

## **Weymouth Harbour Marine Biosecurity Plan**

Weymouth is a popular base for a variety of water-based activities such as sailing, angling, diving, paddle sports and motor boating. The majority of these activities are carried out by commercial and leisure berth holders within Weymouth Harbour, along with sailing/motor boat visitors transiting either as a destination visit or as a stopover to France or the Channel Islands.

Protecting the native marine life in our sea and coastal areas is an important task as it not only impacts on the environment and leisure users enjoyment of the area, but can also affect the livelihood of those working with and connected to the sea.

### **Non-Native Species**

Non-Native Species (NNS) are those introduced into areas where they don't naturally exist. Over 2,000 plants and animals have been introduced to Britain<sup>1</sup> from all over the world (usually by people), and whilst some may be harmless, some become invasive non-native species (INNS) which can harm the local wildlife and environment.

Invasive species can be a concern in harbours generally due to the high concentration of boats and sheltered environments they provide. By being biosecurity aware we can try to minimise the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and hopefully prevent them from becoming established.

The Weymouth Harbour Marine Biosecurity Plan supports the GB Non-Native Species Strategy aims, with the intention to promote awareness and understanding of the impacts associated with invasive non-native species through education of:

- **Prevention**
- **Reporting (monitoring methods)**
- **Awareness**

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<sup>1</sup>[Non-native species » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://nonnativespecies.org/)

## The Site

The River Wey is a spring-fed chalk stream with gravel bed and a moderate flow that measures approx. 7.5 miles long. It passes through countryside and urban environments through Weymouth and its suburbs, also filling Radipole Lake, a designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before entering the English Channel via Weymouth Harbour mouth.



<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB510804415700>

There is also the Portland Harbour Shore (SSSI) located on the opposite side of the channel (designated for geological importance as the cliffs along the north-western shore of Portland Harbour consist of sections of Corralian Beds and Kimmeridge Clay).

Weymouth Harbour sits beyond the boundary of Dorset Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (DAONB) along the Jurassic Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The harbour is home to a commercial fishing fleet, scuba diving, and sea angling businesses, and leisure boat sector with facilities for both commercial and leisure users – slipway, moorings, pontoons and fish landing cranes.

As part of Dorset Council, Weymouth Harbour Authority are responsible for managing and running a safe and efficient harbour. The jurisdiction limits on land and sea are defined within [The Weymouth Harbour Revision Order 2021](#) plans and

*‘To celebrate each harbour’s natural and cultural heritage by integrating the harbours into the community and linking with the wider natural and cultural offer’*

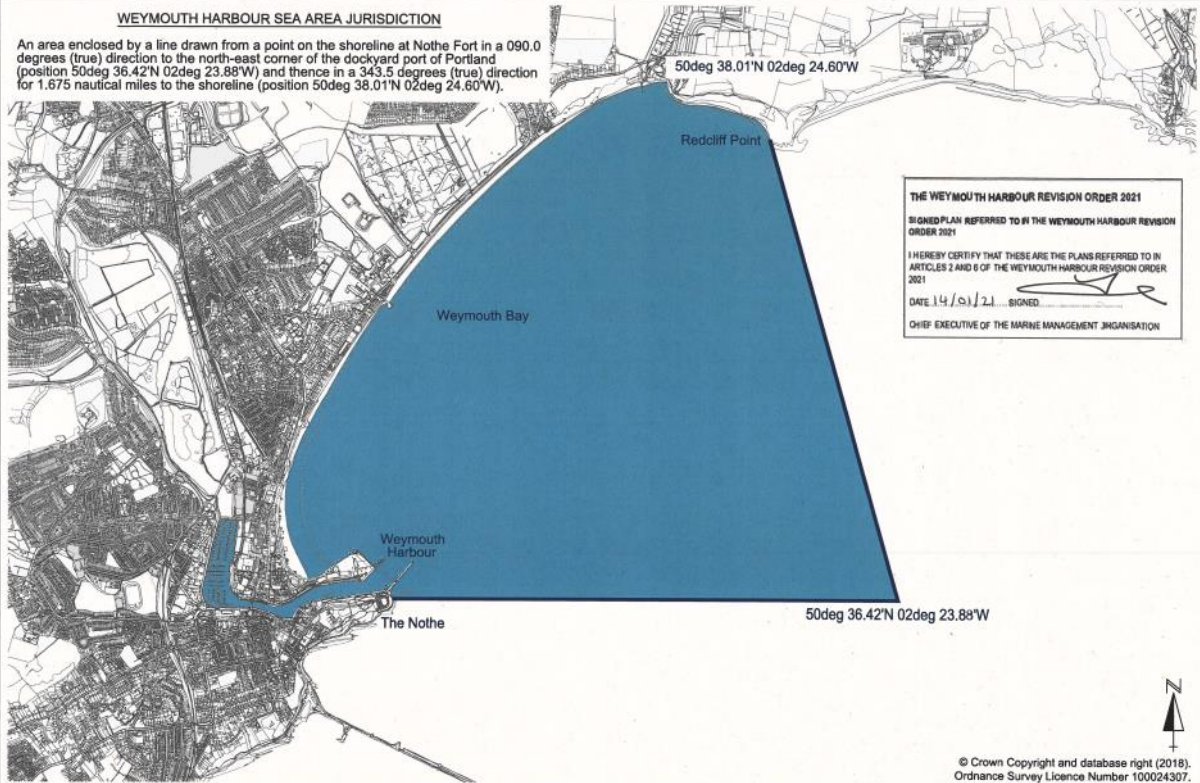
is one of the Harbours Strategy goals<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Dorset Council Harbours Strategy 2022-2032.pdf \(weymouth-harbour.co.uk\)](#)

