

A few examples of the invasive plants and animals that could become a serious problem in our waterways:

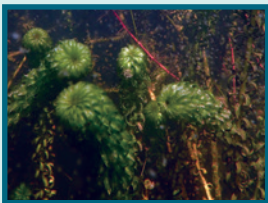
### FISH DISEASES

Diseases such as Koi Herpes Virus (pictured), *Gyrodactylus salaris* and Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) kill fish and can close fisheries.



### AFRICAN CURLY WATERWEED

Freshwater plants like African curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) block rivers and lakes interfering with fishing. If it spreads further in Ireland, like it has elsewhere in Europe, it will cost €millions to manage.



### KILLER SHRIMP

The killer shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*) is a voracious predator of other small animals including our native shrimp and young fish, which can significantly impact on the whole ecosystem. Its small size (3 cm max) means it could easily be hidden on damp nets or waders where it can survive for more than two weeks.



Find out more about this biosecurity campaign and how you can report sightings to help stop the spread at:

[invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry](https://invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry)

[#CheckCleanDryIrl](https://twitter.com/CheckCleanDryIrl)



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



Photos from Trevor Renals, the Environment Agency and Jan-Robert Baars.

# Calling all Anglers

Help stop the Invasion!



Carp with Koi Herpes Virus

## Invasive species harm fish and block waterways

### Don't spread them on your kit

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Invasive plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced accidentally to Irish waters. Many different species have already been found in our lakes, rivers and other waterways, and the number of new arrivals is increasing rapidly.

They cause serious environmental problems that can be irreversible – killing fish by spreading diseases and reducing the oxygen levels of the water, outcompeting other native wildlife and damaging ecosystems. Invasive plants also clog up waterways and riverbanks, making it hard to fish and increasing the risk of flooding.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing.

**Protect the environment and fishing you enjoy by keeping your kit free from invasive plants and animals.**

## CHECK

**Check** your gear, clothing, and footwear after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

## CLEAN

**Clean** everything as soon as you can. Pay particular attention to nets, waders and areas that are damp and hard to inspect. Use hot water (at least 45°C) or a high-pressure spray when possible.

## DRY

**Dry** all equipment and clothing until dry for at least 48 hours as some invasive species can live for weeks in damp conditions.

**Disinfect** all items if complete drying is not possible. Items can be soaked, thoroughly sprayed, or wiped down with a disinfectant approved for use near waterbodies (e.g. Virkon aquatic, Virasure etc.).

# STOP THE SPREAD

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your kit abroad to make sure you don't bring any plants or animals back with you.

**Make sure everything is clean and has been dried thoroughly before you use it again at home.**

Remember to check these places



You can download free Check Clean Dry awareness-raising materials for your club from [invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry](https://invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry)