

Stop the Spread of Invasive Species

Disinfection of Angling Equipment

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and fish parasites or diseases are readily transferred from one watercourse to another on angling tackle, boats and protective clothing. These can be very damaging to resident fish stocks, the aquatic habitat and the general environment. In order to ensure that invasive species and fish diseases are not inadvertently transferred into Ireland's waters from abroad or within the country from an infested water body to one that is free from these organisms, it is essential that all angling equipment is routinely inspected and disinfected following each fishing trip.

Items of angling equipment that require attention might include:

protective clothing, including wellingtons and waders; boats, outboard motors and trailers; float tubes; rods, reels and line; and landing nets, keep nets, stink bags, weed rakes and unhooking mats.

Prior to leaving any watercourse following a fishing trip, the angler should routinely visually **Inspect** all equipment that has been used in or exposed to the water. **Remove** and safely **Dispose** of all attached plant or animal material. **Clean** and **Disinfect** the equipment at the water's edge or later, as appropriate, making reference to the suggestions below.

The best method of disinfection is drying thoroughly in direct sunlight, optimally for 48 hours.

Protective Clothing

- Clean, wash or disinfect (e.g. 1% solution of Virkon Aquatic or another proprietary disinfection product) all articles of clothing.
- Footwear should be dipped in disinfectant solution (e.g. 1% solution of Virkon Aquatic or another proprietary disinfection product) and thoroughly dried afterwards.

Angling Tackle

- Rods should be sprayed or wiped down with a cloth soaked in an appropriate disinfectant solution (e.g. 1% solution of Virkon Aquatic or another proprietary disinfection product), rinsed with clean water and dried.
- Spools and line should be immersed in disinfectant solution for 10 minutes, after which they should be rinsed in clean water and dried. Alternatively, they should be soaked in a bucket of hot water (at least 60 ° C/140° F) and then dried.
- Lures and floats should be immersed in disinfectant solution for 10 minutes, after which they should be rinsed in clean water and dried. Alternatively, they should be soaked in a bucket of hot water (at least 60 ° C/140° F) and then dried.



Nets, Storage Bags and Mats

- Landing nets, keep nets and stink bags should be thoroughly dried in direct sunlight for 48 hours following each fishing trip. Alternatively, they should be immersed in disinfectant solution (e.g. 1% solution of Virkon Aquatic or another proprietary disinfection product). They should then be rinsed in clean water and left to dry.
- Weed rakes and rope should be immersed in disinfectant solution following each fishing trip and thoroughly dried afterwards.
- Unhooking mats should be visually inspected, cleaned and washed with disinfectant solution.



Boats, Outboard Motors and Trailers

- Visually inspect the boat, outboard motor and trailer once this equipment has been removed from the water. Remove all adherent plant and animal material and dispose of in sealed bags.
- Visually inspect and thoroughly clean the anchor, ropes and any other equipment used in the boat during the angling trip. These should also be immersed in disinfectant solution (e.g. 1% solution of Virkon Aquatic or another proprietary disinfection product) and dried thereafter.
- Drain all water from the boat and from the outboard motor before moving to a different waterbody.
- Where possible, power hose the interior and exterior of the boat using heated water (60 °C/140° F). Where this is not possible, the boat should be washed before leaving the catchment and not reintroduced to any water for a period of 5 days.
- Cooling water should be drained from the outboard motor and, where possible, it should be flushed with disinfectant solution.



Protective gloves should always be worn when handling disinfectant and the manufacturers' guidelines should be rigorously adhered to.

To learn more about invasive species, refer to www.caisie.ie