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**ENVIRONMENT STORY**

**\$12m to fight didymo, sea squirt and painted apple moth**  
17 July 2006

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**The Government says it will spend nearly \$12 million on managing three highly invasive New Zealand pests.**

Biosecurity Minister Jim Anderton said \$11.81 million would be spent over two years to deal with didymo or rock snot, *Styela Clava* sea squirt and painted apple moth (PAM).

The money would be spent on monitoring and slowing the spread of didymo and *Styela Clava* sea squirt, including scientific research and developing long-term management strategies for the organisms.

PAM funding would be used to continue surveillance for the pest at high-risk sites.

Mr Anderton said a paper on didymo from Biosecurity New Zealand and the Department of Conservation highlighted the need for agencies, industry and the public to work together to get the best results.

Further work was also continuing between New Zealand Mussel Farming Association Inc, New Zealand King Salmon Company, Port Marlborough, Marlborough District Council, the Cawthron Institute and Biosecurity New Zealand as to how to manage a second sea squirt pest, *didemnum vexillum*.

"The Government will be reviewing funding in the near future to look at the potential allocation of funds for *didemnum vexillum* management," Mr Anderton said.

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