

# Waikato Check Clean Dry update for coach boats

The unwanted organism freshwater gold clam has been found in the Waikato River, so there are new guidelines for how to Check Clean Dry your boat and gear to ensure you do not spread this or any other invasive species around when you move. Then you won't accidentally take a nasty hitchhiker with you.

The furthest upstream confirmed find (as at 1 August 2023) is at Lake Maraetai, Mangakino, so please treat the locations further upstream of that as not infested with this new-to-New Zealand organism. Note – the clam can survive in brackish waters.



<p>Our club is <b>only using this boat and gear at Lake Maraetai (Mangakino) or downstream...</b></p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams, and then you are good to go.</p>
<p>We are using this boat and gear in <b>another lake, river or estuary</b></p>	<p><b>Firstly</b> – consider the option of borrowing gear at the location where you intend to go. If that's not possible, see the box below.</p>
<p>We are using this boat and gear in <b>another lake, river or estuary, or</b></p> <p>I am using this boat and gear in the Waikato River system upstream of <b>Lake Maraetai (Mangakino)</b></p> <p><b>We have absorbent materials</b> (lifejacket, wetsuit, booties, anchor rope).</p>	<p>Pull the boat out and put the motor down – run motor for 15 seconds to drain any water.</p> <p><b>CHECK</b> and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the site. Drain river or lake water, including removing the bung so the bilge water can drain.</p> <p>Then to <b>CLEAN</b> it for invasives that are invisible (eg juvenile clams, algae, fish eggs, weed fragments :</p> <p>Blast your 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. Include a washdown of any other equipment in the boat.</p> <p>For <b>absorbent materials</b>, that stay wet longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. <b>Or</b></li> <li>• Mix household bleach in a 10% (1 in 10) ratio with water and immerse for 1 hour. <b>Or</b></li> <li>• Freeze it all until solid (overnight).</li> </ul> <p><b>DRY</b> areas inside the boat where water has pooled with an old towel. The outside of the hull dries when towed.</p> <p>Then leave the boat to dry to touch, inside and out, and then completely dry for 48 hours.</p>
<p>Our boat trailer is <b>made of boxed sectioned steel...</b></p>	<p>In addition to other actions listed, stop on the ramp to <b>let the boxed sections drain</b>, or drive slowly up the ramp.</p> <p>At home, <b>put a tap-water hose up into the sections</b> under a bit of pressure to rinse them out, on grass and not into a stormwater drain.</p>
<p>We are <b>not going to use</b> this boat or gear any time <b>in the next 10 days...</b></p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams; pull out the bung; drain or dry any remaining pooled water, and then let it all <b>completely dry</b>.</p>

17 August 2023