

# Make 'clean' part of your routine

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## Why clean aquatic gear and equipment?

Aquatic diversity, ecology and industries of NSW are under threat from introduced aquatic pests and diseases, which may negatively impact native species and habitats. Activities that increase the risk of spreading pests and diseases include movement of boating, fishing, aquaculture gear and equipment between waterways.



Introduced European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) (Photo: Matt Tyler)

Introduced aquatic pests and diseases can easily hitch a ride on boats, motors, and other equipment. Many of these species can survive for long periods of time out of water. With suitable environmental conditions, introduced pests and diseases can establish new populations in previously uncontaminated areas.

## Case study

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) was detected for the first time in Australia in 2010 in the Georges River, then in Sydney Harbour in 2011. In January 2013 POMS was detected in the Hawkesbury River, where it caused significant negative impacts on the oyster farming industry. Some farmers reported up to 80% crop loss. NSW Department of Primary Industries implemented strict biosecurity conditions, restricting movement of oysters and oyster farming equipment, to limit the spread of POMS to other estuaries. This outbreak highlights the economic and environmental risk introduced pests and diseases pose.



Fragment of introduced marine alga *Caulerpa taxifolia* on anchor chain (Photo: NSW DPI)

## Prevention is the best medicine

Established aquatic pests and diseases are nearly impossible to eradicate. They cause significant direct and indirect costs in NSW

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each year. Heightened awareness and prevention programs are the most effective control measures. Do your part to keep our waterways healthy. Remember:

**Make 'clean' part of your routine!**

**What can you do to help?**

Prevent unwanted hitchhikers! Thoroughly cleaning vehicles, boats, trailers and equipment reduces the risk of spread of pests and diseases between waterways.

**When arriving at a waterway:**

- Check your equipment is clean and remove visible soiling before use.
- Avoid boating, swimming or diving near known pests (e.g. *Caulerpa taxifolia*).

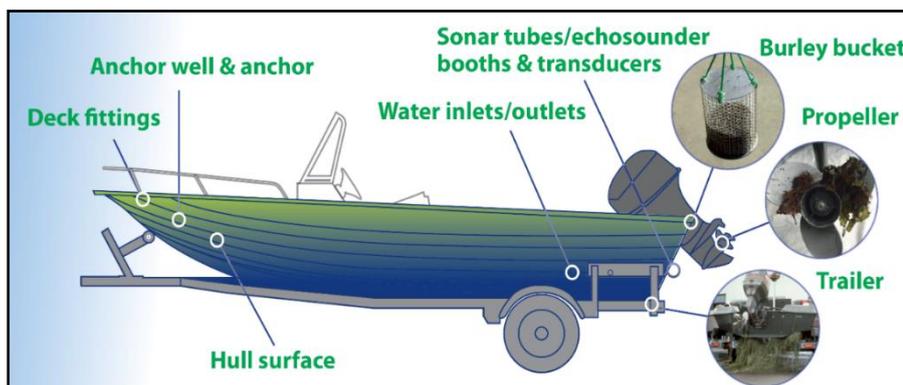
**When departing a waterway:**

- Flush outboard motors, trailers, vehicles and equipment with clean water. High pressure sprayers at commercial car washes are useful.
- Remove all visible debris and biological material and dispose in general waste.

- Pay close attention to areas biological material may accumulate – e.g. wheel arches, boots, fishing tackle (see *Boat inspection and cleaning* figure).
- Drain all water from trailer-boats before leaving a location - ensure waste water isn't returned to other NSW waterways.
- Allow all washed items to completely air dry – as best possible - before use at a new location.
- Take photos and report suspected sightings of aquatic pests or diseases to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** or email [aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au).



Washing down fishing gear (Photo: NSW DPI)



Boat inspection and cleaning (Image: BIA Vic.)

**For more information**

Visit: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/aquatic>

**Acknowledgements**

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