

# ATTENTION DISEASE ALERT:

## Prevent the spread of Crayfish Plague in Ireland

**An outbreak of Crayfish Plague** has occurred in Ireland. This disease affects and kills the native White-clawed Crayfish and results in their complete elimination from rivers and lakes. However it does not affect humans or farm animals and does not infect other wildlife.

The disease is spread by spores in the water that can stick to boats, angling equipment and wet gear. Once Crayfish Plague has been introduced into a river or lake, it cannot be controlled! So prevention of introduction to unaffected sites is essential. All water users are urged please to always clean and thoroughly dry your equipment before you use it here and once again after you leave.

**Follow the Check, Clean, Dry measures to PREVENT the spread of this disease and protect the sport, river and lake you love.**



**CHECK** boats, equipment, clothing and footwear for plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that hold water or are damp and hard to inspect.



**CLEAN** everything thoroughly. Use hot water over 65°Celsius where possible. (e.g. use of nearby power washers at service stations).



Completely **DRY** everything for at least 48 hours. The spores can live in wet or damp conditions for 3 weeks and complete drying of equipment is the most effective means of stopping spread.

**DISINFECT:** If complete drying is not possible. **DISINFECT** everything using an approved disinfectant such as Milton (follow product label), Virkon Aquatic (3mg/L), Proxitane (30mg/L) or an iodine-based product for 15 minutes. Items difficult to soak can be sprayed or wiped down with disinfectant. Engine coolant water or residual water in boats/kayaks should be drained and where possible flushed out with disinfectant.

**DO NOT use untreated equipment in these waters if it has been previously used in an infected area.** Check [www.biodiversityireland.ie/crayfish-plague-2017](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/crayfish-plague-2017) for list of infected sites and to report dead, dying or non-native crayfish.



**White-clawed Crayfish** is an endangered species and Ireland is home to what is probably the largest surviving population of the entire species.

# STOP Crayfish Plague



 An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht