

Pest-free islands in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park provide a safe haven for New Zealand's endangered species. This means more opportunities for visitors to enjoy a fantastic wildlife experience close to Auckland City. However, with popularity and open access comes the increased risk from boats and visitors who may accidentally bring stowaway pests.

Treasure islands

Check for stowaways

Rats, mice, Argentine ants, plague skinks, soil and weed seeds are all potential stowaway items at risk of being taken to pest-free islands by people either in boats, on clothing or in gear. Once ashore, these pests have the ability to reverse all the great restoration work that's happening in the Gulf.

To help protect the Gulf, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Auckland Council have set up a biosecurity accreditation system for commercial vessel and tourism operators visiting islands in the Gulf. There is also an awareness campaign advocating similar precautions for non-commercial vessels and visitors.

We're here to help

We all enjoy the Hauraki Gulf and we all need to take responsibility to help look after it. Please don't hesitate to contact us about the Pest-free Warrant process and how we can help you to help keep pests off our precious island sanctuaries.

For further information, contact one of the following biosecurity staff:

For Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motukorea (Browns) and Motuihe contact

Carol Nanning - Ranger, Island Biosecurity

Department of Conservation

Maungauika / North Head Office

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For Tiritiri Matangi, Motuora and Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Islands contact

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For Rakino, Kawau, Great Barrier Island/Aotea and other Hauraki Gulf islands contact

Jeff Cook - Biosecurity Advisor, Hauraki Gulf

Auckland Council

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Pest-free Warrant

For commercial vessels and tourism operators visiting islands in the Hauraki Gulf



Ship rat eating fantail adult on the nest.
Photo: David Mudge.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



The benefits

- Reducing the risk of pest invasion on pest-free islands and protecting the animals and plants that live there.
- Achieving a standard that is clear, simple and applicable to a range of commercial activities.
- A single system for all islands in the Hauraki Gulf.
- A **distinct commercial edge** over other operators, which can be promoted to clients.

Your operation will be included on the Biosecurity Approved list, which will be promoted via www.treasureislands.co.nz.

The warrant

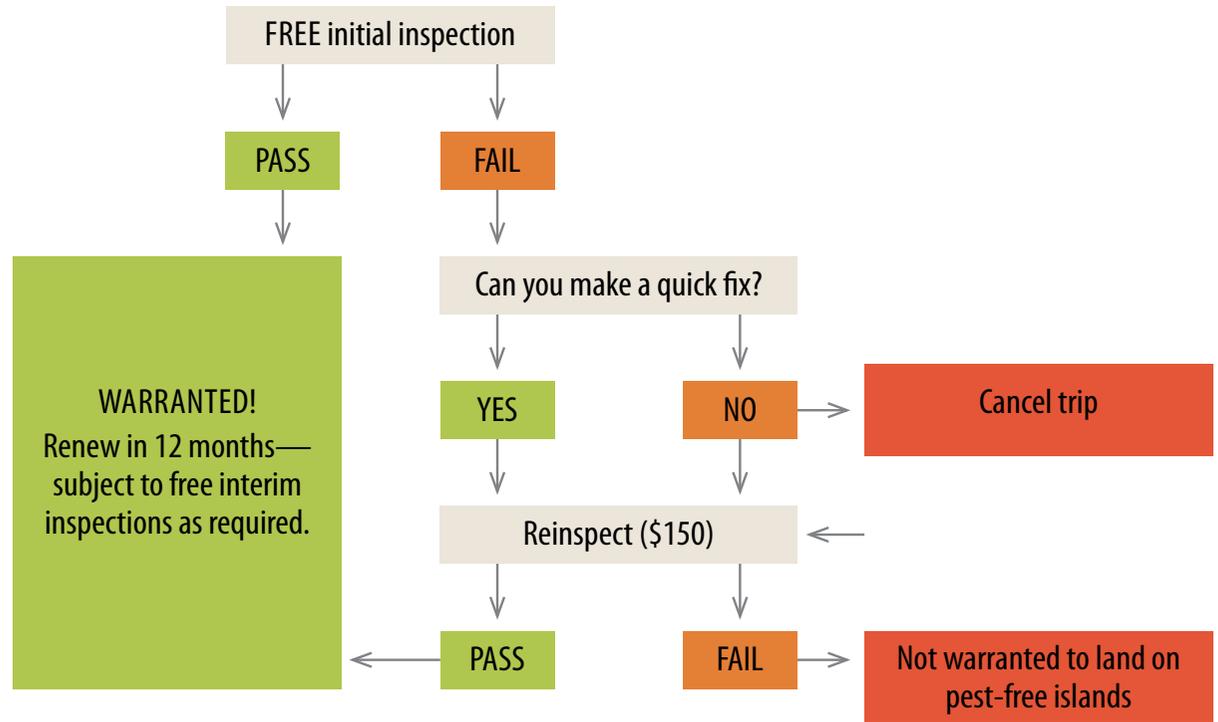
The warrant will assess whether the required biosecurity standards and behaviours for visiting pest-free islands are being followed.

There are 2 standards to be met:

- One for managing a commercial vessel.
- One for managing the visitors and the luggage/cargo being transported to the islands, including visitor information.

In some cases, both standards will be met by one operator. However the two standards are separated so that an operator may charter an accredited vessel. In this case, the responsibilities for vessel and people management are separate. Both operators are also responsible for ensuring that the other has a current warrant.

The warrant and inspection process



What's involved

An initial warrant inspection of commercial vessel/tourism operators will be undertaken by a Biosecurity staff member at a pre-arranged time.

- If the commercial vessel/tourism operator successfully meets all biosecurity requirements at their initial Pest-free Warrant inspection, they will receive a warrant for 12 months. Note that the warrant is subject to free interim inspections as required.
- If the first warrant inspection is failed, operators will be inspected again within the month to ensure the failed standards have been addressed. This re-inspection will incur a \$150 (GST inc) fee. Note that enough time needs to be allowed to ensure that an initial inspection and possible re-inspection can be carried out prior to any trip/s to a pest-free island going ahead.

If the standards have been addressed, a warrant will be issued for 12 months from this second inspection date.

- If the standards have not been addressed, a further (third) inspection will need to be undertaken, incurring another \$150 (inc GST) fee.
- Should an operator fail this third inspection, they are not warranted to land on any pest-free islands in the Hauraki Gulf until a further successful warrant inspection is completed.

