

Biosecurity at water sport events



An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity
Data Centre

A guide to good biosecurity practices to avoid
spreading invasive species that can
harm the environment

**CHECK
CLEAN
DRY**

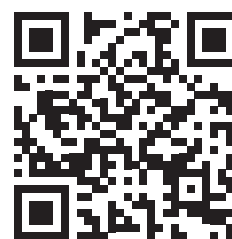


© Fáilte Ireland

Invasive Species
Northern Ireland



Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



Scan to find more info
on *Check Clean Dry!*



About us



The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity. We lead the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species project, which aims to strengthen cross-border efforts in monitoring, early detection, and rapid response across aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The project is supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, The Heritage Council and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.



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



NPWS An tSeirbhís Páircíneama
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Northern Ireland Environment Agency



**Shared Island
Initiative**



**LONGFORD
SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP**
SPORT IRELAND



**SLIGO SPORT
& RECREATION
PARTNERSHIP**
SPORT IRELAND



**WATERFORD
SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**
Supporting
Active and Sustainable
SPORT IRELAND



**CLARE
SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP**
SPORT IRELAND



Mayo Sports Partnership
Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhaigh Eo
SPORT IRELAND



MEATH
Local Sports Partnership
SPORT IRELAND

To support the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2023-2027), the Local Sports Partnership programme was developed supported by County Outdoor Recreation Officers. The Outdoor Recreation Officers of County Longford, Clare, Sligo, Waterford, Meath and Mayo provide practical support and coordination to the outdoor recreation sector, by supporting inclusive programmes and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active.



Paddle Northern Ireland are the National Governing Body for Paddlesport in Northern Ireland. We provide a range of practical advice and information for paddlers and clubs and work closely with local Government Departments, Local Authorities and other relevant stakeholders on issues affecting the paddling community.



Canoeing Ireland are the National Governing Body for paddle sports in across the island of Ireland. We care deeply about our environment and offer opportunities, resources, and ideas for change that will help the paddling community make a tangible difference in protecting our biodiversity.



Rowing Ireland are the national governing body for the sport of rowing across the island of Ireland. We are committed to promote a culture of excellence and openness so that athletes, coaches and volunteers have a lifelong positive experience. Our goal is to grow strong, well-structured safe clubs that provide the opportunity for achievement and enjoyment at all levels.



Leave No Trace is the island of Ireland's only Outdoor Ethics Education Programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation. We raise awareness of responsible outdoor recreation and tackles issues impacting the environment upon which we all depend, as well as actions we can take to improve and sustain it.



Medb's Dragon Warriors are a Sligo based dragon boat club supporting cancer survivors and their family through the team sport. The club is affiliated to the Irish Dragon Boat Association.

This toolkit was originally developed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT), on behalf of Paddle UK with funding from the Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership, as part of their work on invasive non-native species and biosecurity in aquatic recreational sports. NWWT has extensive experience delivering invasive non-native species projects across Wales and providing biosecurity training and infrastructure at national watersport events.

Contents

Reporting Invasive Species	5
About this toolkit	6
What are invasive species?	8
What is the solution?	9
Invasive Spotlight	10
Lough Corrib, Galway	10
Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland	11
Check Clean Dry poster	12
Health and Safety	13
Event Biosecurity - What can you do?	14
Step 1: Plan your event biosecurity	15
What type of equipment do you need?	16
Step 2: Raise Awareness	20
What type of equipment do you need?	21
Run your event	22
Before	22
During	23
Step 4: Follow up	24
Personal Biosecurity Kit	25
How else can you help?	26
Event information Posters	27



Floating Pennywort



Zebra Mussel



Himalayan Balsam



Water Primrose



New Zealand Pigmyweed

Reporting Invasive Species



The National Biodiversity Data Centre plays a central role in collecting data on the presence and distribution of invasive species. Water users can support this work by helping record sightings, preventing their spread and support removal.



