

2 July 2016

Bay of Plenty Regional Council
P O Box 364
WHAKATANE 3158

SUBMISSION TO BAY OF PLENTY NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY BYLAW

We wish to make the following submission to the above bylaw.

We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

We recognise that our points are not included within the existing or proposed bylaw but if at all possible their inclusion would allow boat owners clarity around their responsibilities. The alternative location of rules in other plans is likely to be unseen by boat owners.

Restriction where boats can be launched from:

We strongly consider the launching and retrieval of boats from designated areas to be critical in preventing the spread of pest weeds and fish.

At our Symposium in March 2015 a paper presented by Dr John Clayton illustrates in Slide 26 the spread of weeds in our lakes. I attach that slide from the proceedings and acknowledge the presenter.

The spread of weeds within the lakes has been significant and a poor record of stewardship. LWQS is encouraging BOPRC and LINZ to manage and where possible eradicate these weeds around all of our lakes. This will be an expensive and time consuming process. It will be a pointless exercise if there are no prevention measures put in place.

Ensuring boat owner's responsibility should be provided by a rule.

Where weed cordons are available all boats should be required to be launched and retrieved through these cordons, exemptions will be required where private jetties are consented. Failure to abide by the rules should result in a \$200 fine.

All boat owners are to ensure their boats are clean from pests and weeds before launching and after retrieval. Wash down facilities are generally not provided but improvements in this infrastructure is encouraged and would assist but it should not exclude owners from at least wiping off their boats and trailers and ensuring that they are not carrying pests and weeds. Failure to do so should result in a \$200 fine.

Any notification to:

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Phone: 0274 752 656

D T ATKINSON

CHAIR LWQS

Slide 28 shows the approximate arrival date of the major aquatic weed species into the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes. Elodea was the first of the oxygen weeds, introduced during the 1950's, most probably as an escapee from a trout hatchery in the Lake Rotorua catchment. Elodea has one of lowest impacts on these lakes out of all the main aquatic weed species. Its use in hatcheries, along with deliberate spread, preceded the awareness of undesirable impacts that exotic species can have on native aquatic vegetation. Lagarosiphon was the second submerged weed to have a prominent impact on these lakes, establishing in the late 1950s in Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti, and subsequently through many of the remaining lakes in the 1960s. Lakes Rotokakahi and Rotomahana are the only two large lakes still free of lagarosiphon. Egeria first established in Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Tarawera in the late 1980s, followed by three more lakes after the year 2000. Finally ceratophyllum (hornwort), which is undoubtedly the worst of all these weed species, has now established in seven of the lakes, with only Lakes Rotoma, Tikitapu and Rotokakahi still clear.

Slide 28



In the year 2000 a survey of plant traders showed that there were 27% new species which we did not know were present in New Zealand at that time. There are now over 50 naturalised alien aquatic plants in New Zealand, 75% of which have been introduced as ornamental plants. However, there are many more aquatic threats, both plants and fauna, outside New Zealand borders that could still enter the country. Common low impact species are often spread naturally by birds and wind; but the high impact species are spread mostly by humans, particularly through use of water craft and ornamental ponds.

The key trends and drivers that are or have the potential to impact on New Zealand freshwaters are:

- a continuing spread of existing pest species - fish and plants
- increasing human pressure from tourism, infrastructure and road access to lakes
- new weeds coming through the New Zealand border
- weed escalation due to climate change
- changing water use patterns: