

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

### CARPET SEA SQUIRT

While each individual is tiny (1 mm long), the carpet sea squirt grows in colonies which can cover several square kilometres. These colonies crowd out native marine species and are a nuisance for boat owners as they cover the underside of boats.



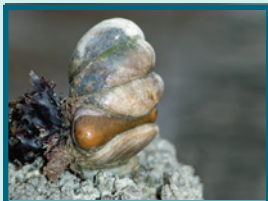
### WAKAME

This large fast-growing seaweed forms drifting mats which can clog marinas and recreational areas, it covers the underside of boats and harbour structures, and outcompetes native marine species.



### SLIPPER LIMPET

Slipper limpets form chains and stacks which can contain up to 15 individuals. They can starve and smother native shellfish and be a serious pest of oyster and mussel beds.



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



National  
Biodiversity  
Data Centre  
A Heritage Council Programme



Invasives.ie  
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



Waterways Ireland  
Uiscebhéalaf Éireann Watterweys Airlann



Foras na Mara  
Marine Institute



Loughs  
Agency  
Griomhaireacht na Lochanna  
Fachtóirí Loughs



Leave  
No  
Trace



**Calling all  
marine 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 marine environments 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 be a nuisance for boat owners by fouling hulls and other hard surfaces and damaging boats.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats and equipment. **Protect the marine environment and sport you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals.**

# 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.

## CHECK

**Check** boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for fouling or plant material. Remove anything you find and put it in the bin. Reapply anti-fouling annually.

## CLEAN

**Clean** everything thoroughly as soon as you can with freshwater, paying attention to ropes, bilges, bow thrusters, trailers, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Wash your anchor and chain before leaving an anchorage. Use hot water (at least 45°C) if possible.

## DRY

**Dry** - drain water from every part of your trailer and boat. 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).

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)