**STOP
THE
SPREAD**

Organise
volunteer invasive
clearance days.
Contact [invasives@
biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:invasives@biodiversityireland.ie)
for guidance

Before an event, check Biodiversity Maps (maps.biodiversityireland.ie) to see what species have been recorded nearby. This can help you identify potential risks, decide what equipment needs to be cleaned or checked and prevent species being moved to new locations. Your sightings help improve the data available to communities and conservation groups. Include a photograph where possible, so experts can confirm the identification.

Report your sightings:

Northern Ireland:

invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting/

Ireland: invasives.ie/reportsightings/



About this toolkit

What is it for?

The aim of this pack is to help guide you through all the stages of biosecurity at your water sport events, from club level to large international events.

How do I use it?

The pack will take you step by step through procedures that will enable you to help protect the environment against the spread of invasive species without impacting water sport activities.

Including:

- > Information about invasive species and biosecurity
- > Step-by-step planning guide for all stages of your event
- > Useful links to ensure you can easily access all the information you need
- > Posters for clubs and organisers to use at events



This toolkit was originally developed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust, on behalf of Paddle UK with funding from the Aquatic Biosecurity Partnership.

INVASIVE SPECIES CAN SPREAD QUICKLY AND TAKE OVER FRESHWATER AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS ONCE INTRODUCED.



FLOATING PENNYWORT

Can grow up to 20cm a day under the right conditions and can clog entire waterways, making them difficult to navigate through. This can also easily be mistaken for solid ground, which could result in serious harm to people and animals.

Responsible Behaviour in the Outdoors



BOATING & WATERSPORTS CHECKLIST

	Always wear a life jacket or buoyancy aid when using boats or personal watercraft		Ensure that you have permission to launch and recover watercraft from your chosen location
	Avoid damaging the foreshore by trampling, dragging equipment, or driving unnecessarily		Be aware of changing tides, especially in unfamiliar coastlines, and be vigilant for rip tides
	At the coast...do not chase, touch, or feed marine wildlife. Keep 100m distance. Keep dogs on a lead in vicinity of wildlife		On the sea...boats/kayaks should keep at least 100m away from animals. Do not startle wildlife. Stay no longer than 15 mins
	In the sea...let any wildlife encounter be on their terms. Keep your movements steady & predictable		After use...check, clean and dry your equipment and clothing. Help stop the spread of invasive species

Please respect the environment and take your litter home

THE OUTDOORS IS YOURS - PROTECT IT

www.leavenotraceireland.org

By following these principles, we can all contribute to the preservation of our stunning natural environments, ensuring that future generations can also enjoy them:

- 1 Plan ahead and prepare
- 2 Be considerate of others
- 3 Respect farm animals and wildlife
- 4 Travel and camp responsibly
- 5 Leave what you find
- 6 Dispose of waste properly
- 7 Protect nature from fire

For more information on how to reduce your impact and practice responsible outdoor recreation, visit: leavenotraceireland.org



What are invasive species?

Invasive species are plants and animals introduced by people to an area outside their natural range, negatively impact both our health and that of the environment.

The spread of invasive species can affect sports and recreation as these activities depend on clean healthy freely functioning waterways. Invasive species are one of the leading pressures on the island of Ireland's natural environment, but with your help we can make a difference.

Why are invasive species a concern?

Invasive species are a concern because they can:

- > Reduce our ability to access and enjoy waterways for sport and recreation.
- > Slow down the flow of rivers and increase flood risk.
- > Negatively impact both our and the environment's health by reducing water quality
- > Invasive species can be small, hard to spot and can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

Unfortunately, some water users are unaware of this threat and pose a real risk to our natural environment and the sport we love.



EVEN
THE MOST
BASIC BIOSECURITY
PRACTICES CAN HELP
STOP THE SPREAD
OF INVASIVE
SPECIES!

CHECK
CLEAN
DRY



NEW ZEALAND PIGMYWEED

Grows rapidly and smothers native species.



HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Forms dense stands along the river bank preventing access.

What is the solution?

Prevention is **ALWAYS** better than cure!



© Medb's Dragon Warriors

Biosecurity means a set of actions to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive species and diseases.

Effective biosecurity should always be practised every time we have been out on the water, even if there aren't any obvious signs of invasive species in the area. For water sport events, these measures need to be simple, effective, have minimal impact on the delivery of events, and be integrated into the day.

