

Marine High Risk Site Surveillance Programme

Background

Surveys have been conducted since 2002 by the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) as part of a national programme. The surveys are conducted at six-monthly intervals at selected ports and marinas around the country. They provide targeted surveillance for a group of potentially invasive marine animals and plants that MPI believes present a significant threat to New Zealand. As part of the programme some non-indigenous species that have already become established at some locations around New Zealand are monitored to identify any further spread.

Information and annual report regarding the Marine High Risk Site Surveillance programme is available on the Marine Biosecurity Porthole (<https://marinebiosecurity.org.nz>). This website provides access to information on unwanted marine pests and other non-indigenous marine organisms that have been recorded from New Zealand coastal and marine waters. The Porthole also contains data from MPI's other marine biosecurity surveillance programmes.

Latest Results

Summer and winter surveys of Port Taranaki were completed on the 27 - 31 March and 11 - 15 September 2023, respectively. **No new-to-New Zealand species were detected across the two surveys.**

Non-indigenous marine species that were found during these surveys include the:

- Colonial ascidians *Botrylloides diegensis*, *Diplosoma listerianum* (Figure 1), *Lissoclinum perforatum*, *Didemnum vexillum*
- Bryozoan *Celleporaria nodulosa*
- Nudibranch *Polycera hedgpethi*
- Macroalgae *Grateloupia turuturu*, Wakame Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*
- Pear crab *Pyromaia tuberculata*
- Bivalve *Theora lubrica*