

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

FLOATING PENNYWORT

Freshwater plants like floating pennywort can block waterways by restricting navigation and clogging up ponds and lakes. This species is not yet widespread in Northern Ireland but if not controlled now, by stopping its spread, as in parts of Britain and Europe it has resulted in costing £millions to manage.



ASIAN CLAM

The Asian clam can have major negative impacts in our water bodies potentially damaging native invertebrates, nutrient levels, salmonid spawning grounds and freshwater pearl mussel habitat.



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/>





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 GBNNSS



Invasive plants and animals block waterways and harm the 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 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 – out-competing native wildlife, damaging ecosystems, and spreading disease. They can also clog propellers and damage boats, and block up waterways restricting navigation and increasing the risk of flooding.

They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp boats, equipment and clothing. **Protect the environment and fishing 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.

CHECK

Check boats, equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site. Reapply anti-fouling annually.

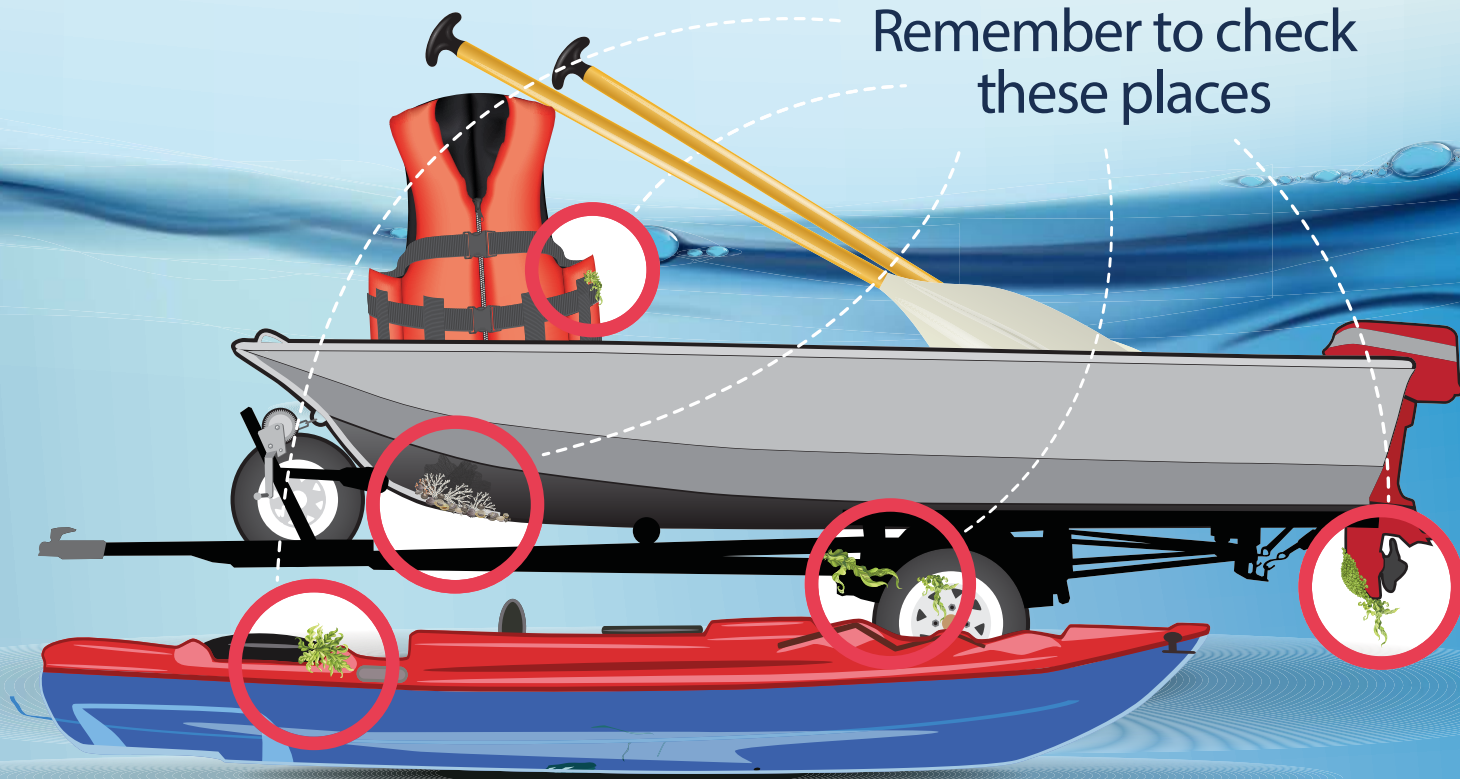
CLEAN

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to ropes, bilges, trailers, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if you can.

DRY

Dry - drain water from every part of your boat and trailer before leaving the site. Dry everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

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/>