



Inspect



Remove



Clean



Dispose



Notify

CAISIE is the acronym for the 'Control of Aquatic Invasive Species and the Restoration of Natural Communities in Ireland' and forms part of the European Commissions Life+ funded programme which is the Financial Instrument for the Environment. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are co-financiers.

The primary purpose of the project is to control and possibly eradicate aquatic invasive species in Lough Corrib and on the Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation. The project commenced in September 2009 with the scheduled for completion of January 2013.

Raising awareness through stakeholder engagement is key to the success of this project.

Please report sightings to info@caisie.ie
www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/
www.caisie.ie or FREEPHONE 1890 34 74 24



This project is funded by the EU Commissions Life+ Programme ©

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



**Disinfection of Boats
and Boating Equipment**



Ireland is replete with quality watercourses that cater for a wide diversity of water user groups. In recent years an extensive navigation network for cruisers and other pleasure craft has been created and this is attracting enthusiasts from all over the globe. Facilities for operators of small craft, including angling boats, powerboats, jet skis, sailing craft, kayaks, rowing boats and canoes, are also readily available in a wide range of aquatic habitat settings throughout the country.

Boats and other watercraft 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 or wet well water; or
- entangled on trailers, outboard motors or anchor chains and ropes.

Such inadvertent introductions of invasive species or pathogens can dramatically alter the ecology of receiving watercourses and render them unavailable for navigation or any other water-based pursuit. They can also result in a deterioration in water quality and significant fish mortality.

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 watercraft, it is essential that basic biosecurity measures are adhered to.



Standard Cleaning and Disinfection Measures

For motorised watercraft that remain in the water for long periods

For some watercraft operators it is impractical or undesirable to remove their boat from the water during the boating season and some choose to leave their boats in the water for even longer periods. Good biosecurity practice for these boaters involves the following:

- Regularly spray or clean the exposed part of the hull, the bilge area including any livewells or baitwells, the deck and any fixed equipment with a 1% solution of Virkon® Aquatic (or another proprietary disinfectant). The bilge pump should be used to expel any residual disinfectant solution.
- Before moving from one watercourse to another (e.g. River Shannon to Grand Canal), stop the boat and visually inspect the hull, exposed engine parts and any other possible sources of contamination for attached plant or animal material or debris. Remove and safely dispose of this before proceeding. Much of the material can be composted or removed to a municipal recycling centre.

- Clean and disinfect any livewells, baitwells or other likely sources of contaminant water.
- Flush the bilge with disinfectant solution before proceeding.
- When the boat is removed from the water, ensure that the cleaning and disinfection measures listed below are adhered to.

For watercraft that are removed from the water after use

These measures should be routinely operated where a boat or other craft is being removed from a watercourse, whether for safe storage or for transfer to another watercourse.

On removal, visually **inspect** all surfaces and equipment that have been exposed to the water. **Remove** and safely **dispose** of all attached plant and animal material, mud or associated debris from the boat, exposed engine parts and trailer. Drain all water from the boat, livewells, baitwells, anchor recess and bilge. **Clean** and **disinfect** the boat and all equipment that was used while the boat was afloat.

The specific cleaning and disinfection procedures that should be followed for various classes of craft include:

Motorised Watercraft

- Ideally, the trailer, hull, bilge area including any livewells or baitwells, deck and any fixed equipment should be sprayed with a 1% solution of Virkon® Aquatic (or another proprietary disinfectant). The bilge pump (in larger craft) should be used to expel any residual disinfectant solution.
- Alternatively, the trailer, hull, bilge area including any livewells or baitwells, deck and any fixed equipment should be power-hosed with heated water (60 °C/140° F) and residual water cleared using the bilge pump.
- Where an outboard motor is used, the cooling system should be flushed out with the Virkon® solution or another proprietary disinfectant.
- Other equipment used in the boat, including oars, row locks, anchors, ropes, buoys, fishing tackle and personal protective equipment (PPE), should be sprayed or cleaned with a 1% solution of Virkon® Aquatic (or another proprietary disinfectant) and left to dry.

Non-motorised Watercraft (e.g. canoes, kayaks, small sailing boats)

- These craft should be sprayed or thoroughly cleaned both inside and out using a 1% solution of Virkon® Aquatic (or another proprietary disinfectant).
- Where practical, a volume of disinfection solution should be poured into the interior of the craft and all associated equipment and PPE used in the boating activity immersed to ensure a contact time with the disinfectant of at least 15 minutes.
- Where it is not possible to fill the craft, the associated equipment and PPE should be cleaned with the disinfection solution.

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Protective gloves should always be worn when handling disinfectant and the manufacturers' guidelines should be rigorously adhered to.