

Lake snow spreads

Only weeks from the start of the new freshwater fishing season, the invasive pest lake snow has been discovered in more North Island lakes.

In mid-winter, it was confirmed the microscopic algae – known as *Lindavia intermedia* - had been found in the Waikato and Manawatū-Whanganui regions for the first time.

In the South Island, the algae has developed into mucus-like strings known as lake snow or lake snot. While it is not a known health threat, it can clog fishing and boating equipment.

The algae is already confirmed in Lake Taupo, Lake Rotoaira and Lake Waikaremoana.

Testing by Horizons and Waikato Regional Council have now found it in three other Waikato lakes - Karāpiro, Ohakuri and Waipapa, although the pest's abundance is said to be low.

Fish & Game says the discovery is unwelcome and is urging all its fishing and hunting licence holders to be vigilant cleaning their equipment after a day out on the water.

It is urging anglers to report anything that looks like lake snow to the Ministry for Primary Industry's pest hotline: 0800 99 66.

The Check, Clean and Dry methods used for didymo are also appropriate to prevent the spread of *Lindavia intermedia* or lake snow. For more details, look here www.mpi.govt.nz/check-clean-dry