

Marine pests of concern

(not established in Queensland)



Asian bag mussel
(*Arcuatula senhousia*)

- Olive green to brown shell with zigzag markings and radiating ridges. Smooth, thin, fragile shell.
- Grows up to 3 cm long.
- Grows in soft sediments, often forming dense mats.



Harris mud crab
(*Rhithropanopeus harrisi*)

- Greenish brown to olive green with white-tipped claws that are unequal in size.
- Four blunt spines on each side of shell.
- Shell 1–2 cm wide.



Chinese mitten crab
(*Eriocheir sinensis*)

- Hairy 'mittens' on claws, unlike any Australian crab.
- Four spines on either side of its eyes.
- Four sharp spines between its eyes.
- Shell smooth and up to 8 cm wide.



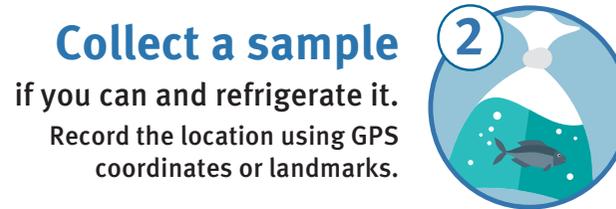
Japanese seaweed
(wakame) (*Undaria pinnatifida*)

- Smooth, thin, golden-brown blades.
- Spore-bearing ruffle near base of mature plant.
- Grows up to 1 m long (rarely to 3 m).
- Can foul boat hulls.

If you see a suspected marine pest, follow these steps:



1 Take a photo of the suspected marine pest.



2 Collect a sample if you can and refrigerate it. Record the location using GPS coordinates or landmarks.



3 Report it by contacting Biosecurity Queensland.

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Marine biosecurity

Everyone plays a part

Look Report Protect

What are marine pests?

Marine pests are introduced invasive plants and animals that cause damage to the health of the native marine environment. They often reproduce quickly and in large numbers, and can spread rapidly.

Once established, they are difficult to eradicate. They can kill native plants and animals and outcompete them for space and food. They can damage boat hulls, increase drag and fuel costs, and foul marine structures, leading to increased maintenance costs. They can also impact widely on the commercial and recreational fishing industry, leading to depleted fish stocks, or boating and fishing restrictions in affected areas.

What can I do?

Be aware of possible marine pests

- Keep this brochure or a marine pest identification guide handy when cleaning your boat and when out in the marine environment.

Check your boat for fouling

- Clean your boat regularly, preferably in a dry dock or slipway, and when moving between locations.
- Look out for pests, paying attention to high-risk areas (see diagram).
- Flush internal seawater systems regularly with fresh water or use an approved treatment.

Dispose of waste responsibly

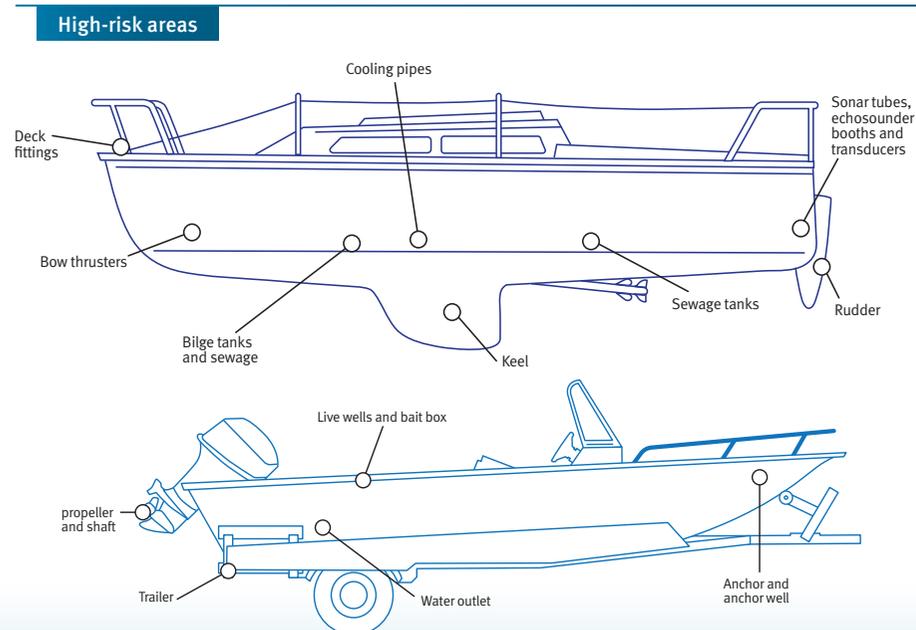
- Remove marine fouling growing on the boat and treat it as a potential biosecurity risk.
- Safely dispose of marine fouling in an onshore rubbish bin.
- Dispose of seafood and bait from non-local areas in an onshore rubbish bin.

Inspect and clean equipment and gear

- Before moving to a different location, inspect, clean and dry marine equipment and gear including pots, nets, fishing and diving gear, anchors and ropes.
- If possible, dry your equipment for at least 48 hours before using it in a different area.

Apply antifouling paint to your boat

- Apply antifouling paint correctly and as required by the manufacturer.
- Keep a record in a logbook of all work done to your boat.



Marine pests of concern

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Asian green mussel

(*Perna viridis*)

- Juveniles: bright green shell. Adults: dark green to brown shell with concentric growth lines.
- Grows up to 16 cm long.
- Grows on hard surfaces including vessel hulls, pylons, buoys and pontoons.



Brown mussel

(*Perna perna*)

- Smooth, dark brown shell with concentric growth lines.
- Grows up to 12 cm long.
- Grows on hard surfaces including vessel hulls, pylons, buoys and pontoons; also grows on mangroves.



Black-striped false mussel

(*Mytilopsis sallei*)

- Dark brown/black to white shell, sometimes with zigzag or striped markings. Easily crushed.
- Two shells unequal in size; one side marginally overlaps the other.
- Grows up to 2.5 cm long.
- Grows on hard surfaces including vessel hulls, pylons, buoys and pontoons; also grows on ropes.
- Usually found in dense clusters.