



Check Clean Dry update: Winter 2015

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Killer Shrimp (The Environment Agency)

In October 2014 Quagga Mussel *Dreissena bugensis* (below) was found in Britain. While only the size of a thumbnail, Quagga Mussels have an incredible filtering capacity and ability to produce dense populations. As a result they can significantly reduce native biodiversity and alter the balance of life in freshwater ecosystems. They can also become a very expensive nuisance when growing in the pipes of water treatment plants or on commercial ships!



Quagga Mussel (David Aldridge, Cambridge University)

Since Quagga Mussel arrived, **Check Clean Dry** stakeholders have been hard at work promoting

Background

Check Clean Dry was launched in March 2011, following the discovery of Killer Shrimp, to raise awareness of the risk posed by aquatic invasive species and provide simple biosecurity guidance for recreational water users. A range of stakeholders including non-government organisations, local action groups and government agencies have been helping to support the campaign.

biosecurity to prevent this and other species from spreading.

In 2013 the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (NNSS) sent out 6500 **Check Clean Dry** materials to stakeholders (leaflets, posters, stickers etc), while in 2014 the total number was over 53,000! In addition, over 2500 **Check Clean Dry** signs have been installed at waterbodies across Britain to remind water users how to prevent the spread of invasive species. **Check Clean Dry** depends on support from stakeholders, read on for a brief selection of some of their work.

Check Clean Dry does Winterwatch!

If you were tuned into Winterwatch on the 21st January you'll have seen Mark Owen, Freshwater Campaigns Manager at the Angling Trust, teaching Chris Packham how to **Check Clean Dry** to prevent the spread of Signal Crayfish and other aquatic invasive species. Viewing figures for the programme were 2.1 million!



The Angling Trust are strong supporters of **Check Clean Dry**. Educational materials have been sent to all 1500 of their clubs reaching over 300,000 anglers, they have helped to install over 600 biosecurity signs at

angling lakes and promoted the campaign at large public events including the CLA Game Fair.

Mark recently produced an EU Code of Conduct on Angling, containing information on **Check Clean Dry**. The Code of Conduct has been endorsed by the European Commission and will be pushed out through the EU Anglers Alliance.

HRH The Princess Royal at the London Boat Show!

The Green Blue, an environmental awareness programme set up by the British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), recently attended the London Boat Show. Their stand showcasing the growing issue of non-native species found in UK waters was visited by HRH The Princess Royal (RYA President)!



RYA / Emily Whiting

Jane Swan, The Green Blue Project Manager, said *"We were thrilled to receive a visit from HRH The Princess Royal. As a keen sailor, she was very interested in the species on display, whether it was possible to eradicate them once established in the UK, how boaters were being made aware of how to recognise them and what action they should take"*

The RYA are also promoting **Check Clean Dry** to their members, by including articles in their member magazine and website, building information on invasive species into instructor packs for all of their courses, and fixing **Check Clean Dry** stickers to over 300 of their boats.

Training the trainers

With the help of South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Canoe England recently held a biosecurity workshop for fifteen of their coaches to enable them to provide training for local canoe clubs and groups, and at coaching events. The workshop received so much interest that they are already planning a second.



In partnership with The Green Blue, they have produced posters (above) for all their affiliated clubs

and centres, encouraging canoeists to **Check Clean Dry** and persuaded retailers to apply **Check Clean Dry** stickers to canoes and kayaks on sale!

Biosecurity in action

When Killer Shrimp was first discovered in Britain at Grafham Water, a 50 million m³ public water reservoir attracting 250,000 recreational water users a year, Anglian Water worked closely with the Environment Agency to prevent it from spreading. Biosecurity measures were put in place at the site including Shrimp Alley (below), with wash down facilities for boats and equipment.



Anglian Water continue to promote biosecurity on their sites and to their customers. Have a look at a [blog post](#) they have written for **Invasives week!**

Wraysbury reservoir, one of the first sites where Quagga Mussel was discovered last October, is owned by Thames Water. Following this discovery they have been working hard to raise awareness of this species by installing biosecurity signs on site, promoting **Check Clean Dry** and working with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water to learn from their experience with the Killer Shrimp.

E-learning

In partnership with Natural England, Scottish Natural heritage and Natural Resources Wales, the NNSS have developed online training in biosecurity based on an existing programme produced by the Environment Agency. The e-learning will be freely available in a few weeks through the NNSS e-learning site www.nonnativespecies.org/elearning.

Get involved!

The organisations featured in this update are just a few of many helping to support **Check Clean Dry**. All have been invaluable in helping to raise awareness of invasive species and how everyone can help prevent their spread. If you've been inspired by the great work supporting **Check Clean Dry**, why not get involved?

What's your New Year's Resolution?

Help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species on your water sports equipment and clothing

MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO

CHECK CLEAN DRY

your equipment and clothing when you leave the water

STOP THE SPREAD

INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

Check Clean Dry materials

A range of awareness raising materials supporting **Check Clean Dry** are available, from stickers to signs, and posters to pop up stands!



Visit the **Check Clean Dry** website (www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry) for more information on the campaign and links to these materials. For hard copies, contact the NNSS nss@apha.gsi.gov.uk.

Help us to keep up the fantastic work in 2015, and remember to **Check Clean Dry!**

