



Marlborough Sounds Aquaculture Projects Biosecurity Management Plan¹ Generic Template August 2026 Version 1

This document will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains up to date against biosecurity legislation and best practice in New Zealand aquaculture.

Review Date	Person(s) Involved	Description of Changes / Review

¹ This biosecurity management plan has been prepared using the A+ Sustainable Management Framework Biosecurity template <https://www.aplusaquaculture.nz/biosecurity>

Table of Contents

1. Purpose	3
2. Background	3
2.1 Biosecurity Contacts	3
2.2 Roles.....	4
2.3 National Operational Zones	4
2.4 Biosecurity Management Areas.....	5
3. Relevant Operational Zones and Management Areas.....	6
3.1 The Top of the North	6
3.2 The Top of the South	6
4. A+ Sustainable Management Framework.....	8
5. Knowing the Risk	9
6. Managing Biosecurity Risk – Best Practice Outline	15
6.1 People and PPE	15
6.2 Inspections	15
6.3 Stock.....	16
6.4 Equipment.....	17
6.5 Vessels and Vehicles	18
6.6 Waste / Disposal	18
7. Reporting Procedures for New Disease / Species Suspected	19
8. Training	19
8.1 Farm Manager or Biosecurity Representative:.....	19
8.2 General Staff:	20
8.3 Contractors:	20
9. Recording, Reporting, and Review	21
APPENDIX 1: Potential Pest Pathway Assessment.....	22
APPENDIX 2: Standard Operational Procedures Recording.....	23
APPENDIX 3: Report Form for New Marine Pests and / or Diseases	26
APPENDIX 4: Biosecurity Event Contingency Plan	27
APPENDIX 5: Sampling Kit and Process	28
APPENDIX 6: Reporting Suspected Aquatic Disease How to Guide	29

1. Purpose

The [A+ Biosecurity Standards](#) guide the development of Biosecurity Management Plans (BMPs), provide a national approach to marine biosecurity, and identify high risk pathways and potential controls for those risks.

The purpose of this BMP is to provide a template for Marlborough aquaculture operators to comply with the A+ Biosecurity Standards and in doing so, minimise the risk to our growing environment and our businesses from introducing and spreading disease, unwanted marine organisms, or pest species. This BMP also addresses the requirements of the National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture (NESMA) 2020, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Fisheries Act 1996, and any consent requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Aquaculture New Zealand (AQNZ), who coordinate the A+ Sustainable Management Framework, joined the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) for Biosecurity in 2019. Readiness and response activities relevant to aquaculture are managed under the GIA.

This BMP is a generic template for the purposes of the Marlborough Sounds Aquaculture Fast-track substantive application. Each operator will adapt this template to suit their specific operation prior to operating at farms granted consent under that process.

2. Background

Marine farmers recognise they have a role in the management of biosecurity risks. Biosecurity management is an essential part of the day-to-day operations on a marine farm. Marine farmers operating under this BMP will always strive in all respects to minimise the biosecurity risk arising from introductions and/or spread of unwanted pests and notifiable organisms (including pests and pathogens) arising from their marine farming operations.

However, it is also recognised that the control of biosecurity risks is a shared responsibility of all marine stakeholders including the marine farmer, other commercial operators, recreational boat owners, other marine farmers, local authorities (councils), Iwi and Government (Ministry for Primary Industries - Biosecurity New Zealand).

**All operational farm staff must comply
with this Biosecurity Management Plan.**

2.1 Biosecurity Contacts

Below are some of the key contacts relating to aquaculture biosecurity management.

Contact	Name	Details
MPI / Biosecurity NZ Pest and Disease Hotline	Marine Incursion Investigator	0800 80 99 66
Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Manager	Liam Falconer	03 520 7400
AQNZ Technical Director (Biosecurity)	Caroline Gilbertson	

MPI Online Tool for Reporting Suspected Pests		https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/
Marine Pest ID website		marinepests.nz/marine-pest-id
Farm Manager		

2.2 Roles

In terms of this Biosecurity Management Plan, the following have key roles:

- **Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI):** The Biosecurity Act 1993 is implemented by Fisheries New Zealand. This Act requires that any suspected unwanted organisms, and all significant diseases and abnormal/high mortality rates to be reported to the MPI Hotline 0800 80 99 66.
- **Regional Councils:** Councils are responsible for the implementation of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (through biosecurity plans) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (through resource consents and plans).
- **Aquaculture New Zealand (AQNZ):** AQNZ has a national role that acknowledges the importance of reducing risks and keeping industry players informed. In this context, the A+ Sustainable Management Framework and Industry Biosecurity Standards are key methods for delivery.

Additional Resources to Manage Biosecurity Risk:

AQNZ has prepared additional information on biosecurity management and marine farmers have access to this information and to advice on improving procedures over time:
<http://www.aplusaquaculture.nz/biosecurity>

2.3 National Operational Zones

Operational Zones (Figure 1) were formed by the New Zealand aquaculture industry to ensure a national approach to marine biosecurity risk under the A+ Biosecurity Standards. Operational Zones where marine farming currently occurs include: Top of the North, Top of the South, Canterbury, and Lower South.

Operational Zones are generally aligned with biosecurity partnership areas identified by regional councils. The Top of the North Biosecurity Partnership covers Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils and aligns with the Top of the North Operational Zone. The Top of the South Operational Zone roughly aligns with the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, which includes Tasman District Council, Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council.

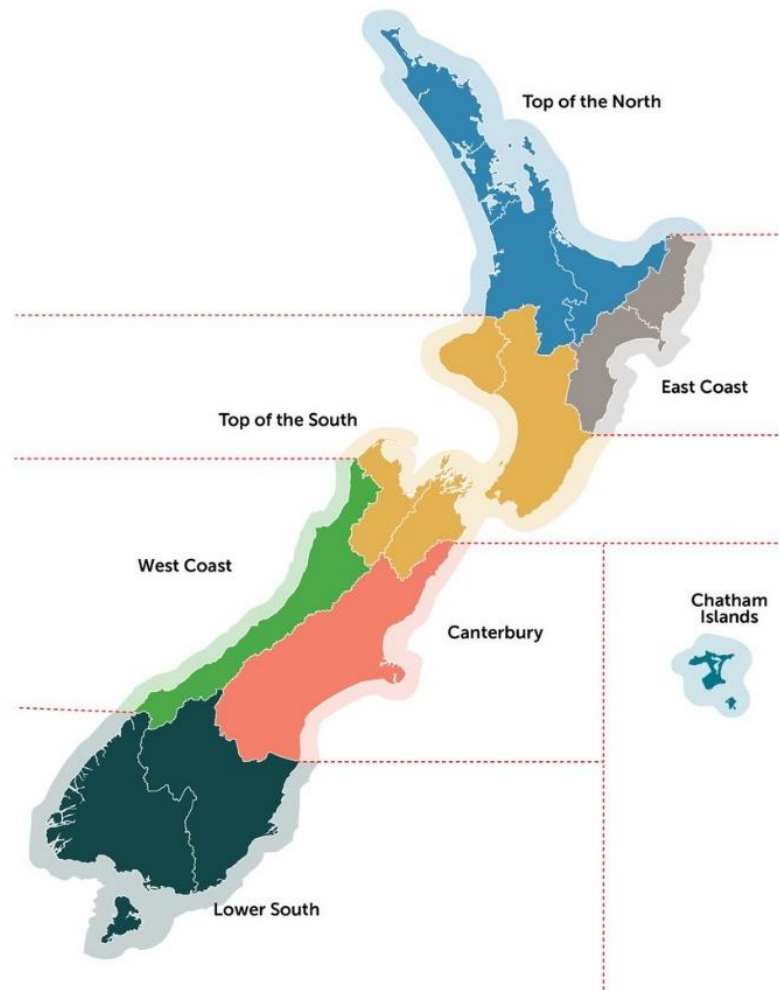


Figure 1 New Zealand Aquaculture Industry Operational Zones

2.4 Biosecurity Management Areas

Within each Operational Zone, **Biosecurity Management Areas** are identified to distinguish those areas that warrant or require additional biosecurity measures.

Management Areas are identified based on the following criteria:

- (1) Industry agreement (e.g., under a Management Area Agreement);
- (2) Regional and national statutory biosecurity requirements (e.g., Controlled Area Notices, Regional Pest Management Plans, which may include policies and rules related to the management and control of marine biosecurity risks);
- (3) Differing 'biosecurity status' (e.g., presence/absence of specific unwanted organisms);
- (4) Higher risk of introduction and spread of unwanted organisms (e.g., presence of an international port or point of entry marina, international large vessel anchoring site, or known higher risk area (e.g., Great Barrier Island).

3. Relevant Operational Zones and Management Areas

Marlborough farmers will primarily be operating in the Top of the South Operational Zone, outside of any specified Marine Management Areas. Operators may also introduce spat one of the specified Management Areas in the Top of the North Operational Zone

Where an operation includes activity within any of the specified Management Areas (such as transferring spat/seed from Wainui Bay, the operator will specify this in their BMP.

Operations will be within the Upper South Contained Zone for the purposes of the Bonamia CAN.

This BMP will be updated prior to any changes in operation or if any changes occur to the status of the relevant Operational Zones and Management Areas.

3.1 The Top of the North

The Top of the North Operational Zone (TNOZ) boundaries include all space within and northward of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regions (Figure 2). The main GSM growing areas within the TNOZ are Coromandel, Auckland, and Bay of Plenty.

Within the TNOZ, the following applicable special **Management Areas** (Refer Figure 2) have been identified and have additional biosecurity requirements applied to them:

Waikato Region:

- **Aotea Harbour:** This area is a critical spat collecting area and does not currently have some of the pest species present in other parts of the Waikato region.

Northland Region¹

- Northland Regional Council has identified Management Areas (called marine designated areas) in their Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and each of these areas has different marine pest profiles.
- **Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē (Ninety Mile Beach)** is a nationally significant spat collecting area.
- **Whangape Harbour:** This area is a critical spat collecting area in Northland and does not currently have some of the pest species present in other parts of the Northland region.

3.2 The Top of the South

The Top of the South Operational Zone (TSOZ) boundaries are from the NW boundary of Southland to Northern of Taranaki regional boundary over to the NE Manawatu – Wanganui regional boundary and down to the SE Marlborough boundary at Clarence). The main GSM growing areas within the TSOZ are Golden and Tasman Bays and the Marlborough Sounds (including Port Underwood).

