

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

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.



QUAGGA MUSSEL

This tiny freshwater mussel breeds extremely fast and grows in dense colonies which can cover the underside of boats and clog propellers.



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 gear or boats 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
#CheckCleanDryIrl



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



Photos from Natural Resources Wales,
Trevor Renals the Environment Agency, TownePost.com
and Jan-Robert Baars.

Calling all boaters

Help stop the invasion!



Invasive species
harm wildlife
and block waterways

Don't spread them
on your boat

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 – outcompeting native wildlife, damaging ecosystems, and spreading disease. They can also clog propellers, damage boats and block up waterways restricting navigation and increasing the risk of flooding.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats and equipment. **Protect the environment you enjoy and remember to Check Clean Dry when you take your boat out of the water to avoid spreading invasive plants and animals.**

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site. Reapply anti-fouling annually.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to ropes, fenders, bilges, bow thrusters, trailers, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water (at least 45°C) if possible.

DRY

Dry - drain water from every part of your boat and trailer before leaving the site. Dry everything until dry for at least 48 hours before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for weeks in damp conditions.

Disinfect cleaned 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).

STOP THE SPREAD

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your boat 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