

# Marine Biosecurity Information Note 1

## May 2024

### Reducing the Marine Biosecurity Risk: Clothing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Plant Equipment.

#### Background

- Due to the operational nature of our ports, **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** is often required when undertaking work to ensure operations are undertaken safely.
- Much of the specialised work undertaken in the marine or intertidal areas of our ports also requires **bespoke, specialised plant equipment**, some of which may be transported from **national** and **international regions** (examples include mobile plant equipment such as barges, specific technical equipment and dredging vessels working across national and international waterbodies).
- If **equipment and PPE** are **not cleaned appropriately** before use in a new location or waterbody, this presents a **biosecurity risk**. This is because organisms or fragments of an invasive non-native species (INNS) may be transferred between sites if attached to clothing, PPE (for example on diving kit or through soil or mud on boots) or present on equipment.
- **Measures must be taken during all marine works in order to reduce the potential INNS transfer risk.**

#### Actions to reduce the risk of species transfer via clothing, PPE and plant equipment across Peel Ports.

- A **biosecurity risk assessment** will usually be requested from the operator by Peel Ports prior to any marine works commencing ([example biosecurity risk assessment available from NNSS](#)).
- Whomever is undertaking works must check any local **Works Licence Requirements**, if deemed necessary, specific biosecurity **conditions may be included on a licence.**

- **Practical steps** such as [Check-Clean-Dry](#) of clothing and equipment when moving across sites should be implemented as best practice, [wash down stations](#) for plant equipment may also be considered at entrance and exit points to sites.
- **Training** may be appropriate for people working on site - see [NNSS free online training](#).
- If the area has a known INNS or there is a particularly high risk of INNS transfer, **specific equipment or PPE may need to be allocated for use on that site by the project lead or contractor.**
- [Posters](#) to advocate best practice should be installed across the site.
- Biosecurity **conditions may be included as a specific contract condition.**
- Further advice on reducing INNS transfer when working in the field is available from the [NNSS](#).
- Where antifoulant is used, vessels\* should ensure their **antifoulant application is up to date, any removal of biofouling or paint and application of antifoulant must receive Group Harbour Master approval.**

*\* Vessel – refers to mobile and stationary vessels that are capable of marine biofouling accumulation.*