



IN WATER BIO-FOUL CLEANING POLICY

POLICY CONTEXT

This policy outlines Chaffers Marina's expectations and responsibilities in relation to in-water biofouling cleaning, ensuring compliance with the **Natural Resources Plan (NRP)** for the Wellington Region and the **Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)**.

This policy applies to all vessels and operations within Chaffers Marina and sets out the circumstances under which in-water biofoul cleaning is permitted, alongside necessary control measures to reduce environmental and biosecurity risks.

Note: The NRP became fully operative on 28 July 2023, following the resolution of all appeals. It consolidates coastal and regional planning provisions and sets legally enforceable rules for environmental protection and activity management in the coastal marine area for Wellington region.

RULES

The following rule (R89 of the NRP) applies within Chaffers Marina:

R89: In-water biofoul cleaning – permitted activity

The discharge of contaminants and biological material (including process water to which no contaminants have been added and which has been UV treated or filtered to 50 microns maximum) into coastal water from **in-water cleaning of biofouling** from a vessel, moveable structure or navigation aid, in the coastal marine area, is a permitted activity provided the following conditions are met:

- a. the **anti-foul coating** on the vessel, moveable structure or navigation aid shall not have exceeded its planned service life as specified by the manufacturer, and
- b. the cleaning method shall be undertaken in accordance with the coating manufacturer's recommendations, and
- c. the cleaning of **microfouling** and goose barnacles may occur without capture, and
- d. for **macrofouling** less than or equal to 2 on the Level of Fouling Rank the cleaning shall ensure minimal release, using best available technology, capture any biological material greater than 50µm in diameter, with any captured cleaning debris disposed of at an approved landfill, and
- e. for **macrofouling** not within (d) the cleaning shall capture any biological material greater than 50µm in diameter, with any captured cleaning debris disposed of at an approved landfill, and
- f. if any person suspects that harmful or unusual aquatic species (including species designated as unwanted organisms or pests under the Biosecurity Act 1993) are to be found, that person shall take the following steps:
 - i. any cleaning activities commenced shall cease immediately, and
 - ii. the Wellington Regional Council Harbourmaster and the Ministry of Primary Industries shall be notified without unreasonable delay, and
 - iii. the cleaning may not recommence until notified by the Wellington Regional Council to do so.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND BEST PRACTICE

When in-water cleaning involves the removal of macrofouling, whether of domestic or international origin, measures must be taken to minimise the release of biological material into the marine environment.

In-water cleaning technologies must be capable of capturing debris larger than 50 micrometres (µm) in diameter, as this size range includes viable life stages of fouling organisms (adults, juveniles, and larvae).

Material below this threshold—referred to as microfouling or ‘slime’—may be cleaned without capture, provided it poses minimal biosecurity risk.

All collected debris must be disposed of on land in accordance with the waste management requirements of the relevant authority.

The cleaning of marine growth greater than 50µm may only be undertaken if an approved capture system is used. As such systems are not currently affordable or widely available for small recreational craft, vessel owners at Chaffers Marina are required to use the CML boat lift, which is equipped with a full containment system for water and hull debris.

Hull biofouling on recreational and commercial vessels is a major contributor to regional and national biosecurity risk. Chaffers Marina’s approach is aligned with the Australia and New Zealand Anti-Fouling and In-Water Cleaning Guidelines (2013), which build on the earlier ANZECC Code of Practice (1997).

Our aim is to promote environmentally responsible vessel maintenance practices and ensure that all vessel movements within and beyond the marina pose minimal risk to marine ecosystems and biosecurity integrity.

This policy complements Chaffers Marina’s Permitted Discharges Policy and supports compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991 and all associated regional planning instruments.

Date of Review: 31/05/2025 Date of Next Review: 31/05/2027

Reviewed by: (Operations Manager) (CML Board Chairman)