Why is biosecurity important?

Prevention is better than cure for invasive species because it is far more cost-effective and prevents irreversible environmental damage.

Eradicating a species becomes exponentially more difficult and expensive as it spreads. Through measures like biosecurity, prevention avoids the need for costly, long-term control efforts.

**STOP
THE
SPREAD**

Invasive species are estimated to cost the island of Ireland's economy **€261 million a year!** By implementing biosecurity at your event, you could help significantly reduce this financial drain.



Invasive Spotlight

Lough Corrib, Galway

Lough Corrib is the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland and holds immense ecological, historical and tourism importance.

Curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) was first discovered in Lough Corrib in 2005 and in just three years it spread, covering over 90 hectares of the lough. The dense mats hindered local water sport activities and water-based tourism, which is economically important to the region.

Inland Fisheries Ireland, alongside partner agencies have been supporting extensive year-round control operations to keep infestations at manageable levels, allowing native species to re-establish and to prevent the spread of the invasive aquatic plant.

Control methods

- > Jute matting
- > Suction dredging
- > Hand removal
- > Mechanical removal
- > Biosecurity awareness



© Inland Fisheries Ireland



CURLY WATERWEED

Aquatic plant that spreads rapidly to form dense masses that grow under the water's surface, often forming canopies on the surface. The plant outcompetes native communities, alters the entire habitat and blocks waterways preventing access for water sports.

Invasive Spotlight

©Lough Neagh Partnership



Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland

Lough Neagh is the largest freshwater lake on the island of Ireland, it holds international designations for rare species and is a recreational tourism hub.

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) was first discovered in Lough Neagh in 2005 and has significantly altered the ecosystem by filtering large amounts of water.



The filter mechanism zebra mussels use to feed has increased unwanted plant and algal growth, impeding navigation of water crafts and effecting tourism.

Eradicating established zebra mussel populations is generally not possible and control relies on preventing further spread of the zebra mussel.

Lough Neagh Partnership and Northern Ireland Environment Agency are some of the organisations and agencies raising awareness of the issue in Lough Neagh to reduce the risk of other harmful species entering Lough Neagh through biosecurity measures.

The quagga mussel has been discovered in Lough Erne in 2025 and has even higher filtering capabilities, surviving in a wider range of substrates and depths. The best control method is prevention! Practicing *Check Clean Dry*, is an effective way of preventing the spread of these freshwater mussels.



ZEBRA MUSSEL AND QUAGGA MUSSEL

Both are powerful filter feeders that can alter whole ecosystems. Zebra: distinct ridging, triangular cross-section, lies flat when placed on front. Quagga: no distinct ridging, rounded cross-section, rolls to side when placed on front.

Remember to follow:

CHECK

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

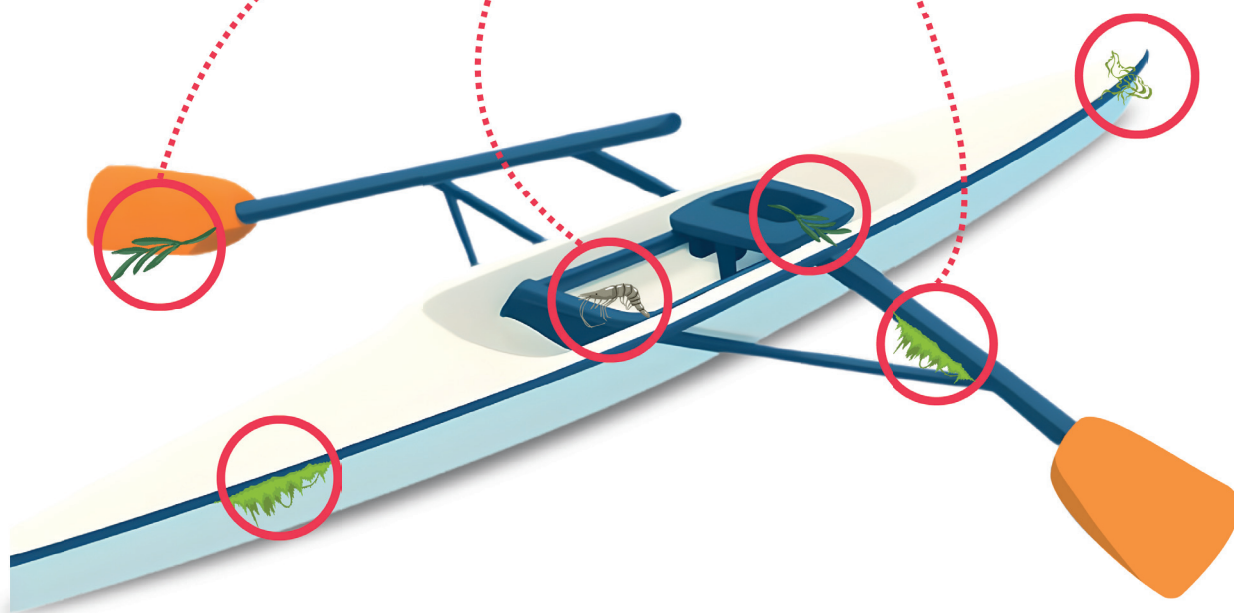
CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can. Pay particular attention to the inside of your boat and areas that are damp and hard to access. Where possible use hot water (>45°) or a high-pressure spray.

