

Pest Free Hauraki Gulf

Biosecurity Messaging

The Hauraki Gulf has diverse ecosystems that boasts a rich diversity of island habitats with native forests and precious wildlife. Many Auckland's and visitors to our city enjoy traveling to these unique locations, or spend time on the water around them.

The Hauraki Gulf is protected under the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007 (soon to be the Regional Pest Management Plan 2019) with the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice. The inner Gulf is also part of the "Hauraki Gulf Marine Park" which protects both public and private land as well as marine reserves within its boundaries.

Thanks to animal pest control and eradication programmes run by both Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation, an increasing number of these islands are now entirely free of exotic animal pests, providing safe homes for many of New Zealand's precious native plants and animals.

Help keep pests out of the Hauraki Gulf. Check for pests before you leave home. Pests can easily injure or kill our native wildlife and compete for their food. Invasive weeds can alter the habitat that wildlife needs to survive. The most likely way pest animals and plants can invade our treasured islands is by stowing away on or in your footwear or gear, or on your vessel or kayak.

Before you leave the mainland or travel between islands in the Gulf, check for stowaway pests:

- Check all gear for rats, mice, Argentine ants and plague skinks. Take extra care if you have ants or skinks where you live, or store your boat.
- Clean any dirty gear, footwear and wheels. Remove all soil and seeds.
- Check all food for pests before departure. If possible pack food into sealed containers to keep pests out, e.g. chilly bags with zips, fish bins or other plastic containers with secure lids. Banana boxes need to be taped up.
- Look for signs of rodents on your vessel or kayak, e.g. droppings, nests and/or gnawed wiring.
- Keep fresh rodent bait and/or set traps on your vessel or kayak and where it is stored.

Visiting overnight? Camping and overnight gear offer an ideal home for stowaways, as it is often stored for long periods between use.

- Before you depart, please unpack and thoroughly check and shake out tents, bedding and other gear for animal pests, soil and seeds.



Help keep our
Hauraki Gulf pest free

pestfreehaurakigulf.org.nz



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



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What should I do if I find stowaway pests?

- Destroy any rats, mice, ants or skinks found in your gear or on your vessel.
- Don't throw rats or mice overboard alive as they can swim up to 1 kilometre or travel further on a current.
- Call 0800 DOC HOT line (0800 362 468) to find out how to correctly identify and report your stowaway or to report sightings of pests on pest-free islands. Information on the different animal pests that stow away can help us improve our biosecurity measures.

What damage do pests do?



- RATS eat birds, eggs, reptiles and insects.
- MICE eat insects, small birds and reptiles.



- ARGENTINE ANTS can grow into large colonies with an aggressive appetite, killing native insects, birds and reptiles.



- PLAGUE SKINKS breed prolifically and have already displaced our native skinks on the mainland. They are easily transported to islands in pot plants, compost, soil and garden materials.



- WEED SEEDS can become a weed forest, smothering native plants.
- SOIL can contain plant diseases, e.g. kauri dieback disease. See www.kauridieback.co.nz
- DOGS AND OTHER PETS can harm wildlife, e.g. kiwi, weka, brown teal (pateke) and shorebirds. Pets are banned from pest-free islands and many reserves on other islands in the Gulf, including their beaches. Leave them at home or on your boat, or you may be fined.

Which islands are free of pests? Islands in the Hauraki Gulf which are pest-free are:

- Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe, Motukorea/Browns, Rakino, The Noises, Tiritiri Matangi, Motuora, Hauturu/Little Barrier, Kaikoura (Selwyn), Beehive/Taungamaro, Te Haupa (Saddle), Motuhaku, Broken Islands, Great Mercury and the Mokohinau group.

Many other islands in the Hauraki Gulf are partially free of some pests so check for stowaways between islands to be sure you don't transport pests around the Gulf.



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