

Biosecurity for anglers

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Interim guidance – avoiding the spread of the invasive shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus* on the clothes and equipment of anglers

This guidance sets out simple instructions for disinfection measures to prevent the accidental transfer of *Dikerogammarus villosus* from sites that have either been identified as containing the invasive shrimp or have a high risk of doing so.

This guidance should be adopted by all anglers .

Principles

- Anglers should familiarise themselves with what the shrimp looks like and how they can avoid spreading it.
- There is no evidence that anglers have spread the shrimp, but there is a real risk that careless behaviour may do so, harming the environment and potentially damaging the reputation of the sport.

Actions

- Adequate signage or guidance should be in place, making all anglers aware of the risk, and providing advice on recognising the shrimp and how to prevent its spread.
- Ideally, all cleaning and inspection operations should be supervised by a volunteer or member of staff.
- Access and egress for anglers should be limited, preferably to a single point at the site. Anglers should log in and out, confirming that they have cleaned and inspected their equipment.
- There are diseases and other invasive species (including plants) that can be spread by contaminated clothes and equipment, so good biosecurity when visiting a site (even if it already has the *Dikerogammarus* shrimp) is important, too.
- If you are visiting a site where an invasive non-native species is known to be present, you must ensure you don't spread it. Failure to do so risks prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981.
- Risk can be reduced by reducing the contact time in which equipment is exposed to the water. Areas around hard substrates, such as concrete are particularly likely to support abundant shrimp populations.

- If possible, nets and drogues should be provided at the site and used in preference to personal angling equipment.
- Bass bags should not be allowed in the water and thoroughly cleaned after use.

Disinfecting equipment: interim advice

- If facilities allow, equipment can be hosed down or pressure-washed to remove shrimps. The washings should be contained and not allowed to enter any watercourse or drainage system currently free from *Dikerogammarus villosus*.
- The current best method for preventing spread is to thoroughly dry clothing and equipment. Boots and nets should be hung-up to dry. Equipment should be dry for 48 hours before it is used elsewhere. The shrimp can survive up to 15 days in damp conditions and up to 2 days in dry conditions, so the drying process must be thorough.
- Particular attention must be paid to the seams and seals of boots and waders.
- We are working to fully ascertain how effective disinfectants are and how they can be best used for biosecurity purposes. While we are currently uncertain about the effectiveness of dipping equipment in disinfectants to kill the shrimp, it is, in any case, good practice for biosecurity. All disinfectants must be used and disposed of following the manufacturer's instructions particularly those regarding Health and Safety.

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For further information please contact Trevor Renals, Conservation & Ecology Technical Services.