



Above image: Invasive seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia* on anchor

What is being done about *Caulerpa taxifolia*?

The NSW Government has allocated significant funding to better manage aquatic pests including *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

The control program for *Caulerpa taxifolia* has included removing it from sale in the aquarium trade, controlling new infestations, minimising the spread of existing infestations by restricting the use of fishing nets, and educating the public. Signage is also in place at estuaries to identify major outbreaks.

Removing marine pests like *Caulerpa taxifolia* is very difficult. A variety of methods have been tried including smothering the seaweed and applying salt. Although effective, the salting method is most useful for controlling small infestations—large outbreaks are almost impossible to eradicate.

The Government is also investing in research and monitoring to find out more about *Caulerpa taxifolia* and its effects on native seagrasses and fish stocks.



Above image and inset close-up: Healthy seagrass bed in Hawkesbury estuary. John Baker © Australian Government



Help stop the spread of *Caulerpa taxifolia* with these basic steps

LEARN to recognise the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

AVOID boating, swimming and diving near known beds of *Caulerpa taxifolia*. The seaweed easily breaks into small fragments that drift into other areas and grow into new outbreaks.

INSPECT anchors, propellers, ropes and chains for pieces of *Caulerpa taxifolia* before leaving an area.

INSPECT all fishing equipment such as fishing lines, nets and traps before and after use.

INSPECT all diving equipment such as wetsuits, bags and other diving gear before and after use.

WASH your boat, trailer, outboard motor and other gear in wash down bays where they are provided.

DISPOSE of all fragments of *Caulerpa taxifolia* you have accidentally picked up by sealing them in a plastic bag and putting them in a bin away from the waterway.

REPORT suspected *Caulerpa taxifolia* sightings on NSW DPI's 24 hour recorded hotline: **02 4916 3877** or email pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au and if possible ...

TAKE PHOTOS or **COLLECT** samples of the weed to enable NSW DPI to confirm your sighting. Place these samples in absorbent paper in a plastic bag, and send to NSW DPI including a description of where they were found and a map if possible.

For more information, or to send a specimen:

NSW DPI Aquatic Biosecurity Unit
Port Stephens Fisheries Centre
Locked Bag 1, NELSON BAY NSW 2315
Phone 02 4982 1232
Email aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Caulerpa taxifolia

invasive seaweed

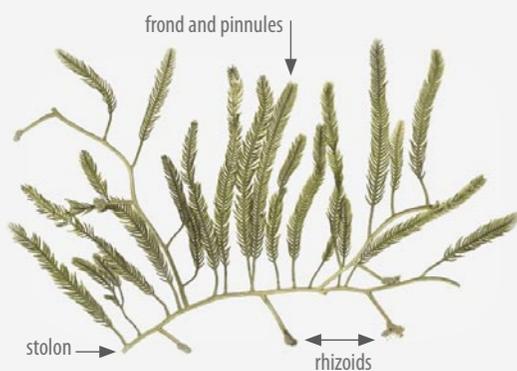
Help stop this marine pest spreading

What is *Caulerpa taxifolia*?

Caulerpa taxifolia is a fast growing marine seaweed normally found in warm tropical waters in northern Australia.

But now this marine seaweed has invaded some of the NSW coast's most popular fishing and boating havens.

Transported through fishing, recreational boating, wind and wave action, and in the past by the aquarium trade, *Caulerpa taxifolia* has the potential to permanently alter our beautiful estuaries and bays.



Above image: *Caulerpa taxifolia*. Alan Millar, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney



Why should you care about it?

Whether it's fishing, sailing, cruising, kayaking or scuba diving, being out on the water in NSW is great fun.

But as well as being wonderful places to visit and enjoy, our waterways are also fragile ecosystems that many local communities heavily rely on for tourism, aquaculture, and recreational and commercial fishing.

Caulerpa taxifolia is a threat to our native marine environment. It spreads quickly, is very difficult to eradicate and can potentially impact native seagrasses and possibly reduce fish stocks.

