

DOC Nelson Lakes were advised that a new invasive algae, *Lindavia intermedia* or Lake Snow, has been found in the Buller River a little way out of Lake Rotoiti.

DOC seeks your assistance to advise the participants in your upcoming boating events about the **Check, Clean and Dry** messages to help control the movement of freshwater pests between water bodies.

This notice outlines:

- The background on the organism,
- The preferred **Check, Clean and Dry** control methods, and
- the assistance required from your participants to help control the movement of the algae until more is known.

What is this organism?

DOC are advised the algae *Lindavia intermedia* or Lake Snow was found a short way along the Buller River from Lake Rotoiti. We assume it is present in Lake Rotoiti until more information is available.

The cells are microscopic and hard to detect with the naked eye, making detection on equipment difficult.

Lindavia intermedia or Lake Snow <https://www.orc.govt.nz/managing-our-environment/pest-hub/aquatic/lake-snow>

Lindavia intermedia are the algae species responsible for creating the sticky 'lake snow' colonies.

DOC is not yet aware of the potential biodiversity effects of Lake Snow on Lakes Rotoiti or Rotoroa.

Although it is not toxic and poses no known human health risk, it creates costly problems for water users. If it gets into water supplies (like that supplying the NLNP campgrounds, toilets, some houses) where it causes blockages, clogs filters and household appliances connected to the system.

Lake snow can also stick to boat hulls and equipment, wetsuits and your skin or hair if you come in contact with it. On the lake, fishermen may find the algae accumulates on their fishing lines and lures.

Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu are currently experiencing a bloom of this algae.

What are the preferred control methods?

We ask you to ensure participants in your events are aware of **Check, Clean and Dry** methods.

The methods reducing the spread of didymo also limit the spread of Lake Snow so the well-known and practical **Check, Clean and Dry** message is applicable.

<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/outdoor-activities/check-clean-dry/> - full description of methods.

Check, Clean, Dry any equipment that comes into contact with the water every time you move your boat and equipment between freshwater places.

How participants can assist?

In communication you have with your participants, we ask you remind them of the generic **Check, Clean and Dry** messages, and they treat all their boats and equipment accordingly. (Messages don't have to be specially made in relation to Lake Snow).

Fish & Game are contracted to undertake public awareness for freshwater matters for Ministry of Primary Industries. F&G will provide more information as time goes on.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Happy to help with any questions you may have.

Kind regards
Tracey

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