

## Sail Caledonia Biosecurity Guidelines

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Although 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, the risk from trailed boats is generally low. These risks can be minimised by adopting the CHECK, CLEAN, DRY protocol. Do this both before you join Sail Caledonia and when you leave.

**CHECK** your equipment, boat, and clothing including boots for mud, animals, or plant materials after retrieving your boat. Remove anything you do find and leave it at the site.

**CLEAN** your boat and trailer as soon and as well as you can, e.g. by hosing down. Pay particular attention to areas which sea or loch water may have reached.

**DRY** everything as much as possible— simply trailing a boat will do this quite effectively.

If it is not possible to wash the boat and trailer at the retrieval location, which is often the case then wash it back at your base taking care that the washing water does not end up in another body of water. If you are coming from a place where invasive species are known to be present then precautions need to be much more stringent. For example, the boat might be left drying for a fortnight before trailing it.

There are two other ways of minimising risk.

1. Freshwater species are killed by salt water immersion and *vice versa* so use this to your advantage. Going into the salt water of Loch Linnhe should act as an effective disinfectant before entering the freshwater of the Caledonian Canal.
2. Leave as much time as possible, ideally two weeks, between retrieving your boat and launching it again as some species can survive for more than two weeks in a humid environment. Boats with water ballast can be difficult to dry completely.

New Zealand pigmyweed has been recorded in the Caledonian Canal so it is as important to **check, clean, dry** after retrieving your boat as it is at the start.