your boat for fouling every month (look for plants or animals attached to your hull, propellers, anchor, cables, fenders, cordage, tenders etc.).
- Treat internal seawater systems regularly – flush with freshwater or an approved treatment.
- Dispose of sewage and bilge water at an approved pump out facility. Waste may contain marine pests, their eggs or plant spores.

Trailer boats, canoes, kayaks, jet skis

- Remove any attached weeds or animals, water or sediment from your boat, trailer and gear and put it in the bin – NOT back in the water.
- After each trip rinse your boat, trailer and gear with fresh water, in your yard or at a carwash.
- Drain all the water from your boat and gear, but don't let it drain back into the sea. Tiny eggs and plant spores can survive in a damp area for months.
- Dry your boat and gear completely, including ropes and anchors.

How do marine pests affect my boat?

Marine pests can:

- Damage the paint and hull where they are attached.
- Increase drag and therefore fuel costs.
- Clog pipes, motors, or propellers causing overheating.

How can they affect my fishing?

- Marine pests can deplete fish stocks.
- A marine pest outbreak can result in fishing or anchoring bans.
- Pests compete with native fish for food – with less food, fish won't grow or reproduce quickly.

