



An Australian Government Initiative



 THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE PREVENTION AND  
MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PEST INCURSIONS

# Management of Marine Pests in the Australian Context – Biofouling Policy Development

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Image credit: John Lewis, ES Link Services Pty Ltd

Keeping marine pests out of Australian waters



## Presentation overview

- A framework for marine pest management in Australia: *The National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions*
  - how it came about,
  - who is involved
  - what it encompasses,
  - progress to date and next steps.
- Case study: Australia's proposed approach to biofouling management for both domestic and international vessel movements

# The background to the establishment of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions

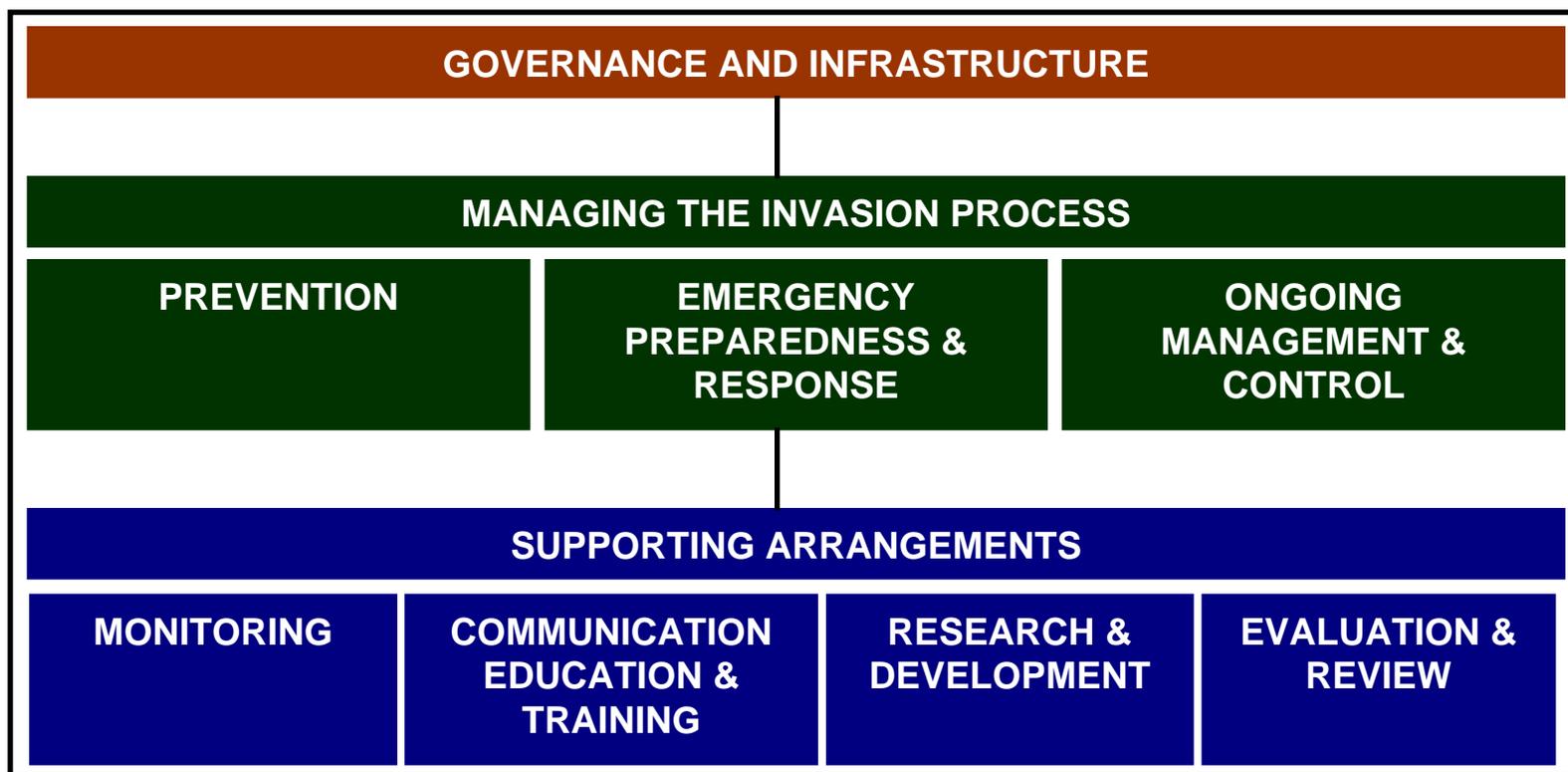
- Black-striped mussel incursion  
Cullen Bay marina, Darwin Harbour 1999
  - Eradicated due to nature of marina (could be closed and treated)
  - Potential to devastate northern pearl industry (worth \$250million/annum)



