Pathway Factsheet

Training course for Pacific small island developing States on invasive alien species
15-17 July, Apia, Samoa

Transport – Stowaway: Ship / boat hull fouling

Species that have been introduced unintentionally as hull-fouling organisms on ships and boats

Ships move simple sessile species when these attach themselves to the ship and form colonies or communities on a ship's hull. Such colonies or communities can develop during a voyage, or between periods of anti-fouling treatment, and are spread merely by their normal processes of reproduction being on a mobile substrate. In addition, hull-fouling organisms can be spread unintentionally, when a ship has its hull cleaned. Species that are removed, if not carefully disposed of, can establish locally.

Similar or related pathways

- Ship / boat ballast water
- Hitchhikers on ship / boat

Species example

The black striped mussel *(Mytilopsis sallei)* has been introduced as a result of ships and boats hull fouling. © CSIRO CC by 3.0.

How can we manage this pathway?

National level

- ✓ Implement international guidelines developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the control and management of ship's biofouling, and minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft.
- ✓ Adopt legislation requiring ships and recreational boats to adhere to biofouling management standards
- ✓ Build inspection capacity, and take a risk-based approach to identify high-risk vessels (e.g. previous stops, long stationery periods)
- ✓ Build capacity for relevant authorities to undertake monitoring in ports and adjacent areas for the early detection of new IAS.

Regional level

- ✓ Sharing of information and data on new IAS introductions and high-risk vessels, and joint capacity building and training
- ✓ Engagement with recreational boating and tourism sectors to raise awareness and promote the adoption of biofouling best practices
- ✓ Engagement with the shipping sector to raise awareness and promote the adoption of biofouling best practices

Data source: IUCN. 2018. Guidance for interpretation of the CBD categories of pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species.

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International Maritime Organisation (IMO) resources on reducing the spread of invasive species through biofouling on ships: