

# RECREATIONAL BOATING AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Emma Barton

*Executive Secretary, Environment*  
European Boating Association

## THE EUROPEAN BOATING ASSOCIATION

- EBA is the representative body for all recreational boat users in Europe and was founded in 1982
- EBA membership:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 29 national federations</li> <li>– 18 countries</li> </ul>	Representing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1.5 million boat owners</li> <li>- 20 million active participants</li> </ul>
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- EBA exists to provide a channel for communication for boat users to be informed and consulted about EU legislation, and to make their views known to the European Institutions.
- The work of the EBA covers Environmental, Technical and Regulatory issues.



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## 18 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Austria	Belgium	Denmark
Finland	France	Germany
Iceland	Ireland	Italy
Netherlands	Norway	Poland
Romania	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	Turkey	United Kingdom



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## OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS

National Boating  
Federation (USA)  
European Boating Industry  
European Sailing  
Federation  
Inland Waterways  
International

## SECRETARIAT (UK)

General Secretary:  
Stuart Carruthers RYA  
Regulatory Secretary:  
Gus Lewis RYA  
Environmental Secretary:  
Emma Barton RYA

## OUR EXPERIENCE: POLICY

- Observer membership of OSPAR
- Membership of MSFD and WFD Working Groups
- EU Marine Strategy Navigation Group
- Development of the Regulation
- GB Non Native Species Secretariat

## A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING



Tignes National Park, 4-5 June 2015

T-PVS/Inf(2015)X

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

11<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Tignes National Park, 4-5 June 2015

**EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON RECREATIONAL  
BOATING AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

**- PRELIMINARY DRAFT -**  
May 2015

Document prepared by  
Mr Emma Barton, Environmental Secretary, European Boating Association, on behalf of the Bern  
Convention

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document ne sera pas distribué en réunion. Merci de vous en apporter une copie.

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## OUR APPROACH

- Awareness, education, training
  - promoting and spreading the message
  - encouraging everyone to do what they can
- Biosecurity measures
  - On the water
  - After use
  - On land
  - Antifouling

### THE CODE OF CONDUCT

**1. Awareness and aims**

This code of conduct is aimed at all those that engage in recreational boating whether individual boaters, voluntary bodies like clubs or training centres, recreational boating governing bodies or those that are commercially engaged with recreational boating, for example charter boats or marinas. It is also intended for those Member States and their agencies that may regulate recreational boating activities. The code is not intended to be a regulatory code, but a helpful guidance document to the extent that this code is used as the basis for future legislation.

It is seen as due to be compatible with other national and international initiatives on recreational boating and AIS with the International Maritime Organization's Guidelines for maintaining the health of invasive aquatic species and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2012. This is pulled together with the international approach taken in the UK using the Clean, Check, Dry principle (CCDD), 2012, developed by the UK's Invasive Species Committee in collaboration with other UK Government Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations. Many of the guidance in these initiatives are repeated verbatim here to highlight the more general AIS and recreational boating.

**2. Awareness, education, research, training and monitoring**

The recreational boating sector should:

- Promote awareness of the code to encourage responsible recreational boating through targeted information, education and training within the sector. Particular emphasis should be placed on increasing, promoting and spreading the message, implementing boat biosecurity measures, encouraging everyone to do what they can, in particular check and clean equipment. Action should not only be limited to some locations where AIS pose an issue, measures should be implemented by everyone, everywhere, anytime.
- Promote research into developing efficient and practical biosecurity methods and tools for the recreational boating sector.
- Collaborate with relevant agencies in developing awareness, engagement, training and education programmes aimed at reducing recreational boating on invasive alien species.
- Where relevant, government agencies and authorities should work with recreational boaters in programmes to reduce or eradicate alien species.
- In collaboration with government agencies and recreational boating associations, monitor the effectiveness and implementation of the Code of Conduct and its effects on recreational boating among Member States.

This Code of Conduct should be reviewed periodically, and as appropriate, taking into account new developments in AIS as an invasive recreational boating.

**3. Biosecurity for Recreational Boating**

Following the discovery of the *Didymocentrus* species, *Didymocentrus* spp. as a public water supply reservoir in Gulliver (France) in 2014, the United Kingdom (UK) Government Departments and its Agencies together with environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and representatives from all water users in the UK adopted similar biosecurity practices to those used in New Zealand. A public initiative for all water users was launched in order to adapt the principles of 'Check, Clean, Dry' to the UK context. This initiative public participation, education, awareness raising and training to ensure that these procedures are followed, namely:



**All Water Users**

**STOP THE SPREAD**  
**INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES**  
**CHECK-CLEAN-DRY**

When you Check-Clean-Dry your boat and equipment every time you leave the water you are helping to:

- reduce the risk of spreading invasive non-native species
- stop them taking over and damaging the environment, spreading disease and harming wildlife
- minimise their impact on your watersports by preventing them clogging up the water body.

**CHECK**  
Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

**CLEAN**  
Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

**DRY**  
Dry all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

*Just a few organisms to be on the lookout for*

**Zebra Mussel**  
**Killer Shrimp**  
**Australian Summer-flowering**

**Remember to check and clean these places**

[www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

defra natural scotland NNSS Environment Agency RYA British Canoe Union

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**LOCATION**

**Chinese Mitten Crab**  
**Wineed**  
**Wineed**

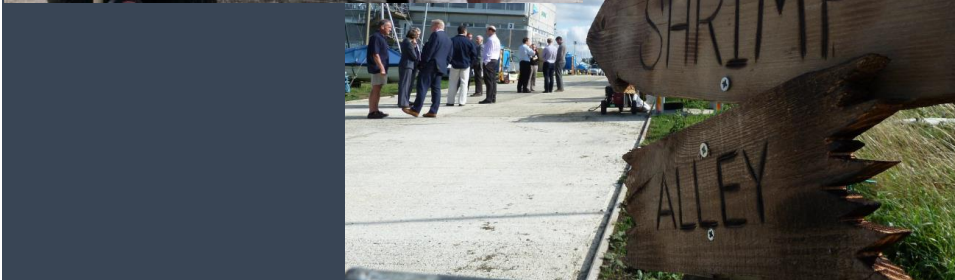


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## TYPE OF BOAT



## BIOSECURITY FOR SMALL BOATS







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## BIOSECURITY FOR POWERBOATS



## BIOSECURITY FOR LARGE BOATS





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## KEY MESSAGES

- Promote and spread the message
- Implement basic biosecurity measures
- Encourage everyone to do what they can, in particular check and clean equipment
- Important not to limit action only to some locations – everyone, everywhere, everytime



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