Image credit: CSIRO

- 1999 Taskforce on the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions proposed a *National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions*

# Australia's National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions



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## Industry sectors

Vessel and industry sectors covered by the National System include:

- Non-trading vessels
- Commercial vessels
- Commercial fishing vessels
- Recreational vessels
- Petroleum Production and Exploration Industry
- Aquaculture



## Biofouling – what is being done in Australia?

- Domestically - voluntary tools developed for
  - non-trading, petroleum, commercial shipping, commercial fishing and recreational vessels.
- Internationally – through the IMO, Australia is actively contributing to the development of Guidelines for the control and management of ship's biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species

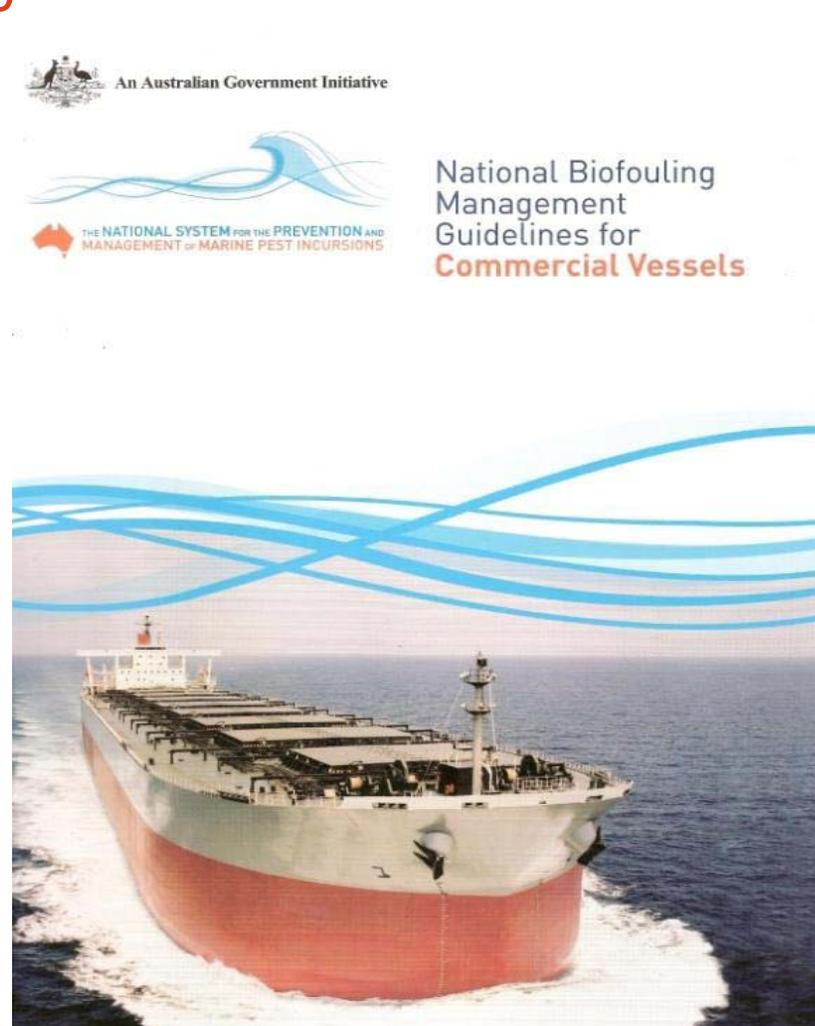


Image credit: Kline Mark Hughes

## Preventing further spread of marine pests



Image credit: Ashley Coutts, Aquenal

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# Marine pests – the Australian context



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## Legislative and policy framework for biofouling

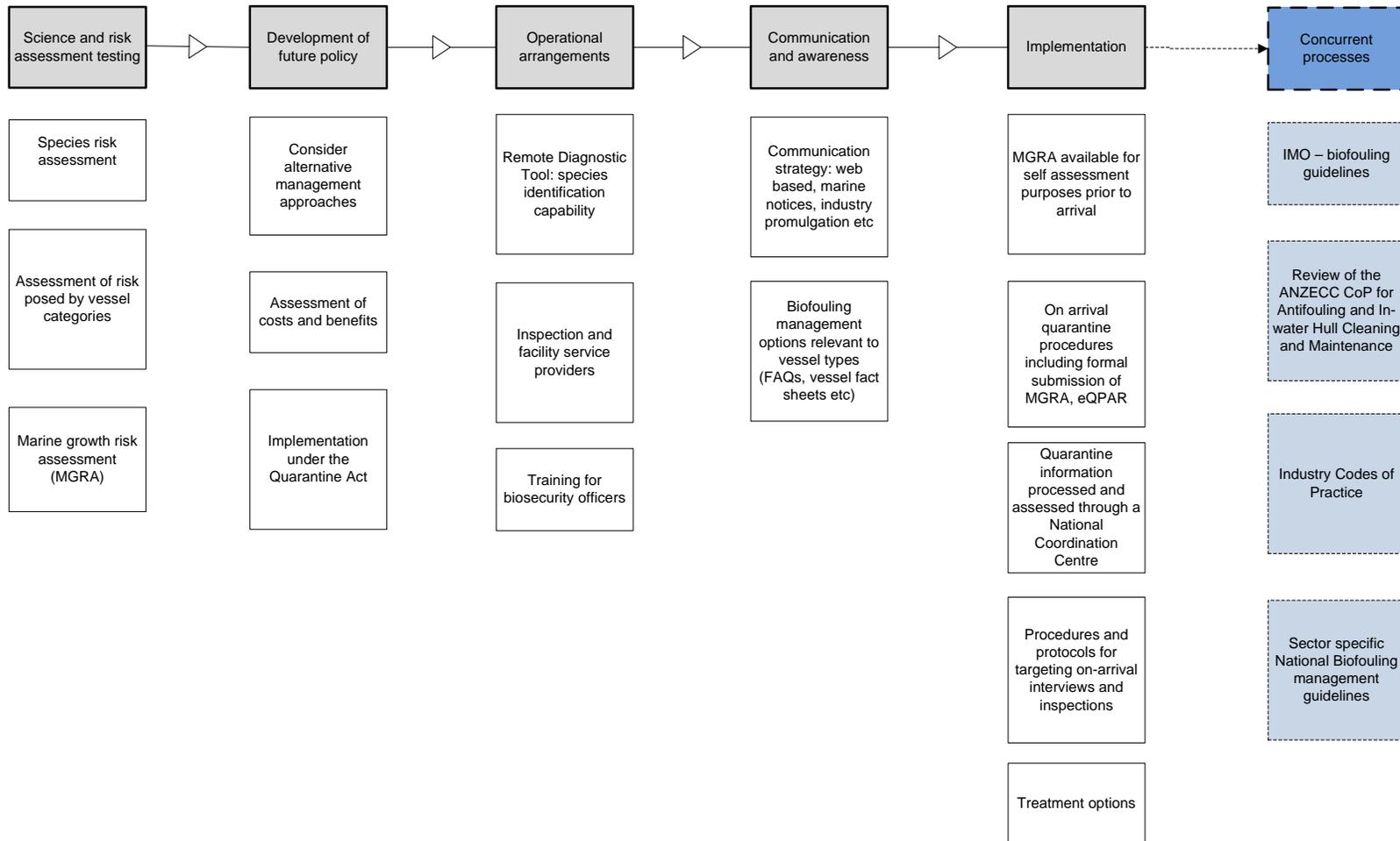
- Australia is considering moving away from 100% intervention towards a risk return approach
- *Quarantine Act 1908* – species based
- Australia's international obligations
- Any future policies should be applied equally to all vessel types
- Practicalities - maintenance facilities in Australia

