



# What are marine pests?



Marine pests are species that are not native to New Zealand's oceans, but which may be introduced by human activities and harm our natural environments and resources.

Many hundreds of non-native species have been introduced to New Zealand waters, but not all of them are harmful. Most have arrived with shipping, either attached to the submerged surfaces of ships ("biofouling") or in the ballast water carried by large vessels to maintain stability.

On this page you can read about some of the world's worst marine pests that we are trying to keep out of New Zealand and some that have recently arrived here.

## RELATED PAGES



### Northern Pacific Seastar

Not known to be in NZ



### European shore crab

Not known to be in NZ



### Chinese mitten crab

Not known to be in NZ



**Asian clam**

Not known to be in NZ



**Aquarium  
Caulerpa**

Not known to be in NZ



**Mediterranean  
fanworm**

Present in some areas of NZ



**Droplet tunicate  
(seasquirt)**

Present in some areas of NZ



**Clubbed tunicate  
(seasquirt)**

Present in some areas of NZ



**Asian date mussel**

Present in some areas of NZ



**Asian paddle crab**

Present in some areas of NZ



**Wakame (Undaria)**

Present in some areas of NZ