

Notifiable marine pests in NSW

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Aquatic Biosecurity, NSW DPI

A number of marine pests are notifiable under NSW legislation.

This means there is a duty, or legal obligation, to notify suspicion or occurrence of one of these pests.

Why are certain marine pests notifiable?

Marine pests are listed as notifiable in NSW because they are either exotic to Australia and if established here could impact severely on the economy, human health or the environment (prohibited matter), or they may already exist in Australia and there is a control program in place (notifiable matter).

By remaining vigilant and notifying as soon as you suspect a notifiable pest or event, you can play a vital role in protecting aquatic industries and preventing marine pest spread and establishment in the NSW aquatic environment.

What is notifiable?

All notifiable marine pests in NSW are tabled in Appendix 1.

In NSW you must notify the suspicion or awareness of:

- **Prohibited matter**

Prohibited matter is high risk matter we do not want in NSW and is not established in NSW, although we may occasionally have infestations that are quickly eradicated. Marine pest examples of prohibited matter include Asian green mussel, Pacific crab, Colonial sea squirt, Red macroalga, and the Trident goby. A full list is contained in [Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act](#).

Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

- **Other listed notifiable aquatic pests and diseases**

In addition to Prohibited Matter, [Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#) lists several marine species as notifiable. It is illegal in NSW to possess, sell or move species listed as notifiable biosecurity matter. A person has a duty to notify an

authorised officer if they suspect the presence of any of these pests or diseases. Marine pest examples of notifiable matter include Tilapia, European fan worm and Japanese seaweed (Wakame).

Who must notify?

There is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of notifiable matter detailed in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* ([Sections 30](#) and [38](#)) and the Biosecurity Regulation 2019 ([Clause 7](#)).

This duty applies to an owner, occupier, or person in charge, care, control or custody of a premises (such as a property), or a carrier or thing (such as an animal, animal product, vehicle or equipment) to which the notifiable matter relates.

This duty also applies to a person consulting in their professional capacity (such as a veterinarian, aquaculture staff or commercial fisher). There is no requirement to report if you know the matter has already been reported.

How do you notify?

Suspicion or awareness of **prohibited matter** must be immediately reported to an authorised officer. This can be done by phoning:

- The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline)

Suspicion or awareness of **other listed notifiable pests** must be notified within one working day. This can be done by:

- The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline), or
- Emailing aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Contacting a NSW Department of Primary Industries authorised officer
- Reporting online: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity/reporting>.

When in doubt as to whether you are dealing with prohibited matter or another listed notifiable pest, it is better to phone to ensure you fulfil your duty to notify.

Any laboratory, research institution, business or individual that is providing testing for prohibited matter has a requirement to inform the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer of their testing facility and testing program.

What information must be included in the notification?

A person must notify of the following:

- a) the person's full name and contact phone number
- b) details of the notifiable matter
- c) the location of the notifiable matter including, if the notifiable matter is on an aquaculture lease or property, the relevant permit and lease number. A GPS coordinate would also benefit should further investigation be required
- d) in the case of a biosecurity event, details of the significant biosecurity impact
- e) any other information requested by the authorised officer.

Further information:

For general inquiries regarding aquatic biosecurity, phone 02 4982 1232 or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Appendix 1: List of prohibited matter¹ and Schedule 1 notifiable pests

