

# DISINFECTION PROTOCOL FOR VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT

## - EBRO HYDROGRAPHIC CONFEDERATION -

Under the rules adopted by the Governing Board of the Ebro Hydrographic Confederation on 16 September 2002 (Resolution, September 24, 2002) disinfection is mandatory for motor boats, rowing boats, sailing boats and complementary accessories. There are **official disinfection stations** near most of the navigable reservoirs; cleaning boats and equipment at these facilities is mandatory. The cleaning consists of the following:

### **1º Empty waste water from the boat and equipment.**

Drain the ballast water, the inside of canoes and boats. Empty and clean live tanks in the draining area.

### **2º Visual inspection to remove waste, plant material or zebra mussels.**

Which may adhere to the hull or engine of the boat. Collect in containers then dispose in municipal solid waste containers.

### **3º Mechanical cleaning in disinfection stations: apply pressurised hot water (minimum 160 bar and 60°C).**

All the cleaning water is collected in a gutter and disposed of in the drainage area. Never drain directly to a reservoir, river, sewer or any other water course. The following actions must be performed while cleaning:

- Apply the pressurised water throughout the boat (hull, engine, interior, etc); in all areas of the vehicle carrying the boat that was in contact with the water; in containers used as live tanks, waste water or river water.
- Clean and check all critical points, eg. less accessible ones and those with a greater risk.
- Remove any mussels and aquatic vegetation remains from the hull or engine of the boat with pressurised hot water.
- Clean the engine cooling circuits as follows: Accelerate the engine before stopping to raise the water temperature and speed of movement, then circulate clean water by immersion in a tank or use a device to make the hot water circulate under pressure through the cooling circuit.

Fishing equipment used (boots, wetsuits, waders, nets, tackle, sensors, etc) must be disinfected by applying pressurised water or, if not, sprayed with a bleach-based disinfectant solution. Subsequently the material is dried so as not to carry any larvae.

### **4º Dry the boats and materials with driers or in the open air.**



**Remember: the introduction of non-native wildlife species, such as zebra mussels, is a criminal offence according to article 333 of the Penal Code of Spain.**

**THE SPECIES IS CURRENTLY SPREADING, AND SO MAY ACTUALLY BE PRESENT IN PLACES WHERE IT HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY DETECTED. THEREFORE, ALWAYS ACT AS IF IT IS PRESENT; CHECK, CLEAN AND DRY.**

To know the water bodies affected by zebra mussel in the Ebro basin and the location of disinfection stations, look up:

<http://www.chebro.es/contenido.visualizar.do?idContenido=11895&idMenu=2541>