



Marine Biosecurity: Construction and events

Running an event or significant development project is time consuming and complex. The last thing you want is another task to add to the list; however, if you introduce biosecurity at the beginning of planning your event or activity you will soon discover that it will become second nature and save you a lot of effort in the long run.

The essence of good biosecurity for one-off events is to identify the high-risk activities and then ensure that everyone plays their part in reducing the risk. Below we have included a table which shows some of the issues associated with either an event such as a regatta or a one-off development activity such as expansion of a marina and suggested biosecurity measures that could be taken to address this risk. There is also a [Construction Biosecurity Planning template](#) and a [One off Event Biosecurity Planning template](#) to assist you.

Make sure you distribute responsibility effectively by including conditions in your terms for contractors and attendees, for example:

- ✓ The contractor must submit a Biosecurity Risk Assessment for written approval at least 6 weeks prior to commencement of the works.
- ✓ The contractor must submit an updated Biosecurity Risk Assessment by a relevant date.
- ✓ The contractor must ensure that all equipment, materials, machinery and PPE used are in a clean condition prior to their arrival on site to minimise risk of introducing INNS into the marine environment.
- ✓ Attendees should arrive with a clean hull or they will be refused entry. Give a list of places where hull cleaning facilities exist locally.

One-Off Development Activity		
Activity	Risk Factors	Biosecurity Measures
Construction barges	<p>Use of (untreated) ballast water.</p> <p>Hull fouling on slower moving vessels.</p> <p>Routes followed - vessels from distant ports are higher risk.</p> <p>Carrying viable INNS from previous activity site.</p>	<p>Ensure ballast water is treated before discharge.</p> <p>Request hull fouling assessment before arrival. Include right to refuse entry if ranking is too high in terms of service.</p> <p>Use available species data to assess risk of transfer of new species.</p> <p>Request boat and hull is cleaned before departure from previous site. Include right to refuse entry if vessel is not adequately cleaned.</p>
Earth/rock movement	It is possible to transfer INNS on these materials.	Ask the contractor to assure you that materials will be cleaned or that they come from a non-marine setting.
Dredging	Dredging can disturb, move and fragment INNS possibly causing them to spread.	Ensure the contractor is aware of the need to clean equipment between sites. Write in to the T&C's that unacceptable vessels will be refused entry and cleaned at the contractors cost.
Relocation of structures and equipment	Movements or disposal of pontoons, barges, buoys, anchor chains, underwater equipment all have potential to disturb and spread INNS.	Ensure the equipment is thoroughly cleaned using (preferably hot) fresh water and air dried before launch at your site and that all material goes to landfill and does not get washed into the sea.

Events		
Activity	High Risk Factors	Biosecurity Measures
Vessels participating	<p>Vessels coming from distant locations.</p> <p>Dinghies, trailer sailers used recently in other waters.</p> <p>Vessels with significant hull fouling, ballast and bilge water.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of INNS with participants when they register. Publicise a clear 'Clean Hulls Welcome' policy.</p> <p>Make your policy clear and provide washdown facilities for onward movement of boats.</p> <p>Make the right to refuse entry of heavily fouled vessels clear at registration. Encourage ballast water to be treated or sealed for the duration of the event.</p>
Use of Trailers	Trailers not washed or dried from previous use elsewhere	<p>Raise awareness of the desire for clean kit. Provide a washdown facility away from the water's edge – this could include a list of suitable car wash facilities for smaller vessels and trailers.</p>
In-water equipment and structures	Pontoons moved and not cleaned, especially those from a distant location	<p>Ensure the equipment is thoroughly cleaned using (preferably hot) fresh water and air dried before launch at your site and that all material goes to landfill and does not get washed into the sea. If hiring or buying equipment write into the contract that this must be done prior to delivery.</p>

Practical Pre-Event Biosecurity Actions

Organisers

- Run a brief staff and volunteer biosecurity training session to reinforce the message that a high level of fouling means no entry.
- Set up a dingy and trailer cleaning station.
- Identify opportunities for an isolation berth near freshwater inflow to marina.

Volunteers

- As participants arrive check their vessel/equipment and give a brief biosecurity briefing and provide copies of an ID guide
- Check yacht hulls for biofouling using the six point biofouling scale. Direct any vessel with level at 3 or above to isolation berth.
- Promote a culture to report anything which looks worrying or unusual.

Participants

- Before leaving check and clean clothing, deflated tenders, trailers etc. for INNS
- Back home [CHECK-CLEAN-DRY](#) all equipment before travelling to another watercourse