

SAIL WITHOUT STOWAWAYS

SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE YOUR VESSEL ISLAND SAFE:

1 CHECK YOUR HULL



Deploy chew cards or wax chew blocks – check them regularly for signs of stowaways

7 OPEN TENDER



Always use an open tender when landing on a seabird island and check for signs of stowaways before launching

6 RAT GUARDS



Use rat guards on mooring lines and anchor chains

5 SPREAD THE WORD



Display biosecurity advice for passengers onboard

2 LUGGAGE



Repack luggage before boarding and never leave unattended on harbour side

3 CARGO



Pack cargo in rodent proof containers and check for signs of stowaways before boarding

4 WASTE



Store waste securely in rodent proof bins and dispose regularly using waste disposal facilities

SIGNS OF STOWAWAYS



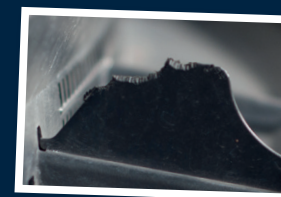
✗ ENTRANCE HOLES



✗ DROPPINGS



✗ NEST MATERIAL



✗ GNAW MARKS

Species of concern to UK islands include:



PROTECTING SEABIRDS
FROM INVASIVE PREDATORS



RATS



MICE



STOATS



MINK

**NEVER PUSH
STOWAWAYS
OVERBOARD**
(dead or alive)

PROTECTING ISLANDS FROM INVASIVE PREDATORS: A CHECKLIST



Thank you for your help to protect seabirds from invasive predators

What to do if you find evidence of a stowaway

- ❌ DO NOT LAND ON A SEABIRD ISLAND**
- ❌ NEVER PUSH STOWAWAYS OVERBOARD DEAD OR ALIVE!**
Rodents and other small mammals can swim many kilometres
- ❌ DO NOT ASSUME ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL STOWAWAY IS ABOARD**
- ✅ DO RETURN TO A MAINLAND HARBOUR**
Deploy appropriate control measures:
biosecurityforlife.org.uk/boats

Start of the season

Boat
✅ Fully inspect vessel for signs of stowaways: gnawed wires etc., droppings, bedding, entry holes
✅ Set up rodent surveillance for the season ahead: biosecurityforlife.org.uk/boats
✅ Brief crew on rodent prevention measures (overleaf)

On the water

Luggage	Food	Travel between islands	Landing / Anchoring
✅ Shake out any bedding and creels etc. away from the vessel before loading	✅ Pack food in rodent proof containers	✅ Repack bags between islands	✅ Always land using an open tender when possible
✅ Repack luggage as soon as possible before travelling	✅ Check all food packs for signs of damage - do not take any damaged packets	✅ Be aware you could pick up rodent passengers along the way	✅ Check local biosecurity advice at your destination
✅ Never leave luggage or cargo unattended on the harbour before loading	✅ Store food and food waste in rodent proof areas	✅ Provide passengers with biosecurity briefing information upon booking or boarding	

In the harbour

Harbour	Off-Season
✅ Put rodent control measures in place onboard and where cargo is stored	✅ Put rodent control measures in place onboard and where cargo is stored
✅ Secure possible rodent entry-points on vessel	✅ Secure possible rodent entry-points on vessel
✅ Use rat guards on mooring lines and anchor chains	✅ Remove all food items from the vessel



Find out more at biosecurityforlife.org.uk

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