



JAPAN P&I NEWS

To the Members

Japan (Hokkaido)—Outbreak of Flighted Spongy Moth Complex



FSMC moths laying eggs near lighting equipment

We have received the information regarding the outbreak of Flighted Spongy Moth Complex (FSMC)* that had occurred in Hokkaido, Japan from [All Nippon Checkers Corporation](#).

Even though the FSMC outbreak has subsided, vessels that called at ports in Hokkaido between 20 July and 10 August may still be at risk of carrying FSMC egg masses attached to their hulls, and vigilance remains necessary.

FSMC egg masses are extremely adhesive and will not naturally fall off once attached to a vessel's structure. In particular, when entering regulated countries such as the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Australia, these egg masses are subject to strict quarantine inspections. If egg masses are detected, there is a significant risk of delays in port entry as well as substantial costs for removal and treatment.

FSMC egg masses tend to be deposited on uneven surfaces near lighting equipment on vessels, as well as in narrow crevices. During past infestation periods, preventive measures such as reducing vessel lighting and clearing of stowing materials on deck proved effective.

At present, masters and operators of vessels bound for regulated countries are strongly urged to conduct thorough self-inspections of their vessels and to ensure the physical removal of any egg masses if found.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

* Please note that the name was changed from "Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM)" to "Flighted Spongy Moth Complex (FSMC)" in 2022.