# WEYMOUTH HARBOUR SEA AREA JURISDICTION

An area enclosed by a line drawn from a point on the shoreline at Nothe Fort in a 090.0 degrees (true) direction to the north-east corner of the dockyard port of Portland (position 50deg 36.42'N 02deg 23.88'W) and thence in a 343.5 degrees (true) direction for 1.675 nautical miles to the shoreline (position 50deg 38.01'N 02deg 24.60'W).

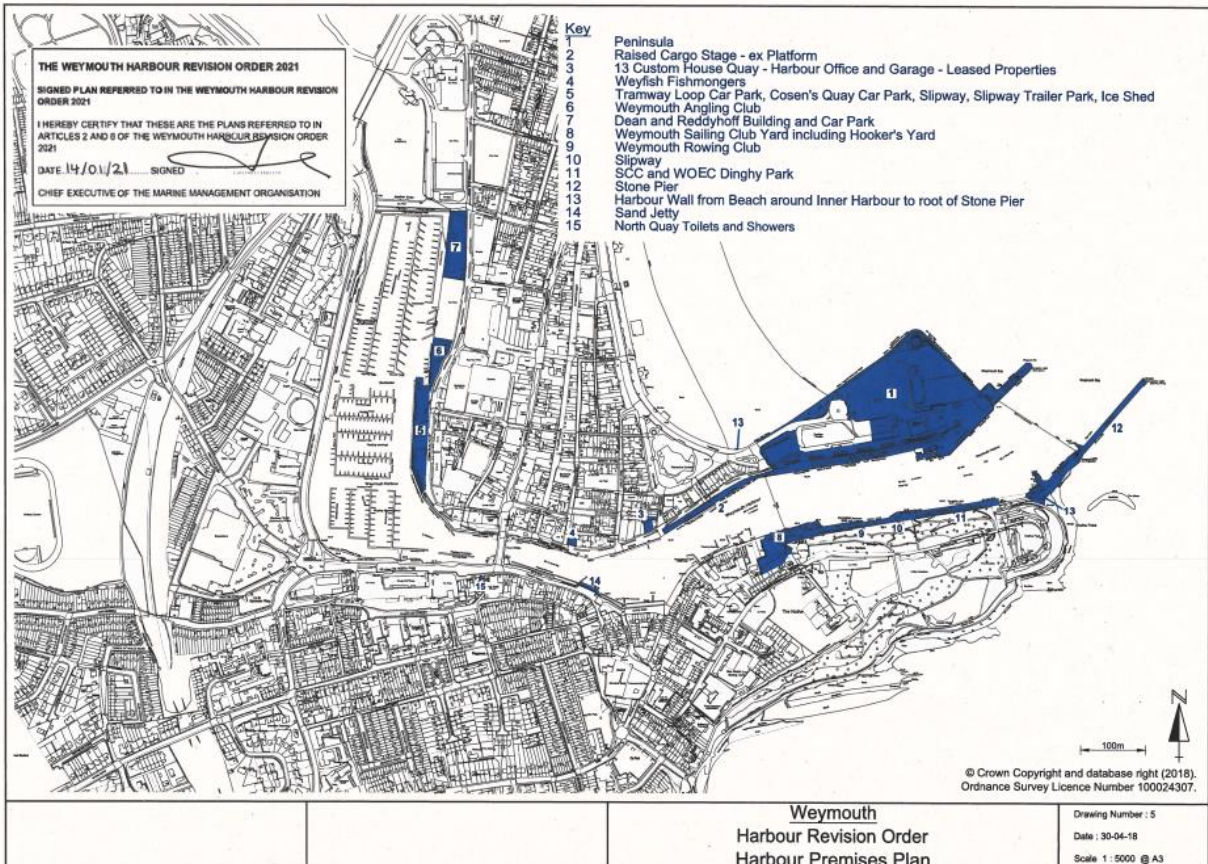


THE WEYMOUTH HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2021  
SIGNED PLAN REFERRED TO IN THE WEYMOUTH HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2021  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE ARE THE PLANS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLES 2 AND 6 OF THE WEYMOUTH HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2021  
DATE 14/01/21 SIGNED  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

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Weymouth  