DRY

Dry equipment and clothing thoroughly for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive species can survive for two weeks in damp conditions. Drain water from every part of your boat and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site.

**Remember to check
these places**



Health and Safety

Important points

It is your responsibility to ensure that all health and safety protocols are being followed and that both marshals and participants are kept safe while using the station.

Health and safety

Incorporate an assessment of all identified risks into your event risk assessment. If using disinfectants ensure a safety data sheet for the product is available.

First Aid

- > Ensure participants have access to a first aid kit
- > Provide an eye wash station (recommended when using disinfectants)

PPE for Marshalls

- > Hi-Viz jackets
- > Safety goggles
- > Good sturdy waterproof footwear
- > Gloves if working in colder weather or with disinfectants

Working with noise/vibration

- > Ear protection
- > Anti-vibe gloves

Trip/slip hazards

- > Wires and hose pipes should be covered to avoid slips/trips
- > Non-slip outdoor mats should be used

Equipment

All equipment should be checked over for damage and tested before use using the:

- > Northern Ireland- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
- > Ireland- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (SHWW) Regulations 2007

Risk assessment links:

COSHH: www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics/assessment.htm

HAVs: www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/advicetoemployers/controlrisks.htm#how

PUWER: www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/puwer.htm

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act: www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2007/si/299/made/en/print

HSA: www.hsa.ie/eng/enterprise_and_employee_supports/getting_started/risk_assessments_made_easy/



Event Biosecurity

What can you do?

Together we can protect our natural environment as well as the sport we love. Carrying out effective biosecurity at water sport events will help to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species on site as well as anywhere participants may use their equipment afterwards.

Remember to Check Clean Dry!

Having effective biosecurity at your event will help to create a lasting impact on the way participants carry out their water activities in the future.

**STOP
THE
SPREAD**



©National Biodiversity Data Centre



If your club is part of the Blueway Ireland trail, they have plenty of biosecurity support available by visiting: sportireland.ie/outdoors/blueway-publications-resources



Step 1: Plan your event biosecurity

Get to know your site:

- > Are there invasive species within your catchment?
- > Speak to your asset manager or landowner about any invasive species on site and existing biosecurity policies to make sure you align with these
- > To help find out what species are in your area visit: invasivespeciesni.co.uk (Northern Ireland) or invasives.ie (Ireland)
- > Do you have access to clean running water?
- > Is there a risk of dirty water being washed away into the water course or sewers?
- > Do you have access to electricity?
- > Can you restrict participants to a single entry / exit point to the water?

Invasive Species
Northern Ireland



Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



Get to know your discipline:

- > What are the risks of transferring invasive species for this type of sport?
- > What kind of facilities do you require?
- > Will participants move from one body of water to another in a single event?



Get to know your participants:

- > How many will be participating?
- > Are they club members, regional, national, or international?
- > What kit are they likely to bring with them?



