

Summary of Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) surveillance at Great Barrier Island, April 2018

Surveillance outline

The AC marine surveillance team undertook monitoring operations 5-6th April 2018. This surveillance was a follow-up to the initial Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) response that was launched in April 2107.

The monitoring focussed on the two known Mediterranean fanworm sites at Great Barrier Island: Port Fitzroy pontoon and Tryphena Wharf.

Findings

Port Fitzroy: Five Mediterranean fanworm were observed to be restricted to the pontoon at Port Fitzroy (Figure 1), as previously found in April during the initial response operations. During the previous December 2017 dive surveillance, Mediterranean fanworm was detected on the natural substrate in relatively close proximity to the pontoon. This area was searched with nothing found during the April 2018 monitoring.

The fanworm population on the pontoon was found to be at lower numbers, trending a decrease in the Mediterranean fanworm population as displayed in the below table.

Table 1: Port Fitzroy pontoon Mediterranean fanworm numbers over time

Date of Surveillance	Number of Mediterranean fanworm
March 2017	150
December 2017	10
April 2018	5

Tryphena Wharf:

Fifteen Mediterranean fanworm were detected on the relatively new concrete pontoon at the Tryphena wharf. This is within close proximity to where the one individual was detected within the natural soft sediment next to the wharf during the December 2017 dive surveillance.



Figure 1: Tryphena wharf & Port Fitzroy pontoon Mediterranean fanworm, April 2018.

Note no benthic searches were undertaken around the mooring block at Tryphena where the second Mediterranean fanworm was detected during the December 2017 dive surveillance.

All Mediterranean fanworm were measured, controlled and disposed of on land in an appropriate manner.

Fouled Vessels: During the monitoring the two problematic vessels that were known to have unwanted organisms on their hulls were not observed in the vicinity of the two harbours. Boats are a potential vector of spread to areas that do not yet have marine pests present.

Policy Development: Biosecurity are working with the AC Compliance team in preparation for the Auckland Unitary Plan Biofouling provisions becoming operational in the near future. The provisions provide some form of regulatory powers under the Resource Management Act 1991, specific to passive discharge and in-water cleaning. The provisions will become operational once the Coastal Plan has been signed by the Minister.

We are also proposing the development of a discussion document that would outline the threats that marine pests pose and potential ways this can be addressed, including the development of the proposed Inter-Regional Marine Pathway Management Plan. Consultation with the public and stakeholders on the discussion document would be significant and occur across the four regions (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty) as simultaneously as possible.

Next Steps

At this stage we plan to undertake dive surveillance operations in December 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Ngā mihi
Samantha

**Samantha Happy | Marine Biosecurity Advisor
Auckland Council | Environmental Services Unit**

Ph 09 301 0101 | Mobile 021 832 857

Auckland Council, Admin Building Level 3, 6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson

Private Bag 92300, Auckland 0612

samantha.happy@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

**Clean below?
Good to go**

Working together to stop the spread of marine pests