Harbour Revision Order  
Harbour Limits Plan

Drawing Number : 2  
Date : 05-04-18  
Scale 1 : 20,000 @ A3



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- Key
- 1 Peninsula
  - 2 Raised Cargo Stage - ex Platform
  - 3 13 Custom House Quay - Harbour Office and Garage - Leased Properties
  - 4 Weyfish Fishmongers
  - 5 Tramway Loop Car Park, Cosen's Quay Car Park, Slipway, Slipway Trailer Park, Ice Shed
  - 6 Weymouth Angling Club
  - 7 Dean and Reddyhoff Building and Car Park
  - 8 Weymouth Sailing Club Yard including Hooker's Yard
  - 9 Weymouth Rowing Club
  - 10 Slipway
  - 11 SCC and WOEC Dinghy Park
  - 12 Stone Pier
  - 13 Harbour Wall from Beach around Inner Harbour to root of Stone Pier
  - 14 Sand Jetty
  - 15 North Quay Toilets and Showers

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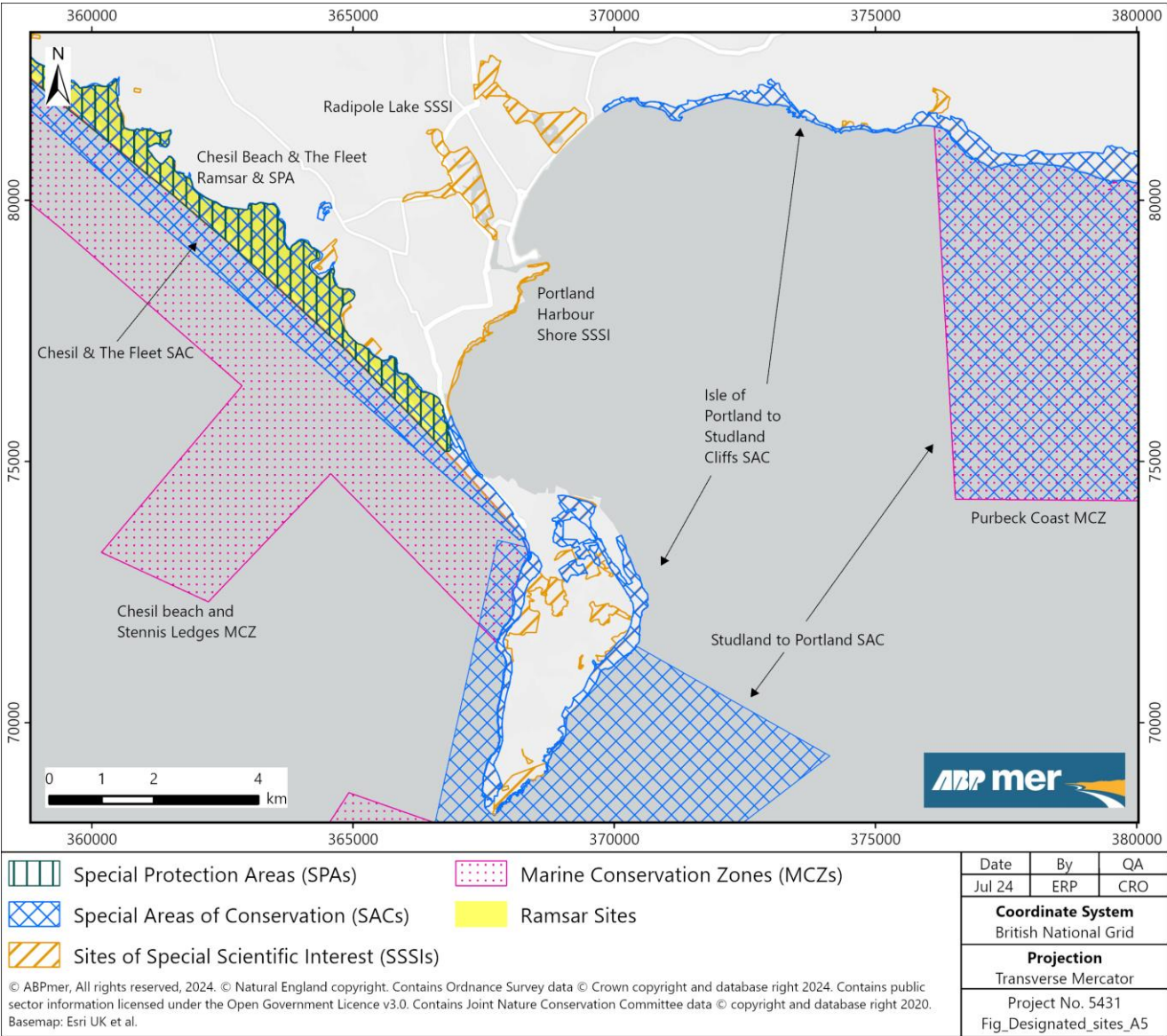
Weymouth  
Harbour Revision Order  
Harbour Premises Plan

Drawing Number : 5  
Date : 30-04-18  
Scale 1 : 5000 @ A3



Weymouth harbour doesn't fall within any Marine Protected Areas, but the Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone starts close by at Ringstead Bay and a section of the Studland to Portland SAC starts close to Durdle Pier on Portland.

The southwestern shore of the Harbour supports extensive, rich maritime grassland, similar to that in the adjacent Chesil and the Fleet SSSI. Characteristic species include sea couch *Elymus pycnanthus*, thrift *Armeria maritima*, sand sedge *Carex arenaria* and the local Portland spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*. There are also patches of saltmarsh vegetation with the uncommon shrubby seablite *Suaeda vera*.



Provided courtesy of [ABPmer](#)

## Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Invasive non-native species (INNS) that are well established in the region include slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*, leathery sea squirt *Styela clava*, Asian shore crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* and Pacific oyster *Magallana gigas* (Portland Harbour Authority Ltd, 2020).

The following non-native marine species have been recorded in in/near Weymouth and Portland Harbour (this list is not static but evolving):

<sup>3</sup> Species	Phylum	
<b><i>Ficopomatus enigmaticus</i></b>	Annelida	
<b><i>Austrominius modestus</i></b>	Arthropoda	
<b><i>Monocorophium sextonae</i></b>	Arthropoda	
<b><i>Bugula neritina</i></b>	Bryozoa	
<b><i>Tricellaria inopinata</i></b>	Bryozoa	
<b><i>Watersipora subatra</i></b>	Bryozoa	
<b><i>Corella eumyota</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Perophora japonica</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Asterocarpa humilis</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Botrylloides diegensis</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Botrylloides violaceus</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Styela clava</i></b>	Chordata	
<b><i>Magallana gigas</i></b>	Mollusca	
<b><i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i></b>	Mollusca	
<b><i>Calyptrea chinensis</i></b>	Mollusca	
<b><i>Crepidula fornicata</i></b>	Mollusca	
<b><i>Sargassum muticum</i></b>	Ochrophyta	
<b><i>Undaria pinnatifida</i></b>	Ochrophyta	
<b><i>Colpomenia peregrina</i></b>	Ochrophyta	
<b><i>Asparagopsis armata</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Bonnemaisonia hamifera</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Antithamnionella spirographidis</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Antithamnionella ternifolia</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Dasysiphonia japonica</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Melanothamnus harveyi</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Anotrichium furcellatum</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Solieria chordalis</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Grateloupia doryphora</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Grateloupia turuturu</i></b>	Rhodophyta	
<b><i>Codium fragile</i> subsp. <i>atlanticum</i></b>	Ulvophyceae	
<b><i>Codium fragile</i> subsp. <i>fragile</i></b>	Ulvophyceae	

