

Waikato update for kayakers and canoeists

As the unwanted organism freshwater gold clam has been found in the Waikato River system, there are new guidelines for how to Check Clean Dry your boat and gear so you do not spread this or any other invasive species around when you train or compete.

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>I am only using this boat and gear at Lake Karāpiro or anywhere from Lake Maraetai (Mangakino) downstream...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams, and then you are good to go.</p>
<p>I may paddle in another lake, river or estuary</p>	<p>Firstly – consider the option of borrowing gear at the location where you intend to go. If that’s not possible, go to the next box below.</p>
<p>I will paddle in another lake, river or estuary, OR</p> <p>I will next use this boat or gear in the Waikato River system upstream of Lake Maraetai (Lake Whakamaru through to Lake Taupō)</p> <p>I have absorbent materials – these may include spray deck, foot-rest, life-jacket, buoyancy aid, wetsuit, socks or boat shoes.</p> <p>Notes: Attached shoes that do not leave the boat do not need to be treated.</p> <p>Where a travel cover is put over the hull, the boat should be dry before it is covered.</p>	<p>CHECK and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the lake or river. Drain river or lake water, including removing bungs or opening hatch covers in case there is water in enclosed areas and leave to dry.</p> <p>Then to CLEAN it for invasives that are invisible (eg juvenile clams, algae, fish eggs, weed fragments): Blast your boat inside and out with a hose, using tap-water and onto grass, beside the waterway, at the club or at home and not into a stormwater drain system. Blast the paddle as well, especially if it has a split shaft.</p> <p>And, for absorbent materials, that stay wet longer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. OR • Mix household bleach in a 10% (1 in 10) ratio with water and immerse for 1 hour. OR • Freeze it all until solid (overnight). <p>DRY areas inside the boat where water has pooled with an old towel. The outside of the hull dries when towed (see note). Dry to touch and then leave the boat to completely dry for another 48 hours. This will further reduce survival.</p>
<p>I am not going to use this boat or gear any time in the 10 days...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams; pull out the bungs; drain or dry any remaining pooled water, and let it all completely Dry.</p>

18 August 2023