



# *Caulerpa brachypus* on Aotea Great Barrier Island

A non-native seaweed called *Caulerpa brachypus* has been found in Blind Bay and Tryphena Harbour on Aotea Great Barrier Island.

This seaweed is an Unwanted Organism. It can spread rapidly, forming dense beds and possibly smothering native species.

Biosecurity New Zealand is working with mana whenua, Aotea Great Barrier Local Board, Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation to establish how widespread the seaweed is and decide the most appropriate course of action.

## Controls are in place to reduce it spreading

Biosecurity New Zealand has imposed legal controls on Blind Bay and Tryphena Harbour in the form of a Controlled Area Notice (CAN). The local Mana Whenua Governance Group are supporting a dual response and have imposed a rāhui over the same areas.



## Under the CAN

- » It will be illegal to remove any marine life (fish, seaweed, shellfish, or crayfish) from Blind Bay or Tryphena Harbour.
- » Boats or equipment (like cray pots, nets) cannot be taken into these areas for seafood gathering.
- » All marine equipment used for water-based activities (footwear, wetsuits, boat trailers) cannot be removed from the Controlled Areas without first checking for seaweed and removing it.
- » Any weed or plant matter found on gear must be placed back into the same waters in the Controlled Area.
- » This equipment must be cleaned with freshwater and completely dried (inside and out) before being reused in the ocean. It must not be used in the ocean for 48 hours after cleaning.
- » Any vessels that have anchored within the two affected bays cannot be moved out of the Controlled Areas without a permit.
- » Vessels can, however, continue to move through the Controlled Areas but if they anchor, will need a permit from Biosecurity New Zealand to leave the Controlled Areas. This will stipulate that the anchor and anchor chain must be thoroughly cleaned of any seaweed.
- » You can swim, dive (without gathering kai moana), paddle or kayak in the Controlled Areas.
- » You can launch a boat from Blind Bay or Tryphena to go fishing in other areas outside the two Controlled Areas.

To apply for a permit to move an anchored vessel, find the application form at:

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa)

Email [Caulerpa2021.liaison@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Caulerpa2021.liaison@mpi.govt.nz)

Call **0800 80 99 66** for help.

Maps of controlled areas are overleaf.

## You can help

Please look out for signs of *Caulerpa brachypus*, note the location, take photos if possible, and report it to us on **0800 80 99 66**.

## Maps of the Controlled Areas



### What it looks like

*Caulerpa brachypus* has fronds or leaves up to 10 cm long that rise from long runners or roots known as stolons.

It has been found growing at depths up to 30 metres and on both hard surfaces and in sandy areas.

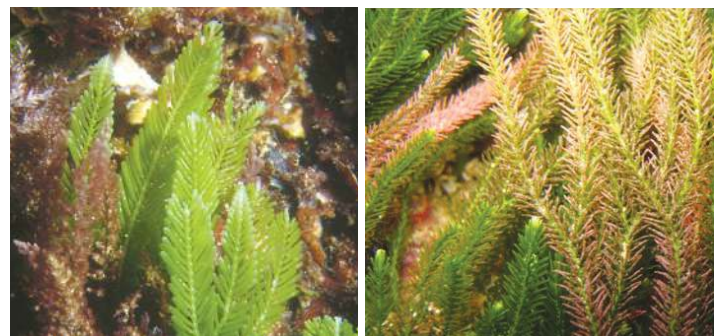
After stormy weather it can wash up on the beach, as has been seen on Okupu Beach. To avoid any risk of spreading it, do not remove beach-cast *Caulerpa brachypus* from the beach.



*Caulerpa brachypus*.

### Native seaweeds that look similar

There are two native *Caulerpa* species that look similar to *Caulerpa brachypus*, but they have obvious differences.



*Caulerpa articulata* has round, bead-like lumps on the stem where the leaf blades emerge. It is found around the North Island, including offshore islands.

*Caulerpa brownii* (also known as sea rimu) has more three-dimensional fronds than *Caulerpa brachypus*, where the leaf blades are flat. It is also not typically found in northern parts of the North Island.

### You can help

Please look out for signs of *Caulerpa brachypus*, note the location, take photos if possible, and report it to us on **0800 80 99 66**.