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Dorset Wildlife Trust 2024

## INNS Possible Pathways

Pathway	How	Biosecurity Measures
Fishing and workboat (e.g. tugs/commercial) vessels	Ballast water Hull fouling Equipment (nets/gear) Bycatch disposal	<p>More industry led biosecurity awareness which can be shared across website/Harbour meetings e.g. Harbour Consultative Group (HCG).</p> <p>Report/monitor of vessel fouling as part of harbour checks.</p> <p>Encourage correct disposal of waste.</p> <p>Under annual review of 'Conditions of Berthing' include biosecurity awareness/reporting customer responsibilities.</p>
Leisure vessels (annual and visitor) including: power and sail, trailer launched boats and PWC's	Hull fouling Food waste (shellfish) In-water hull cleaning Slipway washdown (PWC's)	<p>Promote awareness and best practice through signage, social media/website: Check, Clean Dry Cleaning of trailer/boat/kit Use of grid only for inspection of vessels (it is hoped that as development of the harbour peninsula continues there will be scope to include a bunded washdown area for customers).</p> <p>Home port details are collected as part of the customer records (visitor)</p>

		<p>but we can investigate if their last antifoul application can be added to their records.</p> <p>Waste (general/recycling) provided on or adjacent to pontoons. Food waste at 2 locations (international waste) bookable and registered by prior agreement then removed by approved waste collection. Holding tanks – no disposal/pump out facilities currently, customers have access to and are advised to use harbour facilities only (closest pump out in Portland Harbour). As part of the continued harbour development installation of sewage pump out may be investigated in the future.</p> <p>Conditions of annual mooring vessels regularly monitored by staff including hull fouling. Will use the NNS Best Practice ranking table (appendix 1) to rate and include biosecurity observations in correspondence with the owner.</p> <p>PWC water tap for 'flushing system' only at slipway. New biosecurity guidance sign to be mounted on post adjacent to slipway.</p>
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		Under annual review of 'Conditions of Berthing' include biosecurity awareness/reporting customer responsibilities.
Live fish/shellfish (catch, bait and box stores - new facility currently not open as of July 2024)	Contaminated shellfish, fish boxes (not cleaned/dried after use)	Follow industry led guidance as part of conditions of use for customers and general awareness for users.
Boat/PWC Maintenance	Cleaning	<p>Promote awareness and best practice through signage, social media/website of 'Check, Clean Dry' and anti-fouling advice (<a href="#">Green Blue</a>).</p> <p>Annual lift out/clean of harbour workboats.</p>
Harbour infrastructure (maintenance of)	<p>Slipway/steps</p> <p>Walls/piles</p> <p>Dredging movements</p>	<p>Regular check and cleaning of slipway/steps using appropriate environmentally safe products.</p> <p>Check and dispose of dredged material in the correct manner including all licence applications/procedures are followed.</p>



Removal/relocation of infrastructure/equipment	New developments Moving/removal of buoys, anchors and pontoons	<p>Take extra care/precautions when working on or moving established infrastructure.</p> <p>Contractor/harbour to take precautions to ensure no pollutants enter the waterbody, and that all waste and equipment be removed on completion of the works (including biosecurity measures taken to avoid the introduction/spread of INNS).</p> <p>Request copies of contractor biosecurity plans (if applicable) as part of RAMs.</p>
Marine debris/litter	Littering by public Tidal	<p>Litter patrols by staff daily.</p> <p>Encouragement of recycling/removal of litter (reminders to take home if bins full) to customers, share local beach clean events.</p>
Anglers (shoreside/charter)	Live bait or bait imported from other countries	<p>Awareness - Take time to clean bait (e.g. with freshwater and dispose of the waste water onto the grass or into the foul sewer, well away from the waterbody it came from).</p> <p>Promote 'buy local' via local angling society and charter vessels.</p>

## Contingency Plan

Even with measures and monitoring in place we also need to consider what steps to take if biosecurity measures for INNS fail whether low risk, or particularly for high-alert species:

