



Marine Invaders

Unwanted marine pests and diseases present a significant threat to New Zealand's unique marine biodiversity. Just one new serious pest or disease could cause major damage to our marine environment.

Marine invaders can affect the environment by:

- ✧ Competing with native species
- ✧ Reducing marine biodiversity
- ✧ Disturbing ecosystem balance

Already, at least 148 marine invaders are found in New Zealand waters. Marine invaders arrive in and move around New Zealand's coastal and marine environment in a number of ways:

- ✧ They can hitchhike a ride attached to the hulls of visiting ships. New Zealand currently receives over 2500 visits by international vessels each year at over 20 ports.
- ✧ They can arrive in ballast water, which ships carry for stability and discharge when cargo is unloaded. Around six millions tonnes of foreign ballast water is estimated to be discharged into New Zealand waters each year.
- ✧ They can be transported on fishing or marine farming equipment.