

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

FISH DISEASES

Diseases such as Koi Herpes Virus (pictured) kill fish and can close fisheries.



FLOATING PENNYWORT

Freshwater plants like floating pennywort can block up rivers and lakes interfering with fishing. Floating pennywort is not yet widespread in Northern Ireland but if not stopped from spreading and controlled now, it will could cost £millions to manage, like parts of Britain and Europe.



SIGNAL CRAYFISH

Signal crayfish can be carriers of the 'crayfish plague', which has been recorded in a number of rivers in the Republic of Ireland. It is fatal to our native white clawed crayfish and can be easily spread between water bodies. Signal crayfish can also weaken riverbanks impacting flood defenses, public walkways and access to waterways.



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 EA | Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Photos from Trevor Renals, GBNNSS and the Environment Agency.

Going fishing?



Diseases and invasive plants
and animals kill fish
and block waterways
**Don't spread them
on your kit**

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Invasive plants and animals from all over the world have been introduced accidentally to Northern Ireland waters. Over fifty different species have already been found in our lakes, rivers, and other waterways, and the number of new arrivals is increasing rapidly.

They cause serious environmental problems that can be irreversible – killing fish by spreading diseases and reducing the oxygen levels of the water, outcompeting other native wildlife, and damaging ecosystems. Invasive plants also clog up waterways, making it hard to fish and increasing the risk of flooding.

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

CHECK

Check your gear 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, paying attention to nets, waders, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible.

DRY

Dry everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

STOP THE SPREAD

It's even more important to **Check Clean Dry** if you're taking your kit 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



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/>