

Check Clean Dry for your fishing boat and gear

The unwanted organism freshwater gold clam has been found in the **Waikato River system from Lake Maraetai (Mangakino) and downstream** (as at 1 August 2023).

There are **new requirements** for how to Check Clean Dry your boat and gear so you do not spread this or any other invasive species around when you train or compete. Then you won't accidentally take a nasty hitchhiker with you.

Note – the clam can survive in brackish waters.



<p>I may move from the Waikato River system to fish in another lake, river or estuary</p>	<p>Firstly – consider the option of borrowing gear or using a second set of gear at the location where you intend to go. If that's not possible, go to the next box below.</p>
<p>I will next fish in another lake, river or estuary, OR</p> <p>I will next fish upstream of Lake Maraetai (Lake Whakamaru through to Lake Taupō)</p> <p>I have absorbent materials – such as waders, wader boots, anchor rope, fly line, carpet on the boat trailer.</p> <p><i>Note: It is not legal to use felt-soled waders for fishing in New Zealand.</i></p>	<p>CHECK and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the lake or river. Drain river or lake water, including removing bungs.</p> <p>Then to CLEAN for invasives that are invisible (eg juvenile clams, algae, fish eggs, weed fragments):</p> <p>Blast your fishing gear and boat inside and out with a hose, using tap-water and onto grass, beside the waterway or at home and not into a stormwater drain system.</p> <p>And, for absorbent materials, that stay wet longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soak in hot water above 60°C for at least 1 minute, or between 50–54°C (hot household tap-water) for at least 5 minutes, or above 45°C for at least 20 minutes. OR • Mix household bleach in a 10% (1 in 10) ratio with water and immerse for 1 hour. OR • Freeze it until solid (overnight). <p><i>Note – Spray a stronger bleach mix on carpeted areas that won't dry.</i></p> <p>DRY areas inside the boat where water has pooled with an old towel. The hull dries when towed. Then leave the boat to dry for as long as possible – to reduce survival. And you are good to go.</p>
<p>I have a boxed-section trailer...</p>	<p>In addition to other actions listed, stop on the ramp or drive up slowly, to let the boxed sections drain. Then, at home, put a tap-water hose up into the sections under a bit of pressure, draining onto grass and not into a stormwater drain system.</p>
<p>I am only fishing at Lake Maraetai (Mangakino) or downstream...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams, and then you are good to go.</p>
<p>I am not going to use this boat or gear any time in the next 10 days...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams; pull out the bung and drain or dry any remaining pooled water, and then let it all completely dry.</p>

24 August 2023