TSOZ Management Areas:

Within the TSOZ, the following applicable **Management Areas** (Figure 3) have been identified and have additional biosecurity requirements applied to them:

Nelson / Tasman Region:

- **Wainui:** This area is a critical spat collecting area and does not currently have some of the pest species present in other parts of the Operational Zone.
- **Tarakohe Harbour:** This harbour has pest species under ongoing management that are not present in other parts of TSOZ (e.g., Sabella).

¹<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/marine-biosecurity/marine-pest-and-pathway-rules-for-northland/>

- **Port Nelson and Nelson Marina:** This harbour and marina has pest species under ongoing management that are not present in other parts of TSOZ.

Marlborough:

- **Pelorus Sound - Admiralty Bay:** is considered a higher-risk area for exotic marine pests as it has a large vessel anchoring site (this area is a candidate for additional surveillance)
- **Queen Charlotte Sound - Waikawa Marina:** This marina has pest species under ongoing management that are not present in other parts of TSOZ (e.g. Sabella).
- **Bonamia CAN in place** – a movement permit must be attained from MPI- BNZ for all shellfish not going to processing for human consumption out of the 'Upper South Contained Zone'. For more details see: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/59776-Controlled-Area-Notice-Bonamia-ostreae-B2023-2-2023>

The **Upper South Contained Zone** has the following control measures under the Bonamia CAN:

Movement of shellfish, including waste:

- (1) Flat oysters, Pacific oysters, Green-lipped mussels, or Geoducks must not be moved out of the Upper South Contained Zone for the purpose of commercial processing unless a permit is obtained prior to the movement.
- (2) Shellfish collected inside the Upper South Contained Zone must not be returned to the marine environment outside the Upper South Contained Zone.
- (3) Waste from shellfish collected inside the Upper South Contained Zone must not be discharged into the marine environment outside of the Upper South Contained Zone.

Movement of equipment:

- (4) Equipment (including marine farm equipment) must not be moved out of the Upper South Contained Zone unless it is visibly free of fouling.

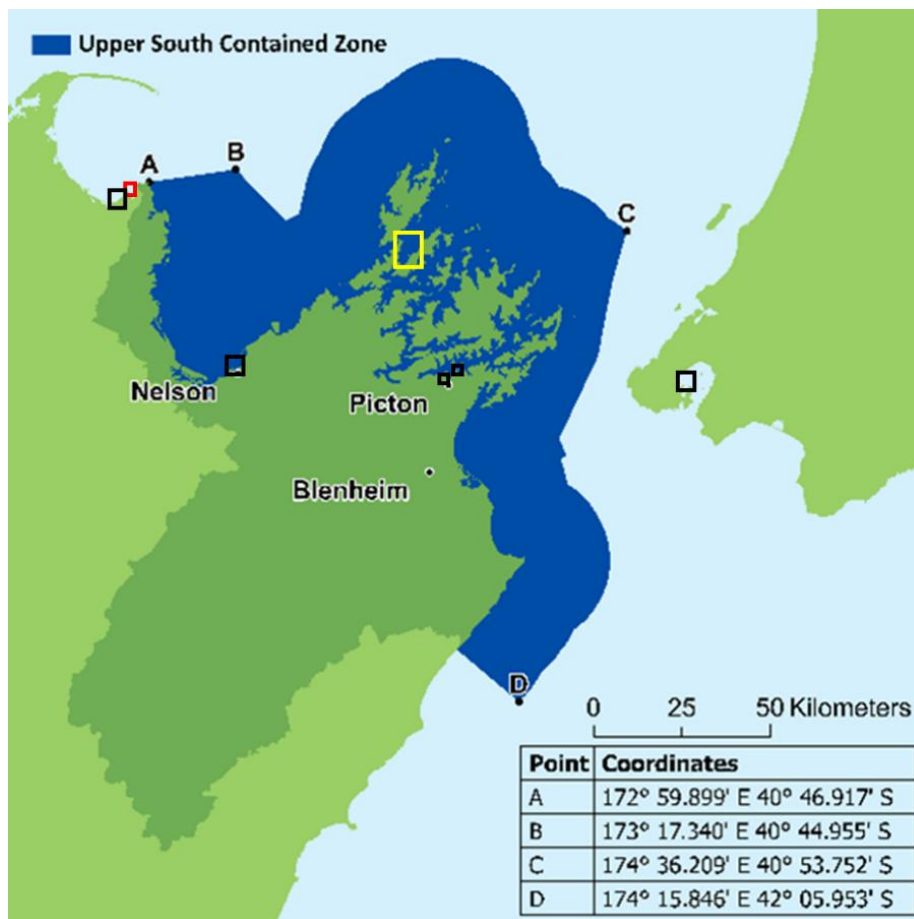


Figure 2 TSOZ Management Areas: Orange - Bonamia CAN 'Contained Zone', Black – high risk harbours and marinas, Red – Wainui Bay Industry Management Area, Yellow – large vessel anchoring – additional surveillance

4. A+ Sustainable Management Framework

Aquaculture farmers are encouraged to participate in the Aquaculture New Zealand's A+ Environment Programme. A+ is an improvement programme that provides New Zealand aquaculture farmers with the practical tools to demonstrate transparency around their environmental performance with annual checklists that are completed by the producer.

The objectives of A+ align with those of world leading accredited certification programmes - such as Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) and Best Aquaculture Practice (BAP). This association further substantiates the importance we place on our role as responsible guardians of our place and people.

The A+ Sustainable Management Framework (SMF) formalises a cycle of annual reporting and review for continuous improvement and provides a great platform for the community and industry to engage on their sustainability aspirations.

The purpose of the SMF is to promote the sustainable management of aquaculture in New Zealand by providing guidance for best environmental and social practice for the industry. More information can be found on the [A+ website](#).

Biosecurity in A+

Biosecurity is a key section of the A+ Sustainable Management Framework. AQNZ, through an industry working group process, has developed the A+ Greenshell Mussel Biosecurity Standards and this

Biosecurity Management Plan is designed to comply with these industry standards. The standards can be found on the [A+ website](#).

5. Knowing the Risk

5.1 Shellfish Diseases

The following shellfish diseases are notifiable under the Biosecurity Act¹.

Names	Image	Additional Information
<i>Perkinsus olseni</i> (shellfish parasite)		Notifiable disease. Confirmed in paua, mussels, scallops and other shellfish
<i>Bonamia ostreae</i> (oyster parasite)		Nelson, Marlborough Controlled Area Notice in place – stock movement permits required. Equipment can be moved out of the CAN area if it is visibly free of fouling. Subject to additional controls under this BMP.

5.2 Biosecurity Risk Species

The following biosecurity risk species have been identified as High Risk Organisms in the Top of the South Incident Response Manual².

¹ <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/6403-Biosecurity-Notifiable-Organisms-Order-2016>

² <https://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/images/manuals/TOS-Incident-Response-Manual-October-2025.pdf>

5.3 Further Information on Notifiable Organisms

Under the Biosecurity Act 1993 there is a general duty to inform MPI of notifiable organisms as well as organisms “not normally seen in New Zealand”. Also, if an Unwanted Organism is suspected there are duties not to permit the spread of that organism (without permissions).

Further information is available using these links:

- The [National Biosecurity \(Notifiable Organisms\) Order 2016](#)
- Additional MPI information regarding [unwanted pests and notifiable organisms](#)
- Booklet published by MPI: [New Zealand Marine Pest ID Guide](#)
- Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership [Incident Response Manual](#)

5.4 Pathways

Biosecurity risk management practices are designed to control possible pathways for the introduction and spread of pathogens and pests.

Pathways are defined as “*routes of introduction and spread of unwanted organisms, including pathogens and pests, into and out of farm sites*”. Managing pathways minimises the likelihood of introducing or spreading unwanted organisms.

- **Early detection is key in pest and pathogen management – the best time to control any marine pest or pathogen is on arrival.**
- Marine farms can provide habitats for the settlement, growth and spread of marine pests and pathogens. As well as having a direct impact on the specific farming operation, marine pests and pathogens can be introduced and spread to other farms and the wider aquatic environment.
- Once a pest or pathogen is established, control becomes more difficult and expensive. Therefore, knowing the higher risk pathways (e.g. moving equipment between Management areas or Operational Zones) for the introduction and spread of pests and pathogens is extremely relevant.
- Higher Risk Pathways are identified in Appendix 1.



Figure 3 Pathway management principles

6. Managing Biosecurity Risk – Best Practice Outline

This section sets out the specific controls that will be used to manage biosecurity risks associated with the operator's marine farm operations.

If staff observe a new pest or unusual signs of disease or unexpected mortality >20% at any farm, the disease or mortality event must be investigated to determine causation.

Farm staff must contact the Top of the South Biosecurity Coordinator or AQNZ, who will:

- Contact the MPI Hotline 0800 80 99 66 and
- If necessary, coordinate sampling and
- Notify all relevant farming groups, biosecurity groups, and local farmers

For new pests see Appendix 4.

The Contingency Plan in Appendix 5 must be activated.

6.1 People and PPE

People and their PPE (e.g., gumboots, overalls) can transfer pests and diseases onto the farm. The biosecurity risks associated with people and their PPE will be controlled by:

Farm Staff	• Staff entering a farm will not wear protective clothing (PPE) worn in another Operational Zone without either laundering them or, in the case of PPE, it will be washed down, and disinfectant solution will be applied.
Visitors and Contractors	• Visitors and contractors will receive a briefing regarding the biosecurity requirements under this plan prior to entering facilities and farm sites. • A record of visitors and contractors will be kept, including: ○ Name and contact details ○ Confirmation that they have been made aware of and comply with the requirements of this BMP ○ A record of whether they have visited a high-risk aquaculture facility in the last 72 hours (e.g., hatchery, processing facility, wild habitat where the farmed species exist). • All visitor and contractor PPE used or worn outside the Operational Zone or that is considered high risk, will be washed down (ideally with fresh water), and disinfectant solution will be applied.

6.2 Inspections

It is important to remain vigilant for new/ unwanted marine species:

- Farm structures shall be inspected at least monthly when spat and/or growing ropes are in the water for marine pests. Records of the inspections shall be kept.
- Farm personnel will be familiar with, remain vigilant for, and report unusual organisms and those that exhibit unusual patterns of population growth. Every vessel will have a copy of the [Biosecurity New Zealand Marine Pest ID Guide](#) on board at all times and all farm staff will be trained in identifying unwanted pests.

6.3 Stock	
It is important to remain vigilant for visual signs of disease (e.g., unusual lesions) and elevated mortality in farmed stock as early detection is the best hope for successful management.	
Stock Health (i.e., spat, seed, adults)	Stock health management requirements: • Staff will visually inspect a sample of stock and assess general health status (e.g., gaping and presence of visible lesions) every 3 months (quarterly) and prior to transfer to a growing site and/or prior to harvest. • No stock that are visibly unhealthy will be reseeded onto lines. • Visibly unhealthy stock will not be moved from the farm until the cause of disease has been identified. • Refer Appendices 2 & 3 for actions / records to be kept.
Stock Transfers	Stock transfers are a known pathway for the transfer of pests and diseases. The biosecurity risks associated with stock transfers will be controlled by: <u>General Rules for Stock Transfer</u> • Traceability records are to be kept in accordance with Appendix 2 • Spat, seed or adult stock that are visibly unhealthy <i>will not</i> be transferred to or from any farm or facility. • If there is a biotoxin harvest closure notice applied to an area, stock <i>will not</i> be moved outside this area, unless written agreement has otherwise been approved by the Biosecurity Co-ordinator. • Stress on spat, seed or stock will be minimised by keeping them cool and moist during transport. • No spat, seed or stock will be transferred from any other Management Area or Operational Zone that is known to contain a notifiable disease or pest, and which is not already present in the destination Management Area or Operational Zone, unless a movement permit has been provided by MPI (e.g., Bonamia Controlled Area Notice – movement permit). • Any stock to be transferred between Operational Zones will be stripped from the rope, de-clumped, cleaned of obvious fouling, and visually checked for signs of disease/notifiable organisms at origin before bagging (prior to transporting). • No seawater will be sprayed onto bags of stock when they are moving through ports / harbours/ or marinas known to contain notifiable organisms (e.g., Sabella). <u>Stock Movement between Management Areas</u> If moving stock between Management Areas or Operational Zones, the farmer will check the biosecurity status and meet the stock movement requirements of those Zones/ Management Areas prior to any transfer of stock. TNOZ Management Areas • Any transfer of stock to or from Management Areas in the TNOZ will be undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements of the relevant regional councils, and in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 (e.g. Hauraki Controlled Area Notice 2020, Exotic Caulerpa Controlled Area Notice 2022, Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan) TSOZ Management Areas • Any transfer of stock to or from Management Areas in the TSOZ will be undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements of the relevant regional councils, and in

	accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 (e.g. a movement permit must be applied for if moving stock out of the ‘Contained Zone’ under the Bonamia – Controlled Area Notice) • Only GLM 9 spat (visually in good condition) will be transferred into the Wainui Bay Management Area • No seawater will be sprayed onto bags of stock when they are moving through port, harbour or marina Management Areas.
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6.4 Equipment	
Used marine equipment is a known pathway for the transfer of pests and diseases.	
Sample Kit	• The Farm Manager will have access to a sample kit to collect any new species detected or potentially diseased stock, for testing. (Refer Appendix 5)
Marine Equipment All Areas	To control the risks associated with: Ropes: • Farmed shellfish and attached fouling will be removed from ropes at time of harvest, as much as practicable and discharged within the marine farm boundary • Ropes will be cleaned of all obvious fouling ‘conditioned’ and inspected for pests when they are removed from the water. • All waste from ‘conditioning’ to be collected and disposed of to landfill. • All ropes will be stored and dried for a minimum of 28 days before re-using in any other Management Area. Floats: • All floats (including niche areas) will be regularly cleaned of obvious fouling at sea to prevent biofouling accumulating on floats. Floats brought onto land will be further cleaned (if needed). • All waste from cleaning at the yard is to be collected and disposed of to landfill. Backbone lines: • Backbone lines will be checked every 6 months for any notifiable organisms. Other equipment (e.g., dive gear): • All other equipment (including dive gear) will be washed and decontaminated after use and/or prior to being moved to a new site.
Marine Equipment Other Management Areas/ Operational Zones	• No ropes or floats from outside the Operational Zone are to be re-used unless they have firstly been decontaminated, in accordance with the A+ Biosecurity Standards. • If moving equipment between Management Areas or Operational Zones the farmer will check the biosecurity status and meet the requirements for those Zones/ Management Areas prior to any transfer of equipment (e.g. Bonamia Controlled Area Notice movement controls in place for equipment; Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan does not allow the transfer of used marine farm equipment into the region).
Marine Equipment	North Island west coast spat sites (e.g., Aotea Harbour, Ahipara Eastern Coromandel, and Wainui industry specified Management Areas • Used ropes, floats and bags in these industry Management Areas must be: a) Used solely in each of these Management Areas; OR

