



Submission:

Marine Pest Surveillance & Reporting

ISSUE: Marine Pests

SUBJECT: Industry support to mitigate risk and threat from invasive marine pests

INTRODUCTION: The Boating Industry Association Ltd (BIA) is the peak industry body in Australia that represents the interests of boating which includes designers, manufacturers, importers, brokers, insurers, retailers, charters, yacht and boat clubs, marinas, events, surveyors and trades from boat builders to riggers, and more. BIA is an advocate for the boating industry including marinas/ boatyards, boating public, boating lifestyle and supports safe, responsible, and enjoyable boating across Australia.

The boating economy generates significant benefits through employment. Last year the industry reported national turnover of \$9.55 billion, directly employed more than 26,000 people with more than 8000 contractors. Seventy-five per cent are in small family businesses, employing local workers and supporting local communities.

This paper responds to the invitation to comment on the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry program regarding Marine Pest Surveillance Strategy to the deadline of 21 April 2023.

SUBMISSION: BIA acknowledges the opportunity provided by the department to make input in this matter.

BIA has collaborated with the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) and Marina Industries Association (MIA) over a number of years in efforts to mitigate the threat and risks of marine pests. This includes collaboration with MIA on the industry's National biofouling management guidelines for marinas, slipways, boat maintenance and recreational boating facilities.

More recently BIA has supported international efforts under the Glo Fouling initiative in its role with the Sustainability Committee of ICOMIA and the Green Blue program with British Marine and Royal Yachting Association.

The MIA administers the International Clean Marina and Fish Friendly Program as an international voluntary accreditation for marinas, yacht clubs and boatyards. It encourages environmental compliance and the use of best management practices for marina businesses and includes guidance and standards for marinas regarding mitigation and reporting of marine pests. This program is endorsed by many state governments and further national endorsement would be welcomed.



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This paper responds to specific items within 'Suggested projects' of the National Marine Pest Surveillance Work Plan 2022. These specific items are as follows:

Suggested project 1.2.2 - Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies responsible for marine biosecurity in their jurisdiction engage with local stakeholders to collate local information to identify priority surveillance locations and species within their jurisdiction.

Comments:

1. Recommend an edit of the Key Stakeholders list as follows: change: 'Recreational boating industry' to Boating Industry Association
2. Support industry with ongoing information resources to assist in awareness of the priority surveillance locations
3. Support industry with ongoing information resources to assist in awareness of the priority species identification;
4. Support industry through provision of an easy-to-use voluntary reporting protocol to ensure efficient and effective reporting as appropriate;
5. Consider how the department and its government networks can enable the industry and public to submit photographic images of known, or suspected, marine pests that efficiently captures appropriate data such as location, time and date;
6. Recommend collaborating with BIA for an introduction of the department to the [Australia New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group](#) for the possibility of: i) the department being invited to brief ANZSBEG on the issue; and ii) how the department could use the group to deliver awareness/ education materials and or resources to boating/ aquatic networks across Australia and New Zealand;
7. Recommend the department develops information/ awareness/ educational materials in appropriate formats for wider distribution by industry and by groups such as ANZSBEG, along with peak boating groups in the States/ Territories. These resources should include video content of appropriate length and design to suit social media delivery (short in duration and contemporary in design);
8. Recommend collaborating with MIA to attend and present at regional members' meetings to engage with potential surveillance locations;
9. Support the MIA Clean Marina and Fish Friendly program through its existing reporting protocols; and
10. Support the MIA Clean Marina and Fish Friendly program and its network for site participation in voluntary surveillance as appropriate;

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11. Endorse the MIA Clean Marina and Fish Friendly Accreditation and recommend participation in the program; and
12. Participate in the Marinas24 Conference & Exhibition (28-29 May 2024, Brisbane). This biennial conference is attended by over 320 marina and boatyard owners and operators and is the ideal forum to provide further information to industry.

2.6.3 Develop identification materials for port operators, divers, slipway operators and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) operators to increase awareness of pests they might observe.

Comments:

Edit the Key stakeholders list as follows:

1. Separate 'Port and marina operators' to be stand alone, and edit 'marina operators' to read marinas and boatyard operators, and include 'regulators' and 'boating/ marine NGO'
2. See comments # 2,3,6 & 7 above under 1.2.2
3. Recommend collaborating with the MIA to develop an educational webinar for marina and boatyard operators.
4. Support the MIA's education and training arm, the Marina Training Institute, by providing funding, content and identification materials for online courses including Environmental Best Practice course.

4.1.2 Further engagement of ports and marinas (either at a national or local level) to encourage participation in structured surveillance programs (such as SWASP and Q-SEAS).

Comments:

1. See comments #9, 10, 11 & 12 under 1.2.2 above
2. See comments #3 & 4 under 2.6.3 above
3. Consider how the department can support MIA in its capability to reach to marina members in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to add to a wider network of awareness, regarding priority species identification and reporting channels.



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