## Biofouling Management Requirements for internationally arriving vessels

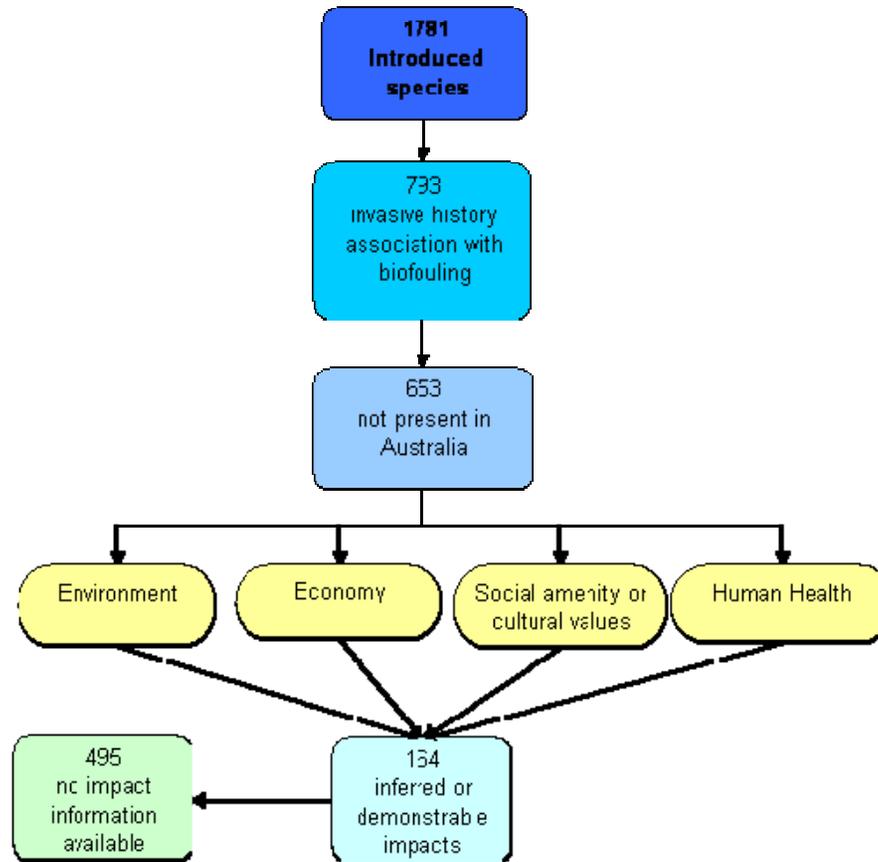
- Currently, there are no Aust Govt regulatory measures in place to minimise the risk of introduction of marine pests through biofouling
- Objective – all vessels arriving in Australian waters to be free from quarantinable biofouling pests.
- Quarantinable biofouling pests determined by a species risk assessment



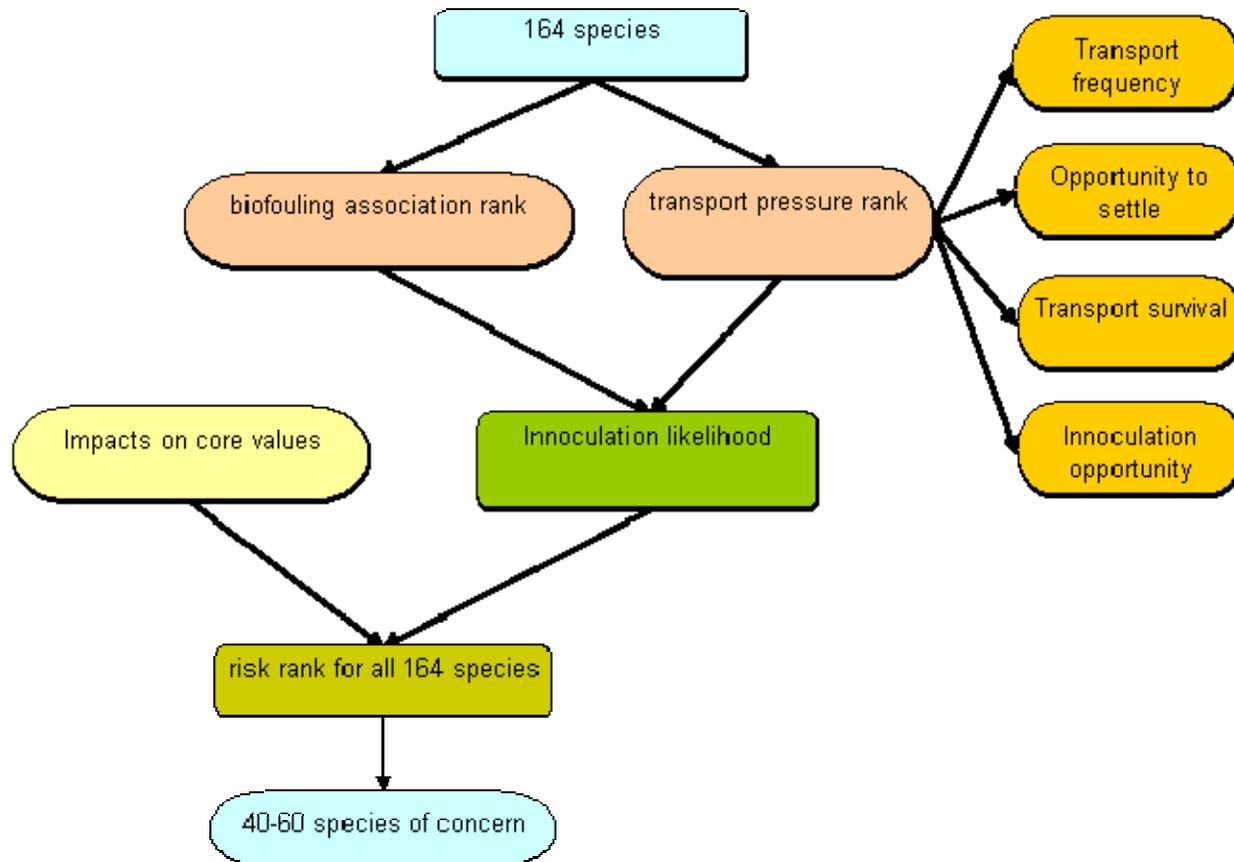
The Australian biofouling requirement is intended to provide a biosecurity measure to reduce the introduction and subsequent impacts of marine biofouling pests on the Australian marine environment and marine industries



