

Just a few of the species that could cause problems in our inland waters:



Killer Shrimp

This freshwater shrimp (up to 3cm long) is a predator of other invertebrates. It can survive up to 15 days in damp conditions.



Zebra Mussel

A small freshwater mussel (2-4cm long) which can alter whole ecosystems by forming dense colonies and filtering vast amounts of water.



Carpet Sea Squirt

This sea animal is native to Japan. In British waters it can form dense mats on marine structures and smother local marine life.



Fish diseases

Fish diseases and pests cause extensive suffering and death of fish. They may lead to closure of fisheries.



Isle of Man  
Government

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

To report sightings of invasive aquatic species or fish diseases email [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im) or telephone 01624 685857



For more information go to [www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)



# KEEP INVASIVE SPECIES AND FISH DISEASES OUT



Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species or diseases on your water sports equipment and craft?

**Invasive plants and animals can harm the environment, block up waterways, prevent watersports and damage boats. Please help to stop the spread:**

**CHECK**

Check your equipment and clothing for living plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect. Before relocating any watercraft, drain every part that can hold water. Dispose of any plants and animals at the site where you found them.

**CLEAN**

Clean and wash all equipment, inside and out. Use a pressure washer and hot water where possible. Flush out engines following manufacturers instructions. Don't forget to clean ropes, anchors, trailers, paddles and other accessories. Remove visible fouling from your boat regularly.

**DRY**

After washing, drain then dry all equipment thoroughly - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. **Watercraft should be dried for at least 5 days before using elsewhere.** Don't transfer any water from site to site, even within the Isle of Man

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Some serious freshwater fish diseases are present in the UK but have not yet reached the Isle of Man. The Island has an excellent fish health status that is recognised internationally. This is important for the Island's fish populations and aquaculture industry.

Zebra mussels have invaded lakes throughout England, Wales and Ireland. They can block pipes and water treatment works. The cost of protecting one water works in the UK was over £100,000. Boats are thought to be the main way they are transferred. Adult mussels can survive out of water for several weeks and their larvae can live in water in bilges and hatches

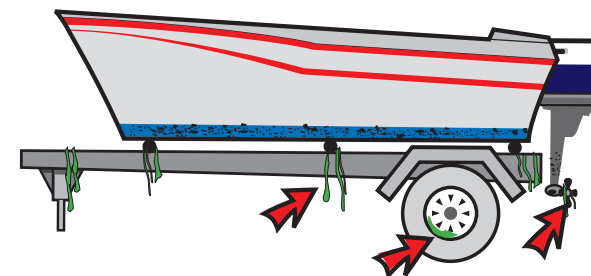
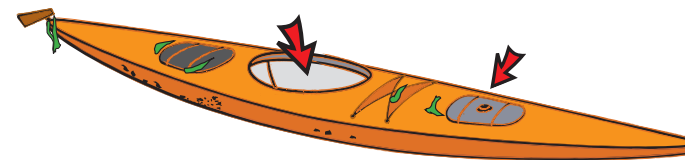
Some invasive species are already present on the Isle of Man. Japanese knotweed can cause damage to roads or buildings and is a problem on some riverbanks. New Zealand stonecrop, a weed that can grow out of control, has been found in some ponds and reservoirs. It is important to stop these species spreading.



New Zealand Stonecrop

The carpet sea squirt has been found in Irish Sea marinas and loughs, but not yet in the Isle of Man. It causes serious fouling of boats and harbours and can impact on fish spawning grounds and shellfish. Controlling it in a harbour may cost tens of thousands of pounds a year, but doing nothing can cost even more.

**Remember to check and clean these places**



Most water sports enthusiasts take precautions to avoid spreading invasive species and diseases. But if you don't you could accidentally spread these organisms. This could harm the environment, put local businesses at risk and potentially damage the reputation of your sport.

For local advice call 01624 685857.

Note that written approval from Manx Utilities is required for all water-based activity on the Island's reservoirs.

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