Industry Management Areas	b) Thoroughly cleaned and stored in bulk bags on land for at least 12 weeks before being transferred into these Management Areas; OR c) Decontaminated in accordance with the A+ Biosecurity Standards.
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6.5 Vessels and Vehicles	
Vessels	Vessel hulls and decks can carry marine pests and diseases. Vessels associated with the day-to-day operations of the farm area should be properly maintained to prevent the growth of biofouling or the accumulation of sediment or debris. The risks associated with vessel movements will be controlled by: • Biofouling on the hulls of farm vessels will be kept at no more than a slime layer and barnacles. • In-water cleaning will only occur where the vessel only works in one Management Area. • In-water cleaning will not occur if a vessel has travelled between Management Areas or Operational Zones. • Niche areas will be checked every 12 months including: keel bottom, hull fittings, and thruster cavities. • Bilge water and / or water in the strum box and associated pipework will be pumped out once the vessel has left the farm area and is in open water, if travelling between Management Areas or Operational Zones. • Trailered marine farming vessels and equipment will be washed with freshwater and all water drained from bilges on land • Contractor vessels will be required to show evidence that they comply with the above controls.
Harvesting / Grading Equipment etc on the Vessel	Harvesting / grading equipment can transfer pests and diseases. The risks associated with the transfer of harvesting / grading equipment will be controlled by: • Sediment and biofouling debris will be cleaned from vessel decks and any equipment on the vessel before entering any other Management Area. • Contractors will be required to comply with the above controls.
Vehicles	Vehicles that carry stock and equipment can transfer pests and diseases. The risks associated with the transfer of vehicles will be controlled by: • Any vehicle/ trailer that has been used in other Management Areas or Operational Zones and which has potentially been in contact with aquatic pests, will be cleaned with freshwater and detergent between each transport event, and ideally before accessing wharf areas for reloading.

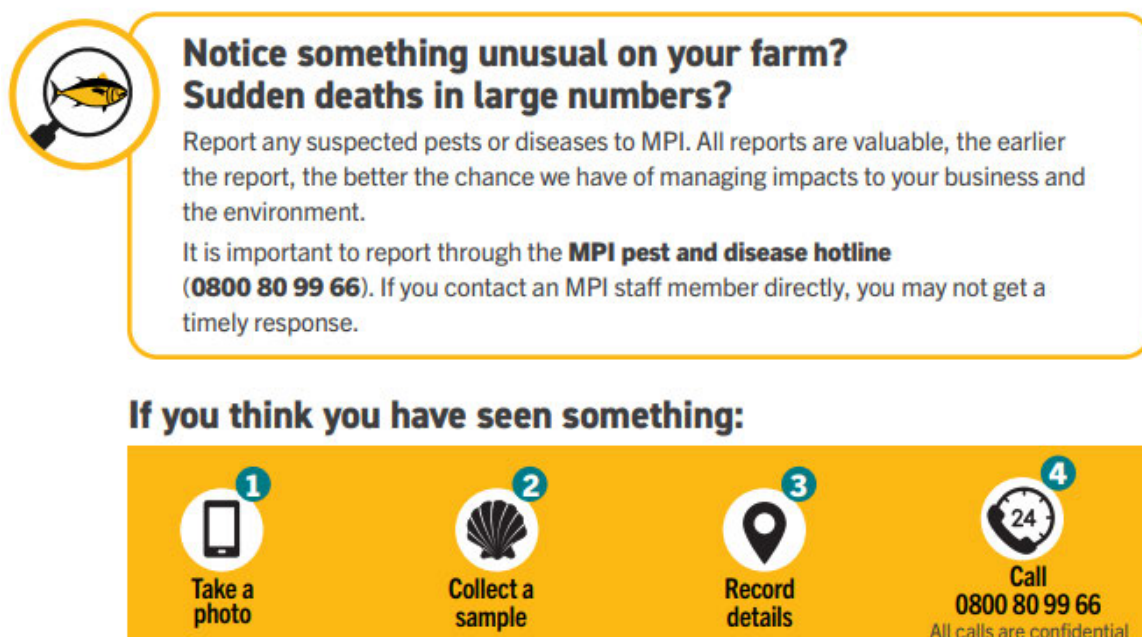
6.6 Waste / Disposal	
Waste Management (e.g., wastewater, solid waste, and biological waste / dead	Waste can transfer pests and diseases. The risks associated with the transfer of waste will be controlled by: • Small quantities (< 5 kg) of biological material that could pose a biosecurity risk will be disposed of in landfill. • If more than 5 kg of dead or moribund stock will be disposed of, the stock will be contained in secure mort-bins with sealed covers or sealed bulk bags with plastic liners for transport to processing or disposal facilities.

/ moribund stock)	• Biological material (including dead or culled stock) will not be directed to bait or burley manufacture unless the operator knows that the requirement to inactivate any pathogens and pests can be achieved (e.g., sterilisation by heat treatment, chlorination, etc). • For large scale mortality events refer also to the Contingency Plan: Appendix 4
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7. Reporting Procedures for New Disease / Species Suspected

The operator will follow the How to Guide for reporting suspected pests and diseases on marine farms established by Biosecurity New Zealand and Aquaculture New Zealand¹ and included in **Appendix 6**.

In particular:



**Notice something unusual on your farm?
Sudden deaths in large numbers?**

Report any suspected pests or diseases to MPI. All reports are valuable, the earlier the report, the better the chance we have of managing impacts to your business and the environment.

It is important to report through the **MPI pest and disease hotline (0800 80 99 66)**. If you contact an MPI staff member directly, you may not get a timely response.

If you think you have seen something:

- 1** Take a photo
- 2** Collect a sample
- 3** Record details
- 4** Call 0800 80 99 66
All calls are confidential

Figure 5 How to guide for reporting

8. Training

Staff training² is required for managers, general staff, and contractors involved in the operation of the farm.

