

Sail Caledonia Biosecurity Guidelines.

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It is a legal requirement for everyone to take reasonable steps to ensure that invasive non-native species are not introduced into Scottish waters or spread within them.

(<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/08/7367/downloads>).

Overall, the risks from trailed boats are generally low but trailers pose a more significant risk. The simplest precaution is to 'check, clean, dry' all areas including the hull and the inside of the boat, particularly areas which remain wet for a long time, both before setting out and on recovery.

(<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm>)

Your trailer can also provide a means for species such as the killer shrimp, which causes huge damage to our ecosystems, to spread from one site to another. Ensure that this is also fully dry. Take this approach wherever you are moving your boat but if you are coming from a place where invasive species are present then precautions need to be more stringent. For example, see

http://www.snh.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/guidance-documents/document/?category_code=Guidance&topic_id=1628.

Freshwater species are easily killed by salt water immersion and vice versa so use this to your advantage. Going from freshwater into salt water at Loch Linnhe should act as an effective disinfectant before entering the freshwater of the Caledonian Canal.

Boats with water ballast can be difficult to drain completely and some species can survive several days in a humid environment. Use water of the opposite salinity (i.e. fresh or saltwater) as an effective disinfectant. Many other types of vessels pass through the Caledonian Canal and also pose risks, often greater, of introducing non-native species. Recreational boaters can demonstrate how, through the use of simple precautions, the risks they pose are reduced to a very low level.