



THE VOICE OF ANGLING

## Biosecurity for Angling Clubs, Associations and Syndicates

**Here is a list of recommendations for you to consider that may help protect your fisheries from invasive non- native species that can, and do, devastate fisheries.**

- Make all your members aware of the Stop the Spread campaign based on the `Check, Clean, Dry` guidance.
- Check out the NNSS (non-native species secretariat) website at: [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org) Follow the links to see the latest news on the latest threats (such as killer shrimps). Also use this website to download and print off the Check, Clean, Dry posters that can be given to your members and be displayed at access points, car parking areas and fishing huts etc.
- If you have a club committee (or similar controlling group) appoint a Biosecurity Officer. Their role would be to monitor the threats regularly and keep up-to-date on the latest recommended biosecurity methods so you are always following “best practice” based on the latest sound science from the likes of the NNSS and EA (or SEPA in Scotland). Additionally, if you share a river system with other fishing clubs then they need to be contacted so you can all follow the same principles on biosecurity issues.
- If you have a club website then have a prominent link to the NNSS website so that members are reminded where important information can be found.
- If your club water is just on one still water or river system encourage your members to have one set of waders, boots, nets, boat drogues etc. that are used only on your water and not taken to other venues. This in addition to habitually following the Clean, Check Dry guidance.
- If you have several waters on different river systems then insist that all members follow the Check, Clean, Dry guidelines when moving from one venue to the next.

- Where the Check, Clean, Dry guidelines cannot be followed fully (for instance due to the amount of time that it takes to completely dry items like waders, nets and boots) then wet waders, gravel guards, nets and boots etc. can be rinsed in a large bucket (or buckets if the kit will not fit in one) of hot tap water (45°C or over) and left to bathe for at least fifteen minutes. This should help ensure, at the very least, that any larger organisms like shrimps are killed.
- Members must be made responsible not just for their own biosecurity BUT that of their guests too.
- If day tickets are issued to non-members then some means must be put in place to check the waders, boots and nets etc. of visitors and if found not fully clean and dry then some kind of approved disinfection system should be used. Different options like the use of `Vikon S` can be discussed with your local EA (or SEPA) office, however at the moment (November 2012) there is no recommended disinfectant that can be used to destroy killer shrimps – hopefully this problem will be resolved soon.
- If you allow Fishing Guides, Instructors or Gillies to operate on your waters then you must insist that they follow all biosecurity measures and that they are made responsible the biosecurity for any clients they bring along (these could be new to the sport and not yet aware of the problems and issues caused by invasive non-native species). Anglers, like most groups, hate change but we must do so and lead by example if we are to protect our much loved sport and the waters we fish. Hopefully, with time, biosecurity will just become part of the culture and be as common place as washing your hands before handling food or putting on a seat belt before driving.

Think carefully on what can be done, but doing nothing should not be an option.

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