

Exporting Oceanic Nasties

Liz Murphy of Kiki

If you haven't yet looked up The World Ocean Observatory web site that Liz Murphy works on, do it now at www.thew2o.net It is amazing. It is place of exchange for ocean information, education and public discourse about the future of the ocean and its survival. In this issue of SQ Liz of Kiki describes a new addition to the site on how ocean pollution is exported. We are suffering right now with caulerpa taxifolia in 'our' Port River. People elsewhere have even lost their commercial fish stocks.

Exporting Pollution

<http://www.thew2o.net/events/ep/>

That the oceans are a repository for all sorts of human-derived wastes is something most people know something about, given the striking images in the media of debris-laden waterways, syringes washing ashore on beaches, and plastic entangling seals, dolphins, turtles, and birds.

But using oceans to rid waste occurs in more subtle, and infinitely more damaging ways. Here are three ways that countries export pollution, whether deliberately or inadvertently, with consequences for marine ecosystems worldwide.

Ship-Breaking

Disposal of huge numbers of old ocean-going vessels creates a major challenge. Phoenician and Greek vessels were constructed of natural compounds, but today, ships are floating hazardous waste sites. Countries continually dispose of ships at sea within their waters, or export their hazardous decommissioned ships to developing countries, which are eager for fees and largely ignorant of the consequences.

Invasive Alien Species

An even more insidious export of waste occurs when ships pump their ballast water out in the ports where they take on cargo. When ballast water is pumped into a vessel, many eggs, larvae, and adult plants and animals go with it. Later, in far away ports, these organisms are pumped out and they can out-compete local flora and fauna and wreak havoc. Ballast-borne alien species have caused amazing ecological and economic damage in some places.

Noise

For hearing-sensitive marine creatures, whose sole source of communication is sound, the noise created by underwater explosions, ship engines, and military sonar can be devastating. These human noises clog their communication channels, disrupting their ability to socialise, breed, catch prey and sleep.

RIGHT: Caulerpa taxifolia to be watched for in the Port River

Subscription to the web newsletter is at

<http://thew2o.net/subscribeNewsletter.html>

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My Boat, Appledoor II

Rod and Libby Page

Type:	25 foot Trailer Sailer
Designers:	Noel Honey and Alex Trethewey
Builders:	Marten Marine Industries N.Z
Make:	Noellex
LOA :	7.77M
Draft :	Centerboard up 0.3M , down 1.4M
Rig:	Fractional

You could be forgiven for thinking that was a strange name for a tupperware boat. The origins of this name can be revealed to any person wishing to come aboard bearing a good drop of red to share.

She was the first Meccano-Set, DIY Noellex sold in South Australia. Towing the deck and hull from Goolwa to Adelaide, the task of fitting out and rigging the yacht seemed daunting. However some 210 hours of pleasant hard toil and incredibly good luck (yes we kept a log) saw us launch Appledoor II on December 12th 1986, ready for Christmas cruising at Coffin Bay.

Noellex lines are to me, a bit stink-boat in appearance - and those narrow side decks and short little stick are 'different'. For all that, and still finding myself from time to time coveting my neighbour's vessel, I have to say that not unlike all good boats, the Noellex is an excellent compromise. Certainly she is a very forgiving boat and easy to sail, as is

attested by our adventures as far afield as the Whitsunday's and as near as the River Murray. A good craft in the 'go-anywhere' stakes albeit initially a bit over priced. She has certainly suited our purpose of comfortable family cruising to otherwise unattainable destinations and memorable holidays.



Appledoor II in Nara Inlet, Hook Island, Whitsunday Islands.