



Inspect



Remove



Clean



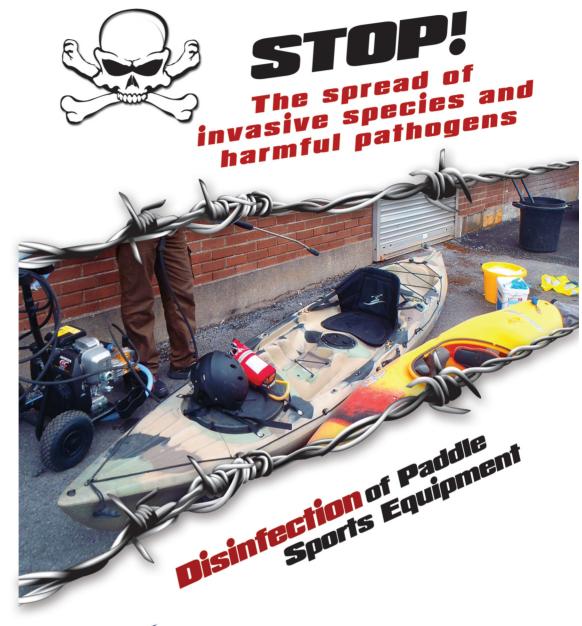
Dispose



Notif4

Please report sightings to info@fisheriesireland.ie www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/ on the IFI Invasive Species App or Lo-Call 1890 34 74 24











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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.