What type of equipment do you need?

- > What budget do you have for biosecurity?
- > What facilities do you have on site already?
- > See pages 13-15 for examples of different biosecurity stations and suggested kit lists.

What type of equipment do you need?

Guidance for setting up an event on a low budget with no access to running water on site, an event with access to running water, and a large event with participants from abroad



What type of equipment do you need?



An event with a low budget and no access to running water on site

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.



Suggested equipment for a basic level biosecurity station

Item	Description
Flexible tubtrugs	For washing items or soaking items in disinfectant
Hand pressure sprayer	For washing of boats and gear, in particular for those areas hard to access
Hard scrubbing brushes	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from places such as hulls, paddles, oars, spray skirts and footwear
Sponges	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from sensitive clothing and equipment
Drying rack/area	A designated, sunny area to allow equipment to dry for as long as possible and to allow all water from the boats to be drained before leaving the site
Heavy duty 25l water containers	If there is no access on site to fresh water you could hire a bowser or prefill water containers

Note: If there is no access to electricity on site, you can use a solar power generator for off-grid power and provide hot water

What type of equipment do you need?

An event with
access to
running water
on site

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.



Suggested equipment for a
medium level biosecurity station

Item	Description
Flexible tubtrugs	For washing items or soaking items in disinfectant
Hose pipe with connectors (including a dual tap connector)	Effective for cleaning and removing attached organisms
Hard scrubbing brushes	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from places such as hulls, paddles, oars, spray skirts and footwear
Sponges	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from sensitive clothing and equipment
Hand pressure sprayer (10ltr)	If there is no access on site to fresh water you could hire a bowser or prefill heavy duty 25lt water containers.
(Optional battery powered pressure washer)	For washing of boats and gear, in particular for those areas hard to access
Drying rack/area	A designated, sunny area to allow equipment to dry for as long as possible and to allow all water from the boats to be drained before leaving the site



Note: If there is no access to electricity on site, you can use a solar power generator for off-grid power and provide hot water

What type of equipment do you need?

A large event
with participants
from abroad



Drainage can be something as simple as a trench dug to redirect the waste from the waterway

Participants should be encouraged to use non-powered equipment themselves to promote biosecurity practices being incorporated into their general routine.

Suggested equipment for a basic-level biosecurity station

Item	Description
Pressure washer	For washing of boats and gear, in particular for those areas hard to access
Transformer	Equipment to provide power to the pressure washer If site has no access to electricity a battered powered pressure washer can support washing at large events
Hose trolley	Assist with access, ensuring the wash station can be located away from the water course
Hose pipe with connectors (including a dual tap connector)	Effective for cleaning and removing attached organisms
Hard scrubbing brushes	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from places such as hulls, paddles, oars, spray skirts and footwear
Sponges	To remove mud, plants and aquatic animals from sensitive clothing and equipment
Hand pressure prayer (10ltr)	For washing of boats and gear, in particular for those areas hard to access
Drying rack/area	A designated, sunny area to allow equipment to dry for as long as possible and to allow all water from the boats to be drained before leaving the site
Boat trestles	Raising the boats you can easily inspect and clean the bottom and side areas of the boat
Traffic cones	Ensure visibility of the biosecurity wash down station by marking out the location. May need more/less site dependant
Heavy duty 25l water containers or bowser hire	If there is no access on site to fresh water you could or prefill water containers hire a bowser

Note: If there is no access to electricity on site, you can use a solar power generator for off-grid power and provide hot water

Step 2: Raise Awareness

Through all stages of your event it is important to raise awareness of invasive species and effectively communicate your planned biosecurity measures to your participants. This will help to make the day run smoothly for everybody.

