



Stopping the Spread of Non-Native Species Policy

Shepperton Marina is committed to protecting local biodiversity and maintaining the ecological integrity of the River Thames and surrounding waterways. This policy outlines our approach to preventing the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species through marina operations, customer activities, and site management. This policy applies to all marina users, including berth holders, visitors, contractors, and staff. It covers boat maintenance, launching, mooring, and any activity that may contribute to the transfer of aquatic or terrestrial invasive species.

We recognize the threat posed by non-native species to native wildlife, habitats, and water quality. Shepperton Marina will take proactive steps to prevent their spread by implementing the following measures:

1. Awareness and Education

- Display clear signage around the marina to inform users about invasive species and how to prevent their spread.
- Provide educational materials and guidance to boat owners and staff on best practices, including the Check, Clean, Dry protocol.
- Offer training to staff on identifying and reporting sightings of invasive species.

2. Boat Maintenance and Cleaning

- All boats to be cleaned thoroughly before entering the marina from other water bodies.
- Our water recycling system, which captures and reuses wash water from hull cleaning, ensures that no contaminated discharge enters the marina, helping prevent the spread of aquatic species.
- Encourage the use of environmentally friendly antifouling paints and cleaning products.

3. Equipment and Gear Management

- Require all equipment (e.g., trailers, ropes, wetsuits, paddles) to be cleaned and dried before use in the marina where applicable.
- The designated cleaning station is located in the crane bay where we have a suitable interceptor to protect the waterway.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

- Regularly inspect marina infrastructure and surrounding waters for signs of invasive species.
- Maintain a log of sightings and report any suspected non-native species to the relevant environmental authorities (e.g., Environment Agency).
- Cooperate with local and national initiatives to monitor and manage invasive species.

5. Waste and Water Management

- Ensure that no bilge water, ballast water, or other potentially contaminated fluids are discharged into the marina.
- Continue using our interceptor system to capture and recycle wash-off water, preventing pollutants and biological contaminants from entering the ecosystem.

6. Collaboration and Compliance

- Work with local conservation groups, regulatory bodies, and other marinas to share knowledge and align efforts.
- Comply with all relevant legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.