

National Centre for Aquatic Biodiversity & Biosecurity

protecting our natural heritage

Nationwide searches for foreign invaders

NIWA is providing critical information on the presence and spread of key freshwater and marine pests to Biosecurity New Zealand.

Following discoveries of new incursions of didymo in September 2005, Biosecurity NZ enlisted NIWA's expertise to check susceptible rivers nationwide. We quickly mobilised field teams and used field laboratories for on-site testing. The survey was assisted by staff from Fish & Game NZ, the Department of Conservation, AgriQuality, and several regional councils.

In another rapid response for Biosecurity NZ, we also mobilised expert teams to survey 26 ports and marinas around New Zealand for the invasive sea squirt *Styela clava*, first discovered in Auckland's Viaduct Harbour in August 2005.

Practical aquarium plant guides

Aquarium hobbyists now have additional resources to guide them in selecting and culturing benign plants in the place of pest plants.

NIWA has worked with hobbyists, growers, the pet trade industry, and the Department of Conservation to produce two pictorial plant guides for this purpose. One shows ten species that are at high-risk of becoming pests if established in New Zealand. The other outlines 54 alternative native or low risk non-native plants to grow in their place.

The project was jointly funded by DoC and the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology.

Download the guides for free at: www.niwascience.co.nz/ncabb/tools/

providing advice on freshwater and marine biodiversity and biosecurity



- biodiversity surveys – what lives in the area, including species new to science & species new to the area
- aquatic pests – identification, prevention, control, eradication
- human impacts on biodiversity
- strategies for sustainable management
- advice on habitat & biodiversity restoration
- toxic algae – identification, spread, potential risks
- practical training, identification guides

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