



**Inspect**



**Remove**



**Clean**



**Dispose**



**Notify**

Please report sightings to [info@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:info@fisheriesireland.ie)  
[www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/)  
on the IFI Invasive Species App  
or Lo-Call 1890 34 74 24



**STOP!**  
**The spread of  
invasive species and  
harmful pathogens**



**Disinfection of Paddle  
Sports Equipment**





Ireland is replete with quality watercourses that cater for a wide diversity of water user groups. In recent years, paddle sports such as canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding have increased in popularity attracting both local and international enthusiasts to our waterways. Such recreational activities occur in a wide range of aquatic habitat settings throughout the country.

**In order to minimise the risk of introducing invasive species or pathogens to Irish watercourses or the spread of these unwelcome visitors within the country via paddle sports equipment, it is essential that basic biosecurity measures are adhered to. Following each trip, all paddle sports equipment should be routinely inspected, disinfected and thoroughly dried out.**



Paddle sports watercraft and associated equipment are known to facilitate the introduction and spread of environmentally damaging invasive species and fish pathogens. These may be carried from one water body to another as

- hull fouling organisms,
- in bilge water; or
- entangled in equipment exposed to the water.

Such inadvertent introductions of invasive species (e.g. Asian Clam), parasites (e.g. Salmon Fluke) or pathogens can dramatically alter the ecology of receiving watercourses and render them unavailable for recreational and other water-based pursuits. They can also result in a deterioration in water quality and significant fish mortality. Invasive plant species are of particular concern to paddle sports enthusiasts as they can block waterways.



#### **Items of paddle sports equipment that require attention might include:**

Canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards; clothing including wet suits, cags, personal flotation devices, spray skirts, helmets, leashes and paddles.

Prior to leaving any location following a trip, you should:

- **Drain** water from watercraft.
- **Inspect** watercraft (inside and out) and other gear. **Remove** and safely dispose of all attached plant and animal material, mud or debris.
- **Spray** or **clean** watercraft with disinfectant or **power-hose** with heated water (60°C).
- **Rinse** and **dry** all gear thoroughly.
- Where practicable, a volume of **disinfectant** should be poured into the watercraft and gear **disinfected** by immersion using a 1% solution of Virkon® Aquatic or other proprietary disinfectant with a contact time of at least 15 minutes.

Dr Joe Caffrey  
Senior Research Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland  
March 2014

*Protective gloves should always be worn when handling disinfectant and the manufacturers' guidelines should be rigorously adhered to. Ensure chosen disinfectant does not have the potential to degrade the material integrity of the item being disinfected.*