



What is a Biosecurity Plan?

Biosecurity planning is a way of managing and lowering the risk associated with Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). There are almost always sensible steps we can take to reduce the risk of moving species from one place to another and to reduce the likelihood of the species becoming established and therefore invasive and these can be identified by the Biosecurity Planning process. The GB Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy has a three-tier approach:

- **Prevention** – most effective and least environmentally damaging (Biosecurity Planning)
- **Rapid Response** – early detection and surveillance, potential eradication
- **Control & Containment** – where the INNS is widespread and eradication is not feasible, control of the population and mitigation against negative impacts

Given the high costs for the mitigation, control and eradication of INNS once they are established prevention is the obvious first choice and biosecurity planning is an excellent way to achieve this.

Small Scale Operators - Biosecurity Planning

Biosecurity planning can seem like a daunting concept, especially in the marine environment but it doesn't need to be. There is plenty of useful guidance available to guide you through the process – see the end of this page for useful links to biosecurity planning templates and guides.

Creating a biosecurity plan can be a relatively simple process, below we have laid out the steps which complete a full biosecurity plan. You can choose to focus on aspects which are of most use to you and your site or activity.

Section 1 – Scene Setting

Your opening section sets the scene for why you are doing a biosecurity plan - what the major concerns are for your organisation, club or event. For example, you may be concerned about effects on the environment and legal or reputational impacts.

Section 2 – Introduction

Here you identify what geographical area or activity is to be covered by the plan, who has responsibility for the Plan and how and when it will be reviewed and updated. For example, is this plan to cover a whole section of coastline or only one small harbour area?

Section 3 - Environmental Information

In this section you should delve into more detail about the physical characteristics of the area covered by the Plan. A lot of information is available online and searches of the relevant marine planning portals (see list at the end of this document) will provide useful background information. Gather as much information as you can about the salinity and temperature of the water and information about any existing management arrangements e.g. is the area a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) or have other protected status such as an MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)?

Section 4 - Use of the Area

Here you will list the major types of activity e.g. tourism, recreation, shipping, ferries, defence etc. for the area. Include information about the amount of use e.g. 6,000 ferry movements, 2,000 marina berths – present this information in a way which is useful for you – there is no point in finding out exactly how many recreational boats there are in total, it is ok to take a rough estimate of different sectors to help you decide who are the key audiences or partners.

Section 5 - Biosecurity Actions / Control measures

Perhaps the most important section. Here you outline the actions you plan to take to improve your biosecurity. This will vary depending upon the number of activities and partners involved and the risk you have assessed them to be. Aim to stay practical – you can always include a ‘wish list’ of other actions should time and budget allow. See [Marine INNS Control Measures](#) on the RAPID LIFE website for information.

In this section we recommend that you do some assessment of the [risk](#) associated with the vessels in your area. The table below should act as a useful guide.

	Yes = HIGH	Yes = MED	Yes = LOW
1. Has the vessel/ equipment just arrived from the local area?			
2. Has the vessel/ equipment had an anti-fouling coating applied to submerged structures within the last 12 months (or time recommended by manufacturer)?			
3. Are all the visible submerged surfaces free of bio-fouling (a green 'slime' is OK)?			
4. Do the visible submerged surfaces have more than a green 'slime' coating?			
5. Does the vessel/ equipment have noticeable clumps of algae and/ or animals clinging to the visible parts?			
6. Has the vessel/ equipment just arrived from another country or region with similar environmental conditions (e.g., seawater temperature)?			
7. Has the vessel/ equipment just arrived from a water body known to have INNS present?			
8. Does the vessel/ equipment spend long periods of time stationary at sites in between anti-fouling treatments?			
9. Is the vessel 'slow moving', such as a construction barge or drilling rig?			

Section 6 – Monitoring

This section is designed to help you keep track of what INNS are doing in your area. There may be monitoring activities already happening in the area such as volunteer or statutory body biological surveys – find out what is already recorded by talking to these organisations.

Now that you have established what monitoring is happening around the area you will be able to see if there are gaps and ways to address them for example by working with a local volunteer biological recording group to do a bioblitz style survey. You may also simply want to work out a monitoring regime for your area for example a monthly or quarterly walk round at low water springs to keep an eye out for unusual growths.

Section 7 - Contingency Plan / Rapid Response Plan

Even with good biosecurity procedures in place it is possible new INNS will arrive in the area. It is important that the response to such an event is rapid and proportionate to the threat posed. Usually your contingency plan will start with a list of phone

numbers of specialists you can call for assistance including the relevant statutory agency e.g. Natural England.

Section 8 – Contact Lists

Gather together useful contacts including local biologists, Natural England contacts and other similar coastal managers who may be interested. Remember to keep it up to date.

Section 9 - Future events

In this section list any relevant future events which may increase the risk of bringing in new INNS e.g. a regatta, new ferry route or construction works.

Section 10 - Evaluation and Review

It is important to have some way to measure the success of your Plan. In this section identify aspects of Section 5 which can be monitored and assessed for effectiveness. Set a target for implementation and a date for review.

Useful documents

Non-native invasive species and the oil and gas industry - [Guidance for prevention and management](#)

Marine Biosecurity Planning - [Identification of Best Practice](#): A Review

Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance - [Training pack](#)

Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance - [Sample marina biosecurity plan](#)

Risk Reduction (Biosecurity) Guidance - [Lessons Learned](#) (Natural England, 2014)

Examples of Marine Biosecurity Plans

Example Biosecurity Plan - [Dean and Reddyhoff Haslar Marina](#)

Example Biosecurity Plan - [Quay Marinas Conway](#)

Commonwealth Games Flotilla [Biosecurity Plan](#) 2014

[Bangor Mussel Producers Association](#) Code of Good Practice for mussel seed movements

Biosecurity Plan 2014 – 2019 - [North Western IFCA](#)

Biosecurity Plan for the [Shetland Islands](#)

[Outer Hebrides Biosecurity Plan](#)

[Salcombe Harbour & Kingsbridge Estuary](#) Marine Biosecurity Plan 2017- 2020

Biosecurity Plan for the [Solway Firth](#)

[Tweed Catchment](#) Biosecurity Plan 2011 – 2016