With long, creeping runners and fern-like fronds, *Caulerpa taxifolia* can easily become entangled in boating and fishing equipment.

It can grow from small fragments accidentally carried by recreational boaters and other waterway users. *Caulerpa taxifolia* can stay alive for several days in damp environments such as anchor wells, nets and wetsuits, growing into new plants if returned to the water.

In some cases boating, anchoring or fishing closures may have to be put in place in *Caulerpa taxifolia* affected areas – a situation everybody wants to avoid.

Where is it now?

Caulerpa taxifolia has been recorded in several estuaries and lakes in NSW, including the popular fishing and boating havens of Pittwater, Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Water just north of Sydney.

See the NSW DPI website or contact the Aquatic Biosecurity Unit for up-to-date information on the location of *Caulerpa taxifolia* in NSW estuaries.

Pittwater

Caulerpa taxifolia was first discovered in Careel Bay, Pittwater in 2002 and is now widespread throughout the estuary. Affected areas include the eastern and western shores south of the entrance to Pittwater, Careel Bay, Scotland Island and off Bayview in the south of the estuary.

For up-to-date information about fishing closures and legal fishing methods in Pittwater, contact the Sydney North Fisheries Office on (02) 8437 4903.

Hawkesbury River

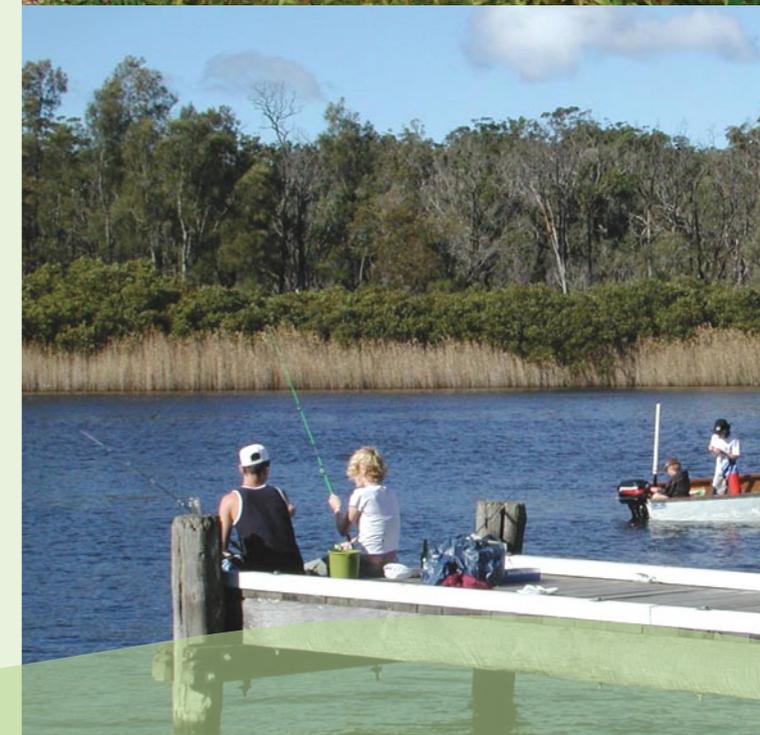
Since 2006 *Caulerpa taxifolia* has been found at the eastern end of Patonga Beach and at the entrance to Patonga Creek. Both areas are on the northern side of the mouth of the Hawkesbury River.

For up-to-date information about fishing closures and legal fishing methods in the Hawkesbury River, contact the Brooklyn Fisheries Office on (02) 4348 1900.

Brisbane Water

In 2006 *Caulerpa taxifolia* was discovered in several areas of Brisbane Water including Ettalong Beach, Booker Bay and the north western point of St Huberts Island.

For up-to-date information about fishing closures and legal fishing methods in Brisbane Water, contact the Central Coast Fisheries Office on (02) 4348 1900.



Your help is needed NOW!

*Be alert to this pest
and contact us when you see it.*