

Marine Pathway Management Plan & Annual Plan 2017/18 & Charging Policy: Marine Biosecurity Charge

I have been frustrated by the consultation process & feel unsatisfied:

- The relevant documents are thousands of pages long. Reading, analyzing & distributing this information within the short consultation period was difficult/ impossible
- I have no confidence that public feedback so far has been added to the process. NRC representatives assured us at the drop in sessions that our comments & feedback was appreciated & crucial to the consultation process but no Council representatives took notes.

I would like to see an extension of the existing plan to allow comprehensive consultation, & time to incorporate public feedback in order to maintain the goodwill of stakeholders.

Who should pay for Marine Pest Management? – What do you think is the fairest way to pay for our marine pest management work?

Support - Option 2: All ratepayers in Northland should pay.

Comments:

Local government charges must be fair & reasonable.

Option 2 is fair & reasonable.

- Other Pest Management is charged in general rates - possums & the 'mile a minute' plant are examples where general rates pay for pest management.
- How can sufficient distinction be made between these pests & marine pests that would justify a different charging system?
- There are a multitude of 'beneficiaries' of a healthy marine environment e.g. tourism operators, aquaculture, & commerce generally that justifies this general rate funding option.

Option 1 is not fair & reasonable.

- Option 1 applies the charge only to marina berth & mooring occupiers on the basis that they spread marine pests. Some berth & mooring occupiers may be however some (& possibly many) will not (e.g. they may have clean hulls &/or not 'move'). Why should I be charged when don't spread marine pests?
- In addition there are other vessels who would not be charged under this option e.g. boats from other high risk regions or trailer boats (some but lower risk). I'm not a risk but these vessels may be, why should I be charged but they are not?

Option 3 is not fair & reasonable for the same reasons as Option 1 & any cost split will be arbitrary.

Navigation Safety Bylaw –changes NRC is making to the Navigation Safety Bylaw

The condition to display a vessel owner's name & contact details needs careful fine-tuning. I'm concerned that displaying this information could compromise the security of my residential property. I'm concerned a boat register by proxy could be created.

Comments about the Proposed Northland Regional Pest & Marine Pathway Management Plan 2017/2027

In an ideal world, the pathway would efficiently & effectively stop the spread of marine pests around, to & from Northland.

I don't want to end up paying for marine pests that have been introduced by other parties. But how can that be avoided when marine pests may 'travel' under their own steam? How can NRC know for sure where an 'infection' occurred first e.g. an anchored boat could spread pests to my moored boat - who is responsible?

A plan that assesses risk & allows resources to be focused on high risk boats be more efficient & effective?

- Low risk vessels need not come in for more resource hungry & expensive inspections & action,
- Higher risk vessels would be required to comply with hull hygiene conditions prior to travel/movement &
- non-compliant vessels (i.e. found to not have undertaken the process) would be easily identifiable for further attention.

NRC are proposing new rules that restrict the movement of vessels with fouled hulls in Northland waters.

- Concerned about safety hazards that might be created for people trying to comply with NRCs rules e.g. my spouse & I boat together, in order to comply with light fouling condition before moving the vessel one of us would have to dive alone or we'd both have to dive together leaving the boat unattended.
- Some of the designated 'places' are difficult to understand & comply with as they aren't marked on marine charts

Hearings & Attachments

Yes, I want to talk about my submission to the councilors at a Hearings meeting.

Topics Relevant to this submission

- Charging Policy
- Navigation Safety Bylaw
- Pest & Marine Pathway Management Plan

The Hearing location that suits me best is Waitangi