



Boat Decontamination Protocols

For Tournament and Marine Event Organizers



Note: The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Oregon State Marine Board now require, as a condition of permitting marine events and fishing tournaments, that event organizers inspect boats, trailers and related equipment before that equipment is placed in the waters of the state. Such action will help protect our waters from invasive species infestations. Please take this seriously and do your part to help. The following is a basic summary of how to inspect and clean a boat.

Special Note About Zebra / Quagga Mussels

If there is any indication that a boat may be infested with zebra or quagga mussels, please do not attempt to decontaminate the boat and release it for launching. Notify OSP or ODFW for assistance. Call 1-800-437-2744 to report.

Basic Inspection Steps

- 1) Safety: Make sure the vessel is securely parked on a flat surface, wheels blocked and tow vehicle parking break securely set. Do not allow people to remain in the vehicle during inspection. Make sure the vessel is away from other traffic.
- 2) External Hull & Trailer
 - a. Walk all the way around the vessel looking at through-hull fittings, ropes, bumpers, swim platform, trim tabs, motor or outdrive, trailer bed, axle, wheels and lights. Look for any plants, mud or any attached shellfish.
 - b. After this is complete, check the underside of the swim platform, trim tabs, cavitation plate, transducers and any other equipment below the water line. Use a mirror and flashlight, or a digital camera, to inspect the spaces between the hull and various attachments such as the trim tabs.
 - c. Check underside of hull, any indentations surrounding prop shafts or rudders, and all the way to the bow. Feeling surfaces with your hand will help discover tiny mussels that are nearly invisible but will feel gritty.
- 3) Internal areas
 - a. Open hatches and inspect bilge, livewells, ballast tanks, storage spaces, motor wells, etc.
 - b. Inspect anchor ropes, bait buckets, rags or towels, and other items that might collect mud, debris or hold water.

Location for Decontamination

- Inspect watercraft away from waterways, street drains or boat ramps where contaminated water could enter the waterway. Select a gravel pad or grassy area.
- If no permeable surface is available, place tarps on the ground to act as a containment area and collect all run-off.

Tools for Decontamination

- High pressure hot water (140 degrees plus) sprayer is preferred. Low pressure hot water, or bleach solution can be used as back-up tools. If vegetation removal is the primary concern, then a simple garden hose and scrub brush can be used. Keep a garbage can and bucket on hand for vegetation.

Internal cleaning

- Bilges, wet wells, live wells, ballast tanks and any other compartments that could hold water should be completely drained and dry. If not dry, they should be well flushed.

Boat hull surfaces, anchors, and trailers:

- All clinging material (vegetation, shellfish, etc) must be removed from all surfaces. After cleaning, re-inspect the boat to ensure it is free of plant materials, mud, aquatic organisms or other material.
- The anchor, rope, bumpers and trailer must also be inspected, cleaned and potentially cleaned.
- Visual inspection must pay special attention to all cracks and crevices, propellers, through-hull fittings, exhaust ports, trailer pads made of carpet and foam rubber, weld joints or fiberglass seams, cooling system inlets, and transducers, trim tabs or other attachments on the stern of the boat.

Special Concerns

- 1) Use your fingers to inspect inside through-hull fittings. Zebra or quagga mussels may feel like grains of sand affixed to surface.
- 2) Gimball / Outdrive boot: The rubber boot and small spaces around the outdrive are difficult to inspect and may hide small organisms. Carefully inspect.
- 3) Internal plumbing: Livewell and bilge pump tubing must also be flushed.

Cautions

- 1) While steam and high-pressure hot water above 140 degrees is best for decontaminating an infested boat, it can more easily cause human injury and damage to a boat by delaminating fiberglass and blasting off decals, striping and lettering.
- 2) High pressure washers may damage weak or decayed fiberglass or wood, remove paint or decals or score the boat's finish. To reduce liability of damage, make sure only trained individuals are using the equipment, or use a paid professional, or instruct the vessel owner to clean the boat while you inspect and observe.

Contacts

ODFW Area Biologists

Central Point	Dan Van Dyke	(541) 826-8774 x234
Charleston	Scott Groth	(541) 888-5515
Klamath Falls	Roger Smith	(541) 883-5732
Roseburg	Laura Jackson	(541) 440-3353 x247
Springfield	Jeff Ziller	(541) 726-3515 x26

County Sheriff Marine Officers

Curry	541-247-3242
Douglas	541-440-4447
Jackson	541-864-8844
Josephine	541-474-5120
Klamath	541-883-5130*
Lane	541-682-8599

Oregon State Police Dispatch

OSP TIP Hotline	1-800-452-7888 (24-7)
Northern Command Center	503-375-3555 (24-7)
Southern Command Center	541-776-6111 (24-7)

Technical Assistance Numbers: Day		Eve
Rick Boatner, ODFW	503-947-6308	503-302-5294
Randy Henry, OSMB	503-378-2611	503-930-6727
Glenn Dolphin, OSMB	503-378-2625	
Steve Wells, PSU	503-725-9076	