



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET  
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 MILJÖHANDBOKEN  
 Tjärnö marina laboratorium

## **Routines for working with foreign species**

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Proved by the management 2005-08-31

Senast uppdaterad 2009

### **Aim:**

The aim is to minimize the risk of spreading foreign species into the sea.

### **Definitions:**

The term foreign species refers to species, populations, proveniences or genes, which have not previously occurred in an area, but have been transported there from their natural dispersal area by humans, knowingly or unknowingly. Foreign species often come from other countries, but domestic species that by humans have been moved to a new biogeographic region within the same country are also foreign species in their new environment (From the UN convention of biological diversity, <http://www.biodiv.se/intr-art/>).

To be classified as a foreign species the organism must be introduced by a human vector. If the organism has spread to an area naturally it is not a foreign species. However, if the organism first has been introduced to an area by humans and then continues to spread on its own, it can be labeled as a foreign species

(Naturvårdsverket, <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/> ).

### **Responsibilities:**

All researchers, Ph.D. students, lab assistants and students, working with species which are not locally indigenous, are obliged to follow these routines.

### **Implementations:**

All the work with foreign species in the laboratory in open systems, i.e. where water flows, must take place in thermo-stable room number 20, where there is connection to the municipal sewer. All other work with foreign organisms, such as culturing, microscopy etc. must be done where there is no risk of discharge to the drains. Special rules and risk assessments for working with foreign species may be available in the specific regulations of each laboratory.

The organisms may not under any circumstances be discharged into the saltwater-system or in the open sea.

More information on foreign species:

<http://www.aqualiens.tmbi.gu.se/>