8.1 Farm Manager or Biosecurity Representative:

The Farm Manager and/or other staff member that is responsible for making biosecurity decisions will receive biosecurity training that will include:

- A review of the A+ Industry Biosecurity Standards and this BMP.
- A review of the biosecurity status of other industry Operational Zones.
- The importance of maintaining visitor and stock records for traceability purposes during a biosecurity event.

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xHsPAdKzUL1V6yck2Ym-saxuUT2WytLg/view>

² NB: this training can be provided by AQNZ, or the operator may source this training from another provider.

- The process for applying for MPI Movement Permits as required by any Controlled Area Notices
- Identification of normal healthy stock – appearance and behaviour.
- Identification of unhealthy stock – signs of abnormal health and abnormal behaviours.
- The appearance of unwanted marine pests, how to use the sample kit to sample unknown pest/diseased organisms, who to contact and where to send samples.
- The importance of regular inspection and surveillance for marine pests and shellfish diseases to the industry, environment and for market access.
- Environmental parameters to measure and record (DO, water temperature, phytoplankton), and why they are important if a stock health issue is suspected.
- How biosecurity is regulated in New Zealand (Biosecurity Act 1993) and their role in the Government-Industry Agreement on Biosecurity (that the marine farming industry is a signatory to).

8.2 General Staff:

- All farm staff will be given training within a month of starting and annually refresh knowledge of:
 - Basic biosecurity requirements of the A+ Biosecurity Standards and expectations for Biosecurity Management as detailed in this plan.
 - Basic biosecurity training regarding the appearance of, effects of, and reporting mechanisms for unusual pests and signs of diseases.
- All farm will:
 - Have access to an on-vessel copy of: NZ Marine Pest ID Guide and any additional Management Area and/or Operational Zone information (e.g., Bonamia - Controlled Area Notice).
 - Have on-board practical training for signs of 'unhealthy stock' (e.g., lesions / gaping).
 - Know what to do if they observe specific unwanted pests or specific signs of disease.
 - Have knowledge of the contingency plan (i.e., steps to be taken in an extreme event or potential biosecurity event).

Evidence of staff biosecurity training will be recorded by the Farm Manager in their register and will be available on request. [A+ Programme Training Register](#) templates can be used.

8.3 Contractors:

- All contractors involved in the on-farm aspects of the activity will be briefed on and must agree to comply with:
 - The biosecurity requirements of the A+ Biosecurity Standards and the operator's expectations for Biosecurity Management as detailed in this plan.

Further Background Information:

[A+ Biosecurity Standards](#)

[Aquaculture Biosecurity Handbook \(MPI/AQNZ 2016\)](#)

9. Recording, Reporting, and Review

The expectations around biosecurity data recording and reporting, and the reviewing of the BMP, are listed below. All staff will be made **aware of the recording and reporting requirements associated with their roles**.

- The Farm Manager will review this Biosecurity Plan **annually** to ensure the most up-to-date management practices identified by AQNZ, government, or the regional environmental group are in place.
- **Appendix 2** sets out the recording required for standard operational procedures.
- The information in **Appendix 3** must be recorded when:
 - A potential new species is suspected, or
 - When an unwanted organism (as per the MPI Pest ID handbook) is suspected in a new area, or
 - When a potential disease event is observed.
- **If a new unwanted organism is found or a notifiable biosecurity event occurs**, the operator will notify MPI and submit a report to MPI, **within one week**, covering all matters in **Appendices 2 and 3**. MPI are the lead agency.

The operator will also inform:

- The local Council Marine Biosecurity contact (see 2.1 Biosecurity Contacts and Appendix 4) and
- AQNZ (info@aquaculture.org.nz)
- The BMP shall be reviewed and updated, if appropriate, by an independent suitably qualified and experienced person(s):
 - Every 3 years; or
 - Within 2 months of a new unwanted organism being suspected on the farms.

APPENDIX 1: Potential Pest Pathway Assessment

NB: Procedures for managing these potential pathways are set out in sections 5 – 8 above.

Higher Risk Pathways for your Farm(s) (i.e., what are the potential ways pests/ disease will enter your farm through your operations)		
Risk Pathway (Examples)	Think About	Answers specific to your farm operations and potential control measures
Vessels travelling between Management Areas	Do you commonly use your vessels between Management Areas?	
Vessels traveling between Operational Zones	Do you commonly move your vessels between Operational Zones?	
Stock transfers (particularly between other Management Areas or Operational Zones)	Where do you commonly transfer stock to and from? What is the pest and disease status of those sites?	
Equipment transfers	Do you commonly move farm equipment between Management Areas or between Operational Zones?	
People	Identify commonly used contractors. Do they move between Management areas or Operational Zones?	
Any other pathways for pests/ diseases?		

