



Manukau and Kaipara targeted marine pest surveys



As a joint-agency Auckland Council, Northland Regional Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries contracted NIWA to undertake targeted marine pest surveys of the Manukau and Kaipara Harbours. These surveys were completed between April and May 2019 with local assistance from Northland Regional Council, Auckland Council and student volunteers.

DSC009832 type unknown

Double checking the contents
of a benthic sled in Kaipara
Harbour [Photo: Kimberley
Seaward, NIWA]

The purpose of the surveys was to provide information to the agencies on the presence or absence of targeted marine pest species. The results will then be used to inform their respective marine pest management programmes. Baseline surveys of both harbours were last completed in 2006 and since that time over 90 new marine pests have been discovered elsewhere in New Zealand waters. On a positive note, no new-to-New Zealand non-indigenous marine species were detected. However, the non-indigenous colonial tunicates *Botrylloides giganteum*, *Diplosoma listerianum* and *Eudistoma elongatum*, the Australian dog whelk *Tritia burchardi* and hydroid *Ectopleura crocea* were officially detected for the first time in Kaipara Harbour. In Manukau Harbour, the non-indigenous Asian paddle crab *Charybdis japonica*, nudibranch *Okenia pellucida* and hydroid *Ectopleura crocea* were officially identified for the first time.

For more information on the surveys click [here](#).

The final reports are close to completion and links to them will be made available when they are released.