Process	Action	Who is responsible?
Suspected/new species (NNS) found	<p>Collect sample, place in plastic bag and contact the <a href="#">GB Non Native Species Secretariat</a> to find out where to send sample.</p> <p>Gather information/ advice on the species and its management.</p> <p>Inform users of the site and take containment measures e.g. mark/zone off the area (LNTM, marker buoys) if high-alert species.</p> <p>Monitoring</p>	Harbour Master, AHM (any staff MoP can report suspected find)
Confirmed	<p>Further containment measures – restricted vessel movements, survey of harbour vessels/infrastructure.</p> <p>Safety measures for cleaning of vessels and equipment/use of alternative equipment/vessel.</p>	Harbour Master, AHM, harbour staff
Eradication	Long term measures – large scale eradication, containment or control (use resources/advice from experts)	Harbour Master, AHM, harbour staff

## Simple Biosecurity Measures for all harbour users:

### Check - Clean – Dry

[The RYA](#) and [The Green Blue](#) provide some great simple guidance for boat users:



**CHECK** - After leaving the water, **Check** your boat, equipment and clothing for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave at the site.

**CLEAN** - **Clean** everything thoroughly (with hot water if possible). Pay close attention to areas that are damp or hard to reach.

**DRY** - Before you use your boat, equipment or clothing elsewhere **Dry** everything - some NNIS can survive for over 2wks.

- Recovery of trailer/PWC/dinghy – ensure water is drained from all areas that can hold water.
- Permanent Moorings (vessels in water) – boats should be cleaned in properly bunded areas away from water with any scrapings taken to landfill.

- Anti-fouling – use an effective anti-foul product on a regular basis and clear props, bow thrusters and anodes of any fouling.

All staff, members of public and customers can monitor and report NNS:

1. Take photos
2. Location (grid reference or //W3W if possible)
3. Estimate the area affected
4. Report to the Harbour Master

Be vigilant and encourage others to do the same!

### Key Contacts and Links

<b>GB NNSS</b>	Non-Native Species Secretariat <a href="https://www.nonnativespecies.org/">https://www.nonnativespecies.org/</a>
<b>Environment Agency (EA)</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Environment Agency - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
<b>Natural England</b>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk">enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>iRecord</b>	Create and record wildlife observations <a href="#">Enter non-native species records   iRecord</a>
<b>CEFAS</b>	Fish Health Inspectorate (Barrack Road, Weymouth, DT4 8UB) 01305 206700 <a href="mailto:fhi@cefas.gov.uk">fhi@cefas.gov.uk</a>
<b>Southern IFCA</b>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk">enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk</a>
<b>INNS Mapper</b>	Reporting/surveys of INNS <a href="#">INNS Mapper</a>
<b>DEFRA</b>	The Great Britain invasive non-native species strategy <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-great-britain-invasive-non-native-species-strategy">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-great-britain-invasive-non-native-species-strategy</a>
<b>WoRMS</b>	<a href="#">WoRMS - World Register of Marine Species</a>
<b>IMO</b>	<a href="https://www.imo.org">Biofouling (imo.org)</a>
<b>MMO</b>	MMO helpline 0300 123 1032 <a href="mailto:info@marinemanagement.org.uk">info@marinemanagement.org.uk</a>
<b>Harbour Master</b>	<a href="mailto:weymouthharbour@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">weymouthharbour@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a> 01305 838423



Appendix 1 - Hull Fouling Ranking Table<sup>4</sup>

Rank	Description	Visual estimate of fouling cover
0	No visible fouling. Hull entirely clean, no biofilm* on visible submerged parts of the hull.	Nil
1	Slime fouling only. Submerged hull areas partially or entirely covered in biofilm, but absence of any macrofouling.	Nil
2	Light fouling. Hull covered in biofilm and 1–2 very small patches of macrofouling (only one taxon).	1–5 % of visible submerged surfaces
3	Considerable fouling. Presence of biofilm, and macrofouling still patchy but clearly visible and comprised of either one single or several different plants and animals.	6–15 % of visible submerged surfaces
4	Extensive fouling. Presence of biofilm and abundant fouling assemblages consisting of more than one plant and/or animal.	16–40 % of visible submerged surfaces
5	Very heavy fouling. Diverse assemblages covering most of visible hull surfaces.	41–100 % of visible submerged surfaces
*Biofilm: Thin layer of bacteria, microalgae, detritus and other particulates.		

<sup>4</sup> [NNS Marine Best Practice By Sector.pdf](#)