APPENDIX 2: Standard Operational Procedures Recording

	REQUIRED RECORDS
STOCK HEALTH	
All Stock (Quarterly and at harvest)	Date: Farm Site: Growth stage: Health of Stock assessed:
Unhealthy Stock	Fill in Appendix 3 Check if Appendix 4 needs to be activated.
STOCK TRANSFER	
Source / Destination of Stock	Source: Place and company MPI Movement Permit Number (where required): Destination: Place and company Date Stock health checked (prior to transfer): Cleaning / decontamination procedures undertaken prior to any transfer?: (NB: not applicable to spat ropes) Date placed in water at destination farm site:
Stock Amount and Transfer Method	Method of transfer (e.g., in bags, or on growing ropes): Quantity of stock sent / received: Size / life stage of stock:
Staff	Person responsible at source: Contact info:

	Person responsible at destination: Contact info:
Notifiable Organism suspected	Fill in Appendix 3 Check if Appendix 4 needs to be activated.
EQUIPMENT	
Decontamination (i.e., disinfection procedures over and above usual practices)	Date: Reason: Decontamination process:
Used Equipment being taken into or out of a Management Area	Date: Reason for transfer: Origin / destination of transfer: Decontamination process:
Used Equipment Transferred into or out of an Operational Zone	Date: Reason for transfer: Origin / destination of transfer: Decontamination process:
VESSELS	
Travelling Between Management Areas or Operational Zones	Date(s): Route taken: Destination: Cleaning undertaken prior/ during/ after trip:

Hull Cleaned (in water/ on land)	Date Completed: Next due date:
Anti-fouling Applied	Date Completed: Next planned due date (unless biofouling is greater than a slime layer and barnacles):
STAFF TRAINING	
Induction / Refresher Course	Date Done: Subjects Covered: Next due:
Frequency of Staff Training	How often and how do you do refresher training? e.g., monthly at staff meetings? Daily on vessel??
Farm Manager / Biosecurity Manager Review of this Biosecurity Management Plan	Date Done: Next due:

APPENDIX 3: Report Form for New Marine Pests and / or Diseases

MPI and Marlborough District Council need to be informed immediately if a new pest or disease is suspected in a Management Area or Operational Zone where it has not previously been observed. The following must be recorded in as much detail as possible about any incidents and actions taken.

NB: if unexplained mortality >20% / line, this must be investigated further – contact your Biosecurity Co-ordinator

Marine Pest / Disease Incident Report	
Date When Disease / Pest was Noticed	
Action Happening at the Time	
Skipper of Vessel & Farm Location	Skipper: Farm:
What was Observed	
Affected Line / Farm / Vessel / Stock	
Notification	
Action Taken	

APPENDIX 4: Biosecurity Event Contingency Plan

If a potential biosecurity event is identified (e.g., new notifiable pathogen/ pest incursion), the following actions must be taken:

Biosecurity Event is Identified	• CEASE HARVEST AND MOVEMENTS of EQUIPMENT, AND STOCK, AND <u>FOLLOW ACTIONS BELOW</u> • Vessel to return to port, no movement of vessel into a different Management Area
Reporting / Communications	• Contact the Farm Manager Name and contact • Farm Manager must contact the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Manager 03 520 7400 and the MPI Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66 or https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/ • Farm Manager should also contact AQNZ. • Stay Informed – take all practical steps to keep up to date on the unfolding event.
Disposal of Diseased / Moribund Stock	• If directed by MPI to dispose of spat, seed, or stock: contain all high-risk shellfish and associated material using non-permeable plastic liners in transport containers. • Safely dispose of any high-risk material at landfill. Use designated transport company and landfill.
Decontamination	• <i>When this contingency plan is in action</i>, MPI may require that all equipment transferred from the site is to be decontaminated. • Follow the decontamination directions from MPI.
Investigation	• MPI will take the lead in any further investigations required. • Follow all directions issued.
Key Contacts	• Farm Manager: Name and contact • Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Manager: Liam Falconer 03 520 7400 • AQNZ Technical Director: Caroline Gilbertson [REDACTED] • MPI Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66
Contact for Emergency Disposal of Stock	• Truck Company/ Bio-waste services: Name and contact
Contacts: Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership	• info@marinebiosecurity.co.nz

APPENDIX 5: Sampling Kit and Process

Your Biosecurity Sampling Kit

- 1 x A plastic container or similar containing:
- 10 x each of small, medium, and large Ziplock bags
- 3 x sharpie waterproof marker pens
- 3 x pencils
- 30 x [waterproof paper labels](#)
- 1 x scale bar / ruler
- 1 x [MPI pest ID guide](#)

Sampling Protocol

1. Get out your Biosecurity Sampling Kit
2. Take a sample and note the location (e.g., drop a pin in Google maps - note LAT, LONG)
3. Take a photo with something for scale (e.g., a ruler or coin)
4. Write a label on waterproof paper (date, location, name of collector) and put it in a Ziplock bag with the sample
5. Also Label the outside of the Ziplock bag (with date, location, name of collector)
6. Refrigerate sample as soon as possible
7. Notify your company Biosecurity person / or the Biosecurity coordinator for your Operational Zone (see you Biosecurity Management Plan for details)
8. Get them to notify the relevant Biosecurity person at your Regional Council and follow their instructions regarding refrigeration / freezing and shipping of sample.
9. Get them to contact the MPI Pest Hotline (0800 80 99 66).

NB: Under the Biosecurity Act 1993, every person has a general duty to inform of the presence of any notifiable organism. Every person also has a duty to report what they think could be a notifiable organism. Legal penalties apply should you release, cause to be released, or otherwise spread a pest or unwanted organism.

APPENDIX 6: Reporting Suspected Aquatic Disease How to Guide