

Caulerpa taxifolia found in RSAYS Marina

Caulerpa taxifolia has recently been detected throughout the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron (RSAYS) Marina, at Outer Harbor.

Caulerpa is an introduced aquatic pest in South Australia. It is a bright green seaweed with stems that can grow up to 3 metres long. It has up to 200 fronds that look like feathers or ferns.

In South Australia it was first detected in March 2002 at West Lakes and in the Port River near the Jervois Bridge. Since then it has been eradicated from West Lakes, but is still present in the Port River. A containment area in the Port River was established in 2011

In May 2015 a survey of the marina area was undertaken to get an understanding of the current level of establishment. A map of the survey area and density is attached ([Marina Results Map](#)).

Further spread of Caulerpa in South Australia is a potential threat to marine biodiversity, including native sea-grass meadows, other bottom-dwelling communities and fish breeding grounds.

The seaweed can start a new colony from a piece as small as 1cm². As pieces of the weed can survive for up to two weeks out of water it can lead to it being able to readily spread between bays and waterways from boats or fishing equipment.

Avoiding spread

It is important that everyone plays their part to help reduce the spread of this aquatic pest outside of the current containment area. So to help avoiding the spread of Caulerpa, please take the following steps outlined below:

- Avoid disturbing beds of the seaweed.
- Inspect any boating or fishing equipment used in the Port River before using it in any other area.
- Wash ropes and other equipment after use in plastic bins using freshwater and a mild bleach.
- Inspect diving and boating equipment for the seaweed before and after use.
- Collect any fragments of the seaweed you may have accidentally collected on your equipment and place it in a plastic bag. Place it in a garbage bin. Do not return any fragments to the sea.
- Do not use the seaweed in an aquarium.
- Do not release any water, plants, or fish/animals from a saltwater aquarium into a drain, creek, or the sea.

Further Information

For further information, particularly on the Port River containment area visit the PIRSA website

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/aquatics/aquatic_pests/introduced_seaweed

or

Alex Chalupa – Manager, Aquatic Pest Response, Biosecurity SA

(08) 8303 9620

RSAYS MARINA

GREEN (no *C. taxifolia*), **YELLOW** (sparse *C. taxifolia*), **ORANGE** (large patches of *C. taxifolia*), and **RED** (very large patches, >50% cover over 100m)

