



Australian Government



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# Marine pests in ports and marinas

## Report marine pests

Protect our marine environment. Look out for marine pests on:

- vessels
- submerged structures
- pontoons and equipment.



Victoria's waterways are teeming with unique animals and plant life. Our marine environment is beautiful and diverse, but it's also fragile. Keeping marine pests out of Victorian waters and reducing their spread means we have safe and productive oceans to enjoy for recreation, and a sustainable seafood industry.

Marine pests are **marine plants and animals that are not native to Victoria**. They include crabs, mussels, sea stars, worms and algae. Marine pests can have environmental, economic and social impacts. They can damage marine structures, habitats and industries and potentially affect human health.

If marine pests go unreported and establish in our marine environment, it becomes almost impossible to get rid of them. Eradication programs could impact on vessel maintenance, the running of your day-to-day business, or enjoyment of marine activities. Prevention is therefore the key to limiting the risk of successful introductions, and early detection and reporting is essential to limit the spread of marine pests.

Marine pests must be reported to Agriculture Victoria. It is critical that authorities are notified as soon as possible to have the best chance of containing the pest. Remember, **if you see a suspected marine pest, report it**. You can find information and details for reporting suspected marine pests at [vic.gov.au/marine-pests](http://vic.gov.au/marine-pests).

## How to protect your port or marina

Port and marina operators and their users rely on the good health of Victoria's marine ecosystems for commerce and recreation and they can be our first line of defence against invasive marine animal and plant pests.

You can protect your port or marina, business infrastructure and vessels from marine pests, and in doing so, protect the biodiversity of the environment around you.

There are simple steps you can take to help protect your port or marina and the vessels that visit them:

- Keep it clean and follow best practice
- Learn how to identify marine pests
- Keep watch for marine pests
- Report unusual marine animals or plants.

More information, including a comprehensive list of marine pests and identification guides, are available at [vic.gov.au/marine-pests](http://vic.gov.au/marine-pests)

## Report marine pests

Protect our marine environment. Look out for marine pests on:

- vessels
- submerged structures
- local port and marina equipment.

## Keep it clean

Keeping vessels, port and marina infrastructure free of biofouling plays a critical part in stopping the spread of marine pests into, and around Victorian waters. Refer to the [national biofouling guidelines](#) for marinas, slipways and recreational boating facilities.

If your business provides vessel cleaning facilities, make sure biofouling does not re-enter the waterways and is disposed of safely.

- Ensure your vessel has an appropriate in-service anti-fouling coating.
- Inspect and clean your vessel regularly before moving locations.
- Check niche areas and flush internal seawater systems frequently.
- Inspect and clean all marine equipment and gear that may get wet.

Marina operators are encouraged to participate in the 'International Clean Marina' and 'Fish Friendly' Programs administered by the Marina Industries Association. This voluntary accreditation program assists marinas with their environmental compliance and the use of best management practices. Find out more at: <https://www.marinas.net.au/accreditation-programs/clean-marina>

A dirty port or marina containing marine pests is a source for further spread. Visiting vessels can spread marine pests to new areas and from one port or marina to another. Shared responsibility is needed to ensure ports, marinas, vessels and equipment are continuously clean from marine pests.

## Learn how to identify marine pests

While we need to be vigilant for new marine pests arriving, we also need to be alert to marine pests that have spread to unaffected locations. Some marine pests may be under a government eradication or management program. In Victoria look out for:

- White colonial sea squirt
- New Zealand green mussel
- Asian shore crab
- Asian kelp, wakame.

## Keep watch for marine pests

Marine pests, such as exotic mussels, can be found attached to vessels or attached to submerged structures, such as pontoons, moorings, floating docks, ropes and buoys. Anchor wells, ropes, internal water systems and wet areas can also harbour marine pests on recreational and commercial vessels.

## If you see something unusual, report it

Keeping marine pests out of Victoria's waters means we have clean and safe oceans to enjoy for recreation, and reduced costs for maintenance of vessels, equipment and marina infrastructure.



**Record your location**  
Screenshot your map/GPS



**Take a photo**  
Use a coin for reference



**Scan this code to report**

**Go to [vic.gov.au/marine-pests](https://vic.gov.au/marine-pests) to learn more.**