

Waikato Check Clean Dry update for whitebaiters

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



Adult clams have been seen in the River from Lake Maraetai, Mangakino (as at 1 August). Note – the clam can survive in brackish waters.

<p>I am only using my whitebaiting net and other gear from Lake Maraetai (Mangakino) downstream...</p>	<p>Check and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or clams, and then you are good to go.</p>
<p>I may go and whitebait in another river or stream</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 go and whitebait in another river or stream;</p> <p>I have absorbent materials – these include nets, traps and waders, or wader boots if used.</p> <p>If you use a boat, please see the updated guidelines for use of power boats in the Waikato River system.</p>	<p>CHECK and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the river. Drain river water, for example from your net pole and excess water from your bucket, to grass and not to a stormwater drain.</p> <p>Then to CLEAN it for invasives that are invisible (eg juvenile clams, algae, fish eggs, weed fragments): Blast your net and gear with a hose, using tap-water and onto grass, beside the river (if possible) or at home and not into a stormwater drain system.</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 to touch and then leave the net and other gear to completely dry for another 48 hours. This will further reduce survival of the clam and other invasives.</p>
<p>I am not going to use this net or other gear any time in the next 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>
<p>Transfer of live whitebait to other waterways is not permitted due to the potential for transferring juvenile clams.</p>	

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