

A few examples of the invasive plants and animals that could become a serious problem in our marine environment:

CARPET SEA SQUIRT

While each individual is tiny (1 mm long), carpet sea squirt grows in colonies which can cover several square kilometres. These colonies crowd out native marine species and are a nuisance for boat owners as they cover the underside of boats.



WAKAME

This large fast-growing seaweed forms drifting mats which can clog marinas and recreational areas, covers the underside of boats and harbour structures, and outcompetes native marine species.



SLIPPER LIMPET

Slipper limpets form chains and stacks which can contain up to 15 individuals. They can starve and smother native shellfish and be a serious pest of oyster and mussel beds.



STOP THE SPREAD

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at:

<http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/>



NI  **A**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland
**Environment
Agency**



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Photos from Natural Resources Wales and CB NNSS.



**Invasive plants and
animals damage boats and
harm the marine environment**
**Don't spread them
on your boat**

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Invasive plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced accidentally to British waters. Over twenty marine species have already been found, and the number of new arrivals is increasing rapidly.

They cause serious environmental problems that can be irreversible – outcompeting native wildlife, damaging ecosystems, and spreading disease. They can also be a nuisance for boat owners by fouling hard surfaces, including hulls, and damaging boats.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats, equipment and clothing. **Protect the marine environment and sport you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals.**

STOP THE SPREAD

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your boat abroad to make sure you don't bring any plants or animals back with you.

Make sure everything is clean and has been dried thoroughly before you use it again at home.

Remember to check these places

CHECK

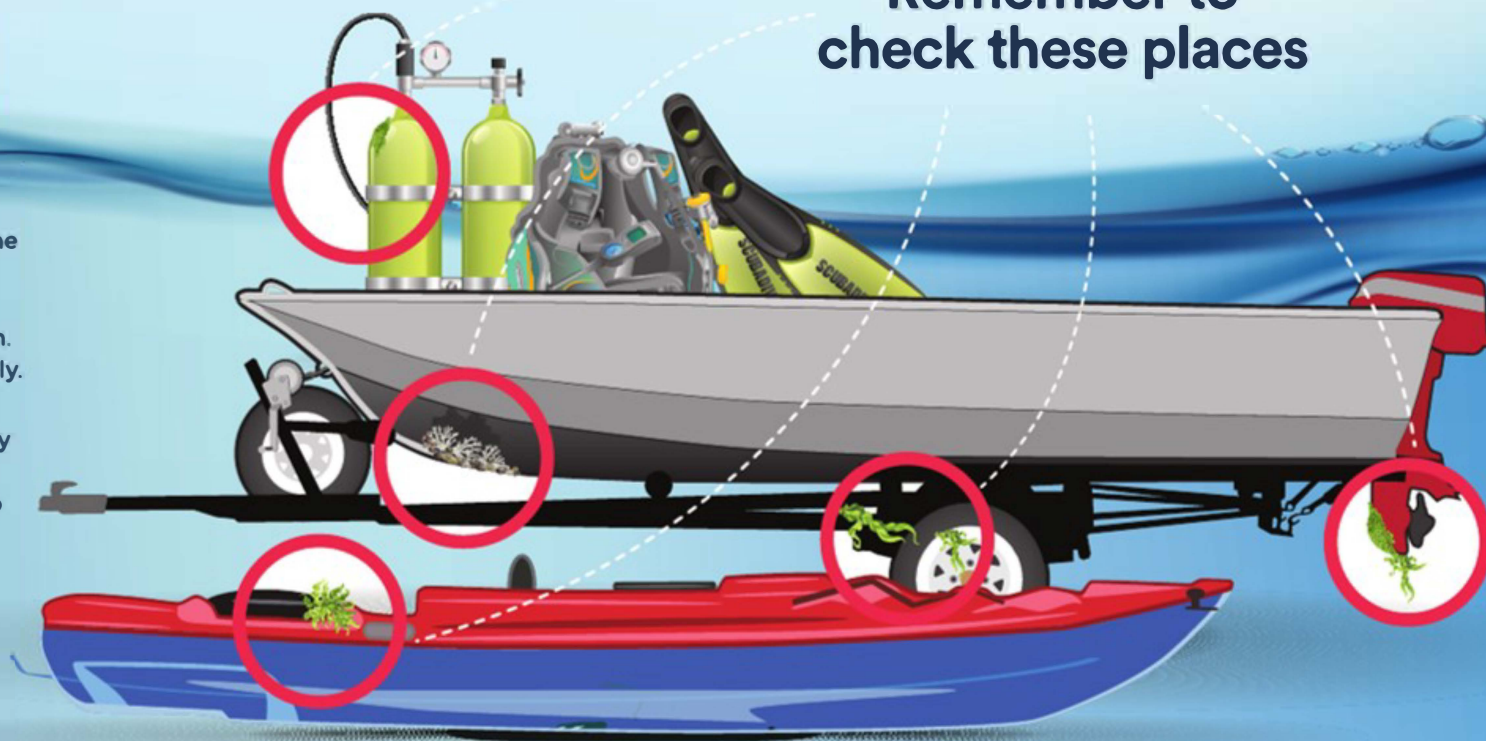
Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for fouling or plant material. Remove anything you find and put it in the bin. Reapply anti-fouling annually.

CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly with freshwater as soon as you can, paying attention to ropes, bilges, trailers, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Wash your anchor and chain before leaving an anchorage.

DRY

Dry - drain water from every part of your trailer and boat, including the bilge, before leaving the site. Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere.



You can request free **Check Clean Dry** awareness-raising materials for your club from <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/>