Before an event

You could:

- > Send pre-event information explaining how and why biosecurity practices will be taking place at your event, asking participants to arrive with clothing and equipment that is clean and dry. See p27 for a template
- > Promote your biosecurity on your social media channels and newsletters
- > Consider dedicating a section of your webpage to biosecurity information and invasive species
- > Adopt a biosecurity code of practice for all participants to read (for a template visit: invasives.ie/checkcleandry/events)
- > Provide training for all event staff and volunteers



An event shelter is a useful information point. Display a range of eye-catching feather flags, pull-up banners, A-frames and leaflets for participants to take away the key messages

FREE RESOURCES

Ireland:

invasives.ie/resources/check-clean-dry-resources/

Northern Ireland:

invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/check-clean-dry-resources/

Social media

Use your regular social media channels for promotion and add the following hashtags: #CheckCleanDry #InvasiveSpecies #Biosecurity



During an event

You could:

- > Display posters advertising the cleaning station. See p28 for template
- > Make sure event staff are aware of your biosecurity measures so they can inform participants as they arrive
- > Promote location and purpose of the cleaning station regularly
- > Post social media information about the cleaning station
- > Set up an information stand to raise awareness of biosecurity, particularly if visitors and participants will be on site some time before events begin
- > Appoint a Biosecurity Champion to help facilitate biosecurity (for more information visit: invasives.ie/biosecuritychampion)

What type of equipment do you need?

Raising Awareness

Assist participants undertaking of Check Clean Dry and raise general awareness of biosecurity practices and invasive species.

Suggested equipment for raising awareness

- > Folding table
- > Feather banner
- > Pop-up banner
- > Custom hanging banner
- > Printed biosecurity and invasive species information
- > Personal biosecurity kit (see page 25 for more information)
- > A-frame or blackboard to promote location of wash down station



To raise awareness of good biosecurity, just focus on making a small area eye catching that has clear messages of Check Clean Dry.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

You can download a range of free guidance and awareness-raising materials for your local club and events:

Ireland:

invasives.ie/resources/check-clean-dry-resources/

Northern Ireland:

invasivespeciesireland.com/biosecurity-resources/

Step 3:

Run your event

Consider suitable locations for the clean-down station where it will be practical, safe, accessible to clean water and power (if required), and on hard standing, gravel, or grass so any invasive species or contaminated water does not enter a drain.

Limit entry and exit points to the water, to a single point if possible, and set up your clean-down station here so it is highly visible for maximum impact.

Remember to Check Clean Dry

**CHECK
CLEAN
DRY**

Remember to check all your equipment before the event - this will help everything run smoothly on the day.

Try to have at least three marshals running the clean-down station and ensure they know how to use the equipment safely and effectively. [See pages 17 – 19](#) for a cleaning guide.

©Sligo Rowing Club



Step 3:

Run your event

Try to get set up and do a quick run through before races start. This will give you plenty of time for any troubleshooting.



Clean participants equipment



Only use fresh clean water. Washings must be contained on either gravel, hard standing, or grass - don't allow any dirty water to enter the water course or sewers!

Pay particular attention to hard to access areas.

All equipment, including clothing, oars, paddles PFDs, spray skirts and helmets, have the potential to hide invasive species. **CLEAN THEM ALL!**

To help participants understand how and why they should build cleaning into their normal routine, encourage them to use any non-powered equipment at the clean-down station themselves and explain the importance of cleaning.

Ensure participants are aware that kit needs to be thoroughly dried before next use. Some species can live in damp conditions for up to two weeks!



©Pukhov K / Shutterstock



©WaterwaysIreland

Step 4: Follow up



Reflection

It is a good idea to have a team meeting to discuss what went right and what could be improved upon next time.

Feedback

Input from participants can bring about improvements that you may not have considered. This can be achieved by either asking participants to take part in a short survey on the day or sending out forms after.

Considering a permanent biosecurity solution?

Depending on the level of funding, it is worth considering installing a permanent biosecurity station. Having the facilities readily available will help to encourage paddlers to incorporate biosecurity practices into their general routine. By carrying out simple but necessary biosecurity at an individual level, we will increase our ability to protect our waterways and the activities we love, as well as set an example for others to follow (see page 23).



Personal Biosecurity Kit

A personal biosecurity kit is a portable set of basic cleaning equipment that can be carried by an individual. By carrying and using a biosecurity kit, you can help stop the spread of invasive species through prevention.