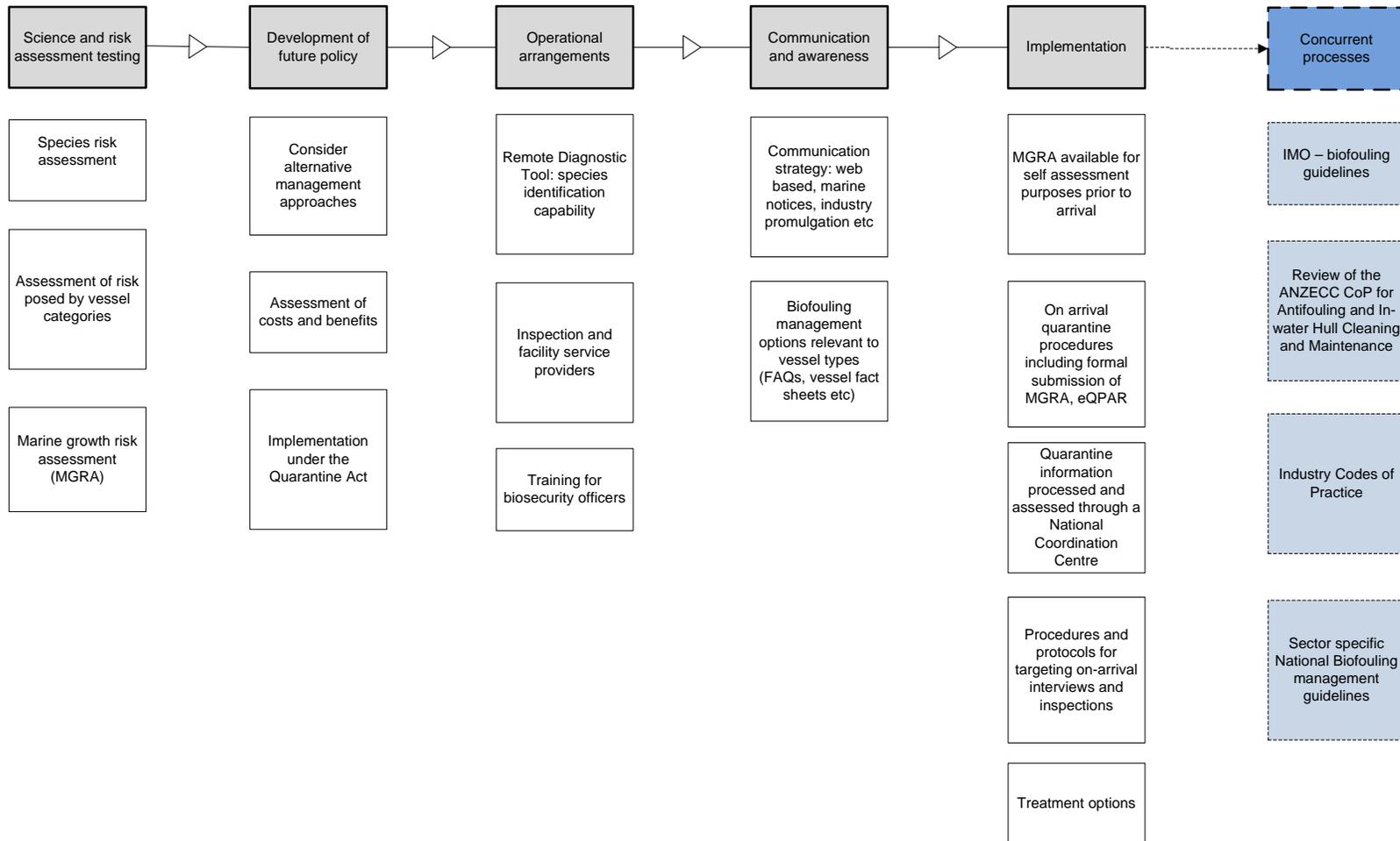
# Approach to the species risk assessment