Pest Marine Finfish		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Yellowfin goby	<i>Acanthogobius flavimanus</i>
Yes	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>
Yes	Russian/Danube sturgeon	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>
Yes	Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>
Yes	Sakhalin sturgeon	<i>Acipenser mikadoi</i>
Yes	Japanese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser multiscutatus</i>
Yes	Adriatic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser naccarii</i>
Yes	Fringebarbel sturgeon	<i>Acipenser nudiiventris</i>
Yes	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>
Yes	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus subsp. oxyrinchus</i>
Yes	Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus subsp. desotoi</i>
Yes	Persian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser persicus</i>
Yes	Amur sturgeon	<i>Acipenser schrenckii</i>
Yes	Chinese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>
Yes	Starry sturgeon	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>
Yes	European sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>
Yes	White sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>
Yes	Four spined stickleback	<i>Apeltes quadracus</i>
Yes	Snook	<i>Centropomus spp. (all species)</i>
Yes	Pacific fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator latifrons</i>
Yes		<i>Dormitator lebretonis</i>
Yes	Fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator maculatus</i>
Yes	Large scaled spiny cheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris amblyopsis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris annobonensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris balia</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris feai</i>
Yes	Lutea sleeper	<i>Eleotris lutea</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris macrocephala</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris macrolepis</i>
Yes	Widehead sleeper	<i>Eleotris mauritianus</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris oxycephala</i>
Yes	Spinycheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris pisonis</i>
Yes	Sandwich Island sleeper	<i>Eleotris sandwicensis</i>
Yes		<i>Eleotris vittata</i>
Yes	Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>
Yes	Redfin bully	<i>Gobiomorphus huttoni</i>

¹ It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

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Yes	Bigmouth sleeper	<i>Gobiomorus dormitor</i>
Yes	Beluga	<i>Huso huso</i>
Yes	Tropical carp-gudgeon	<i>Hypseleotris cyprinoides</i>
Yes	African pike-characin/Tubenose poacher/Fin eater	<i>Ichthyborinae</i> subfamily of the family Citharinidae (all species)
Yes	Round goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>
	Tilapia/Mozambique Mouthbrooder	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>
Yes	Tilapia	<i>Oreochromis spp.</i> (all species except <i>O. mossambicus</i>)
Yes	Chinese swordfish/paddlefish	<i>Psephurus gladius</i>
Yes	Ninespine stickleback	<i>Pungitius pungitius</i>
Yes	Blackchin tilapia	<i>Sarotherodon spp.</i> (all species)
Yes	Marbled spinefoot	<i>Siganus rivulatus</i>
Yes	Redbelly tilapia/Black mangrove cichlid/Spotted tilapia	<i>Tilapia spp.</i> (all species except <i>T. buttikoferi</i>)
	Trident Goby/Chameleon Goby/Striped Goby/Japanese Goby	<i>Tridentiger trigonocephalus</i>

Pest Marine Invertebrates		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Northern Pacific seastar	<i>Asterias amurensis</i>
Yes	Barnacle	<i>Balanus improvisus</i>
	European green crab	<i>Carcinus maenas</i>
Yes	Lady crab/Asian paddle crab	<i>Charybdis japonica</i>
Yes	American slipper limpet/Slipper limpet	<i>Crepidula fornicata</i>
Yes	Colonial sea squirt	<i>Didemnum vexillum</i>
Yes	Jack-knife clam	<i>Ensis directus</i>
Yes	Chinese mitten crab	<i>Eriocheir spp.</i> (all species)
Yes	Pacific crab/Brush-clawed shore crab	<i>Hemigrapsus penicillatus</i>
Yes	Japanese shore crab/Asian shore crab	<i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i>
Yes	Pacific crab/Brush-clawed shore crab	<i>Hemigrapsus takanoi</i>
	New Zealand Screw Shell	<i>Maoricolpus roseus</i>
Yes	Comb jelly/Sea walnut	<i>Mnemiopsis leidyi</i>
Yes	Asian bag mussel/Asian date mussel	<i>Musculista senhousia</i>
Yes	Soft shell clam	<i>Mya arenaria</i>
	Soft Shelled Clam	<i>Mya japonica</i>
Yes	Black striped mussel	<i>Mytilopsis sallei</i>
Yes	New Zealand green lipped mussel	<i>Perna canaliculus</i>
Yes	Brown mussel	<i>Perna perna</i>
Yes	Asian green mussel	<i>Perna viridis</i>
Yes	Asian clam/Brackish-water corbula	<i>Potamocorbula amurensis</i>
Yes	Red swamp crayfish	<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>
Yes	Rapa whelk	<i>Rapana venosa</i>

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	European Fan Worm	<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i>
Yes	European clam	<i>Varicorbula gibba</i>

Pest Marine Plants		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Caulerpa	<i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>
Yes	Red macroalga	<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i>
Yes	Japanese wireweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>
	Japanese Seaweed/Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>