

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Current Marine Pest

Fan Worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*)

CURRENT STATUS: In Tasmania, only found in the Mersey Estuary at Devonport

Key features:

Spiral fan of feeding tentacles



spiralled fan

Mature worms:

- Are up to 30 cm long
- Have a crown that can be orange, or white with red/brown bands
- Spiral fan of feeding tentacles

Which native worms look similar?

Sabellastarte spp. and *Sabella pavonina*, however they do not have a spiralled fan



Sabella pavonina



Sabellastarte spp

not spiralled

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(Sabella spallanzanii)



Habitat:

- In shallow subtidal areas between 1 – 30m depth on soft or hard bottom
- Often in harbours where it colonises man-made structures (eg pylons, channel markers, and pontoons)
- Can form dense beds

What you can do:

- Clean and antifoul boat hulls regularly
- Using freshwater, CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY vessels and equipment
- Using a mild detergent, disinfectant or soap, wash boats and gear away from shore where it does not drain back into the marine environment

Want more information?

Visit

www.marinepests.gov.au

www.dpiw.tas.gov.au

Or phone

Marine Resources on (03) 6233 3370

