

Profile Series: Border Interventions on Import Pathways

This series is intended to provide the kiwifruit industry with a greater understanding of how risks are managed at the border. It is important to remember that the border is just one layer of the biosecurity system, an over of the entire system is provided in the report “The NZ biosecurity system and how it operates” which can be found on the KVH website (www.kvh.org.nz/NZ_Biosecurity).

Recreational Vessels

Each year, New Zealand receives over 600 recreational vessels from international waters. Most of these yachts come from South Pacific Islands (82%, mainly from Tonga, Fiji and New Caledonia) and Australia (18%)¹. These vessels and their passengers can carry threats to New Zealand’s marine and terrestrial environments. MPI perform the following interventions to mitigate the biosecurity risk that this pathway presents.

1. Vessels must arrive at an approved place of first arrival

Recreational vessels entering New Zealand must arrive at an approved place of first arrival, which include the following ports:

- Opuia (Northland)
- Marsden Cove (Whangarei)
- Auckland
- Onehunga
- Mt Maunganui (Tauranga)
- Gisborne
- New Plymouth
- Wellington
- Picton
- Nelson
- Lyttelton
- Timaru
- Port Chalmers (Dunedin)
- Bluff



Figure 1. Marsden Cove Marina

Opuia receives the majority of all recreational vessel arrivals, and together with the other main northern ports of Marsden Cove, Auckland and Mount Maunganui account for over 90% of recreational vessels arrivals (See Figure 2 below)

¹ Wood, C., Inglis, G., (2011) *Scoping and development of a regional surveillance plan for marine pests in Northland*. NIWA Report ELF11205. Prepared for Northland Regional Council.

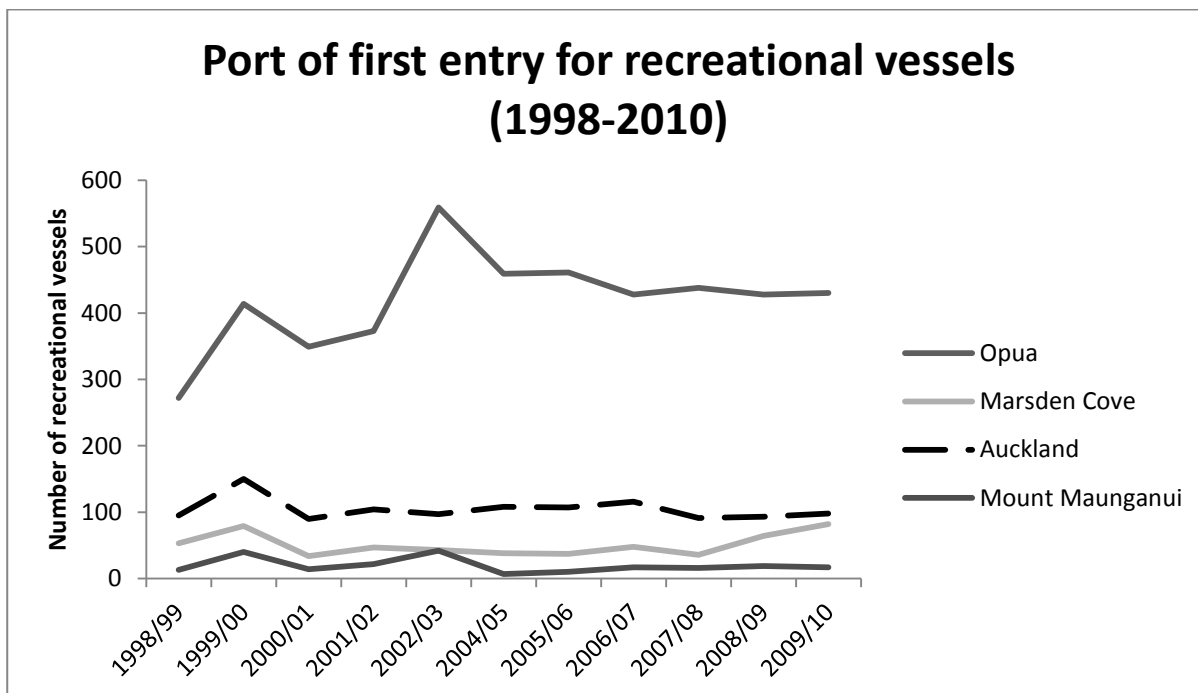


Figure 1. Port of first arrival for recreational vessels into New Zealand (1998 – 2010). Source: Wood & Inglis (2011).

Only once biosecurity clearance has been issued at a place of first arrival is a yacht permitted to visit another port.

2. How does MPI ensure that all yachts are inspected?

MPI and the New Zealand Customs Service take a co-ordinated approach to ensure that all vessels receive customs and biosecurity clearance on arrival in New Zealand. Anchoring in New Zealand waters is prohibited before clearance has been issued by Customs and MPI, unless there is an emergency situation in which case Customs must be notified by radio. This is enforced for biosecurity purposes but also to prevent smuggling, drug trafficking, and other illegal activities.

3. How is biosecurity clearance issued?

- All vessels sailing to New Zealand (including yachts and other pleasure craft) need to meet a number of obligations prior to and on arrival to ensure New Zealand’s environment, economy and people are protected from imported pests and diseases.
- Arriving yachts must notify the Ministry for Primary Industries of their intended arrival port and date, either by email or through New Zealand Maritime Radio.
- Once inside New Zealand waters (12 nautical miles from the coast), all rubbish is to be kept on board - either contained in closed, leak-proof containers or sealed in strong plastic bags. Once landed at port the Biosecurity Inspector directs the disposal of refuse during the clearance process. Refuse may only be landed through an MPI-authorized process which is available at every approved port for vessels.
- The vessel Master completes a declaration of all risk items which is provided to MPI.
- An MPI Biosecurity Inspector inspects the vessel upon arrival for the presence of risk goods.
- MPI can issue full biosecurity clearance to vessels once they have met the following requirements:
 - all stores of food comprising risk goods and plants have received biosecurity clearance or have been removed for destruction;
 - all cargo, whether landed or remaining on board, has received biosecurity clearance; all animals have been removed to a quarantine facility or reshipped or destroyed or received

biosecurity clearance. A yacht with a secured animal on board remains under MPI surveillance and is not a cleared vessel.

- all passengers and crew have been processed for entry into New Zealand. All, or some of the passenger's luggage may be inspected.
- any risk goods (including any potential pests or diseases carried directly on the vessel structure or in retained water on board) have either been removed from the vessel, destroyed, treated, disposed of appropriately or have received biosecurity clearance.
- Fully cleared vessels will receive written notification of biosecurity clearance and are then permitted to cruise freely and visit other New Zealand ports.
- Vessels failing to comply with requirements may be given biosecurity direction in order to achieve compliance. If contamination is found, such as an insect infestation, masters may be given the choice of either treating the contamination or sending specimens for identification. Masters are liable for all costs associated with these choices. In some situations, treatment will be directed immediately.

4. Costs

There is no charge for routine clearance of vessels, crews and passengers at places of first arrival. Other inspection activities may be cost recovered in some situations.

For more information please see the MPI website (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter/ships/yachts).