Putting together a simple, portable biosecurity kit can help you implement everyday measures such as Check Clean Dry, to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species. The following are cheap and easily obtained items to include in personal biosecurity kit:

- > Hard scrubbing brush
- > Hoofpick
- > Quick dry towel
- > Spray bottle (500ml)
- > Washing-up bowl
- > Disinfectant (optional)

Encouraging simple actions, such as Check Clean Dry is essential for the management of invasive species, as individual-scale actions is effective in limiting introductions and spread of invasive species.

WHEN SHOULD I USE DISINFECTANT?

When complete drying is not possible, clothing and equipment can be disinfected.

Note:

- > Read manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper dilution and safe handling
- > Try to immerse your clothing and equipment, for at least 15 minutes
- > If spraying onto gear, undertake away from water's edge and on hard standing ground
- > Please follow manufacturer's guidance on when to replace the disinfectant, as it loses effectiveness over time



© Mayo Sports Partnership



How else can you help?

Invasive Species Week

Take part in the annual Invasive Species Week and help protect the environment and recreational spaces by running activities focused around the issue of invasive species. e.g, run a biosecurity demonstration, host a talk, or share information on your social media channels.

Join a Local Action Group

There is a lot of work happening across the island of Ireland to manage and remove invasive species by Local Action Groups.

Find out what invasive species projects might be going on in your local area to see if you can help through volunteering.

Be Pet Wise

Be responsible by researching before purchasing/adopting your pet. Never release them into the wild, rehome responsibly and prevent escapes.

Removal of Invasive Species

If you are undertaking the removal of invasive species, ensure legal and regulatory compliance for Northern Ireland and Ireland. Research the species you are wanting to remove before taking action to ensure correct management actions are undertaken.

Be Plant Wise

All gardeners can prevent the introduction of invasive species by being familiar with what plants are growing in your garden, don't let them grow outside of your garden and contain and take care when disposing of all garden material





PULL OUT

Pre-event information

You could send out the below information to participants before the event so they have a greater understanding of the aim of the wash-down station and the importance of their involvement. A memorandum of understanding could also be added as part of registration process.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be a biosecurity wash-down station in place at this event. The purpose of the station is to remove invasive species from your equipment to help STOP THE SPREAD.

During the event you may come into contact with and potentially transport environmentally damaging species that can hitchhike on your kit and clothes. The impact of invasive species are so significant that they are considered one of the biggest threats to our precious waters. This damage can cause substantial losses to our native species, increase the risk of flooding, block waterways and impact on your health!

Invasive species can easily be transferred through drops of water and plant fragments stuck to your kit. Some of these species can even live up to 2 weeks in damp conditions.

Please do your bit to protect our precious waterways, it's simple, just remember:



Before you arrive:

Make sure you use the Check, Clean, and Dry method (explained on the attached poster) on all equipment you will be using BEFORE you come to the event, especially if you have used it abroad.

It is very important that if you turn up with damp or dirty kit to allow for extra time before competing to visit the wash down station.

Before you leave:

On completing all your events, please use the wash-down station on all equipment and clothing used during the event. Once you are at home, dry out your equipment for up to 48 hours (sunlight is the best way to kill most invasive non-native species).



ATTENTION COMPETITORS

There are invasive species on site!

When you have finished competing, it is very important
that all boats and equipment are brought to the
biosecurity wash down station located at:

Invasive species can hitch-hike and live in damp conditions on your kit
for up to 2 weeks. If you do not apply the **Check Clean Dry** method you
could unknowingly transfer them to other waterways.

Help us to **Stop the Spread!**

CHECK

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

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can. Pay
particular attention to the inside of your boat and areas
that are damp and hard to access. Where possible
use hot water (>45°) or a high-pressure spray.

DRY

Dry equipment and clothing thoroughly for as long as possible
before using elsewhere as some invasive species can survive for
two weeks in damp conditions. Drain water from every part of
your boat and dry with a sponge or towel before leaving the site.

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

Invasive plants and animals harm our wildlife and environments. They can cause disease, block waterways, interfere with fishing and damage boats. Please stop their spread by following the **Check Clean Dry** code.

**CHECK
CLEAN
DRY**

Protect the environment and sport you enjoy!

