

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES: SHRIMP & MUSSEL



The presence of invasive non-native species in the UK results in significant negative impacts on the environment, economy, and possibly human health.



ANGLING TRUST
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Background

Invasive non-native species are any animal, plant or disease that has been introduced to a new area outside of its native range, either intentionally or accidentally, by humans. Their presence results in significant negative impacts on the environment, economy and/or human health. They represent one of the top five drivers for biodiversity loss worldwide and the number of invasive species being introduced into the UK continues to grow due to accelerating human travel and trade.

Here we look at the impact of invasive Ponto-Caspian mussels and shrimps.

Why it matters

The Ponto-Caspian region presents a major source of invasive non-native species into the UK. During the 1990s, the increased connection of major rivers and canals to facilitate shipping has resulted in the spread of species from eastern Europe (Caspian and Black Sea region) into western Europe. Some of these species such as Killer Shrimps and Quagga Mussels have already invaded the UK. There are a further 20 species present in Western Europe (Netherlands, Belgium and France) that are not currently established in the UK. These species present a major threat to native fish populations and angling.

Invasive shrimp predate on native invertebrates, fish eggs and alter the composition of the food web. Mussels can produce large clusters that cover gravel and other substrate and can cause significant changes to the aquatic environment, altering food availability by filtering small organisms and nutrients from the water column.

A key concern for this group of invasive species is the possibility of an invasion meltdown. As these species co-evolved in the same environment, they are adapted to live amongst one another. The presence of one of these invasive species is therefore likely to make it easier for another to establish. Unless effective measures are

implemented to prevent new invasions, there is the risk that our native fauna and flora will be lost and will be replaced with a few dominant Ponto-Caspian species.

What is the Angling Trust doing?

The Angling Trust sits on a variety of national working groups to tackle invasive species and improve best biosecurity practice.

We regularly hold training and information workshops, both online and via our regional forums, and updates on the Check Clean Dry project are available on our invasive non-native species webpage.

We promote the Check Clean Dry campaign and provide advice and guidance to clubs on how to improve biosecurity at their waters. Clubs can receive advice on how to manage invasive non-native species and improve biosecurity at their site from our two Environment Officers:

- Ian Doyle, Environment Officer North - ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net
- Drew Chadwick, Environment Officer South - andrew.chadwick@anglingtrust.net



How can you help?

By joining the Angling Trust, you can support our work on the management and removal of invasive shrimp and mussels, as part of our broader work on invasive non-native species.

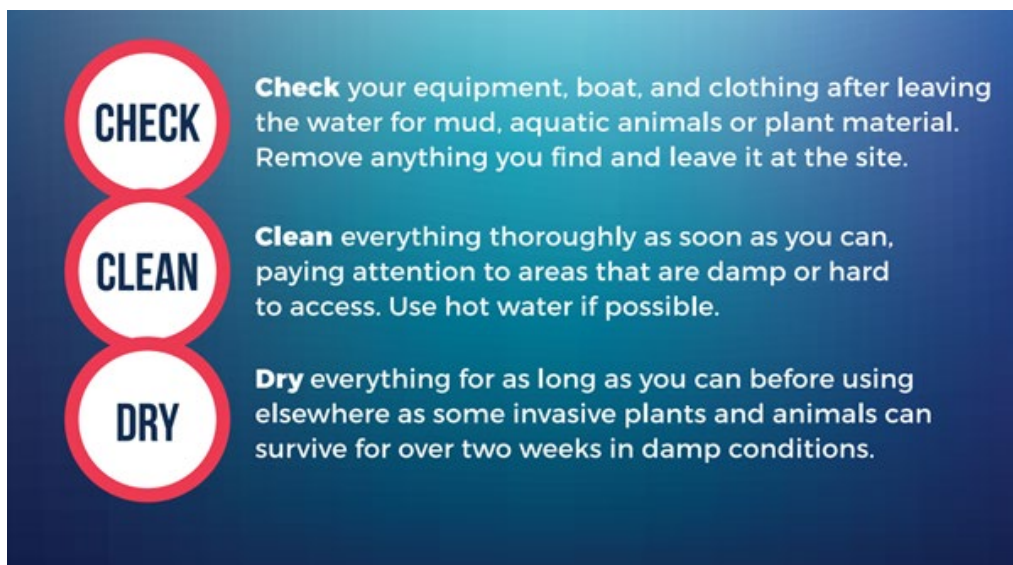
It is important to ensure you take action to protect biosecurity and follow the advice given as part of the Check Clean Dry code:

Check your gear after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals, or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to nets, waders, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible.

Dry everything for as long as possible before using it elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

If you come across anything suspicious it is also important to take a photo, note your location and report it through [iRecord](#).



The infographic features three vertically stacked red circles on the left, each containing a white word: 'CHECK', 'CLEAN', and 'DRY'. To the right of each circle is a corresponding paragraph of text. The background is a dark blue gradient.

CHECK	Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.
CLEAN	Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if possible.
DRY	Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.

Thank You!

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IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ANGLING TRADE AND WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED BY EMAILING JOHN.CHEYNE@ANGLINGTRUST.NET



ANGLING TRUST

We are a not-for-profit organisation representing anglers, fighting for fish, fishing and the environment. We are recognised by the Government as the National Governing Body for angling in England and partner with Visit Wales and Natural Resources Wales to promote Fishing in Wales. We are a member-based organisation made up of anglers of all disciplines providing a united front to represent, grow and protect our sport. By becoming a member of the Angling Trust you are helping to protect the waterways you fish in and the fish which live within them, ensuring their health and protection for future generations.

[Click here for more information about how to join the Angling Trust](#)

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