

# DPI Primefact

## Notifiable marine pests in NSW

October 2023, Primefact PUB21/3, Second edition  
DPI Aquatic Biosecurity, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity and Food Safety

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 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](mailto: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 and permits may be required.

---

## 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:

DPI Aquatic Biosecurity Program  
Port Stephens Fisheries Institute  
Nelson Bay NSW 2315

P: 02 4916 3900

E: [aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

W: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity)

## Appendix 1: List of prohibited matter<sup>1</sup> and Schedule 1 notifiable marine pests

Pest Marine Finfish		
Prohibited Matter? <sup>1</sup>	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Yellowfin goby	<i>Acanthogobius flavimanus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Russian/Danube sturgeon	<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Sakhalin sturgeon	<i>Acipenser mikadoi</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Japanese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser multiscutatus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Adriatic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser naccarii</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Fringebarbel sturgeon	<i>Acipenser nudiventris</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus subsp. oxyrinchus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus subsp. desotoi</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Persian sturgeon	<i>Acipenser persicus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Amur sturgeon	<i>Acipenser schrenckii</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Chinese sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sinensis</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Starry sturgeon	<i>Acipenser stellatus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	European sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio</i>
<b>Yes</b>	White sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Four spined stickleback	<i>Apeltes quadracus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Snook	<i>Centropomus spp. (all species)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Guinean tilapia/redbreast tilapia/redbelly tilapia	<i>Coptodon spp. (all species)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Pacific fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator latifrons</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Dormitator lebretonis</i>

<sup>1</sup> It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

<b>Yes</b>	Fat sleeper	<i>Dormitator maculatus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Large scaled spiny cheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris amblyopsis</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris annobonensis</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris balia</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris feai</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Lutea sleeper	<i>Eleotris lutea</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris macrocephala</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris macrolepis</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Widehead sleeper	<i>Eleotris mauritanus</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris oxycephala</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Spinycheek sleeper	<i>Eleotris pisonis</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Sandwich Island sleeper	<i>Eleotris sandwicensis</i>
<b>Yes</b>		<i>Eleotris vittata</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Giant bully	<i>Gobiomorphus gobioides</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Redfin bully	<i>Gobiomorphus huttoni</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Bigmouth sleeper	<i>Gobiomorus dormitor</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Beluga	<i>Huso huso</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Tropical carp-gudgeon	<i>Hypseleotris cyprinoides</i>
<b>Yes</b>	African pike-characin/tubenose poacher/fin eater	<i>Ichthyborinae subfamily of the family Citharinidae (all species)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Round goby	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>
	Tilapia/Mozambique mouthbrooder	<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Tilapia	<i>Oreochromis spp. (all species except O. mossambicus)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Black mangrove cichlid/Spotted tilapia	<i>Pelmatolapia spp. (all species)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Chinese swordfish/paddlefish	<i>Psephurus gladius</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Ninespine stickleback	<i>Pungitius pungitius</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Blackchin tilapia	<i>Sarotherodon spp. (all species)</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Marbled spinefoot	<i>Siganus rivulatus</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Banded tilapia	<i>Tilapia spp. (all species)</i>
	Trident goby/chameleon goby/striped goby/Japanese goby	<i>Tridentiger trignocephalus</i>

Pest Marine Invertebrates		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Yes</b>	Northern Pacific seastar	<i>Asterias amurensis</i>
<b>Yes</b>	Barnacle	<i>Balanus improvisus</i>

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

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

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing October, 2023. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.