Remember to check these places

CHECK

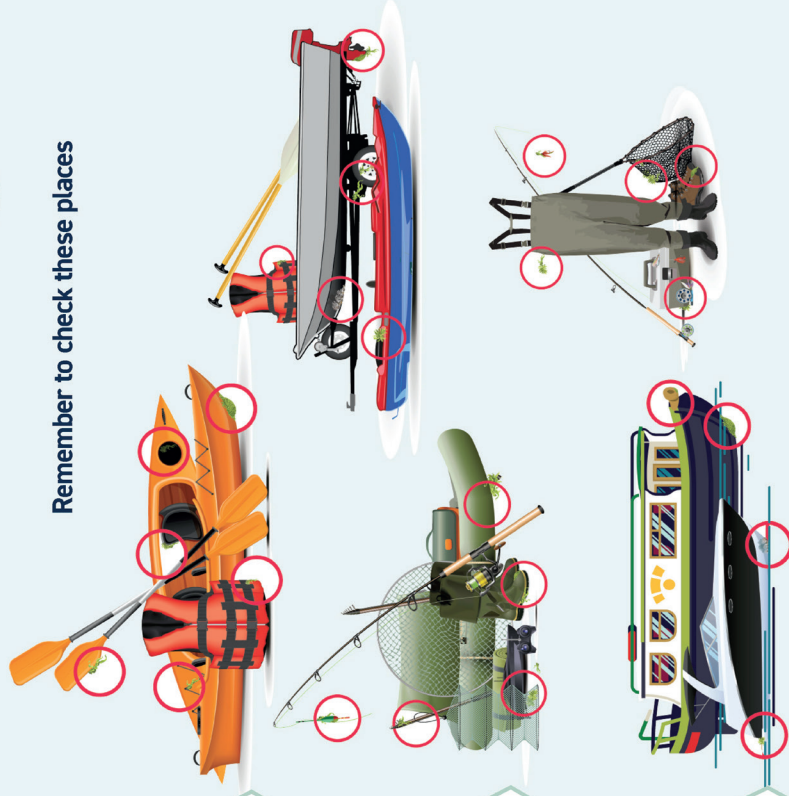
Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can. Pay attention to areas that are damp or hard to access.

DRY

Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere. Some invasive species can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.

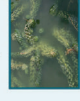


invasives.ie/biosecurity

Report invasive species including:



FISH DISEASES



AFRICAN CURLY
WATERWEED



QUAGGA MUSSEL



An Buidéal Tíreolaíochta
Rialaithe Ádhúl agus Oidhreachtas
Súil Bliantúil
Local Government and Heritage

An tIonad Náisiúnta
Súil Bliantúil
Data Centre

Waterways Ireland
Uiscebhail Éireann Waterways Museum

Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland

Fórsaí na Mara
Marine Institute

Loughs Agency
Uiscebhail na Loughanna

Leave No Trace
Don't Leave a Trace

Local Authority
waters
Water Programme



Harvest with Respect
Harvest Responsibly

**CHECK
CLEAN
DRY**

[illegible]

Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material.



DRY

 **NPWS**
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Mánuirí agus Fiachóirí
National Parks and Wildlife Service



For more information or to record a sighting of an invasive species, scan the QR code here:





Downloads & Resources

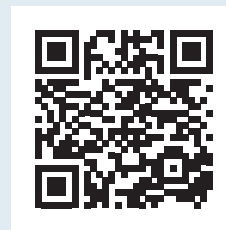
To download these posters and other resources, visit:

Ireland



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

Northern Ireland



<https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/resources/>

CHECK CLEAN DRY

A call to action:

*Water users are key in helping to record
and stop the spread of invasive species*



Ireland: invasives.ie

Northern Ireland: invasivespeciesni.co.uk

National Biodiversity Data Centre,
Beechfield House,
South East Technological University,
West Campus, Carriganore,
Co. Waterford, Ireland. X91 PE03

+353 (0)51 306 240
info@biodiversityireland.ie
biodiversityireland.ie

The National Biodiversity Data Centre CLG is a
Registered Charity. Registered Charity Number:
20206927. Company Registration Number
730718. Funded by The Heritage Council.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



NPWS An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service