## Approach to the species risk assessment cont.

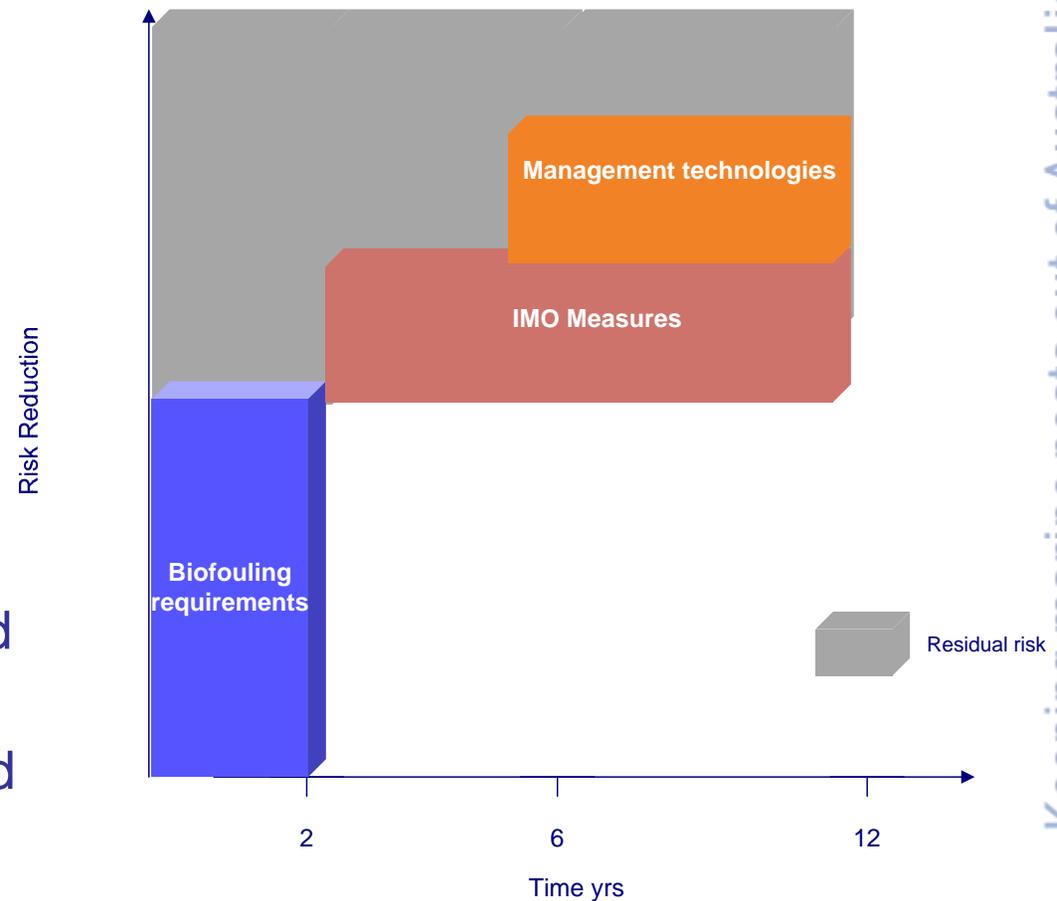


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## Example of a risk return approach – biofouling requirements

- Approach is designed to reduce risk, not achieve zero risk
- Australia’s response to the biofouling threat is risk based and underpinned by evidence
- Industry can achieve risk reduction through minor changes to operational and maintenance activities
- There is a recognised need for biofouling management technologies



## Summary- next steps for marine pest management in Australia

- Finalise implementation of the National System
- Continued involvement in IMO discussions regarding both ballast water and biofouling issues
- Continued commitment to strengthening Australia's biosecurity system.
- Issues to develop ways forward on include:
  - Regulating biofouling on (international) vessels
  - Domestic and international ballast water management
  - Monitoring of national priority marine pests
  - Strengthening risk identification and response capabilities



Image credit: AQIS

**Thank you for your attention**

[www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au)

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Image credit: Ashley Coutts, Cawthron Institute

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