



# Project near water – At sea

## Preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species

**Clean your vessels and equipment when moving from one site to another to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.** As a project proponent, it is your responsibility to limit environmental impacts during work in the marine environment. Under the Fisheries Act, the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations prohibit the introduction of an invasive species into an area where it does not naturally occur.



### CLEAN

**Clean** under pressure, ideally with **hot water**, and **remove all visible debris**. This is the most important step.



### DRAIN

**Drain** residual water on **land** whenever possible.



### DRY

**Dry** before **moving** to another site whenever possible.

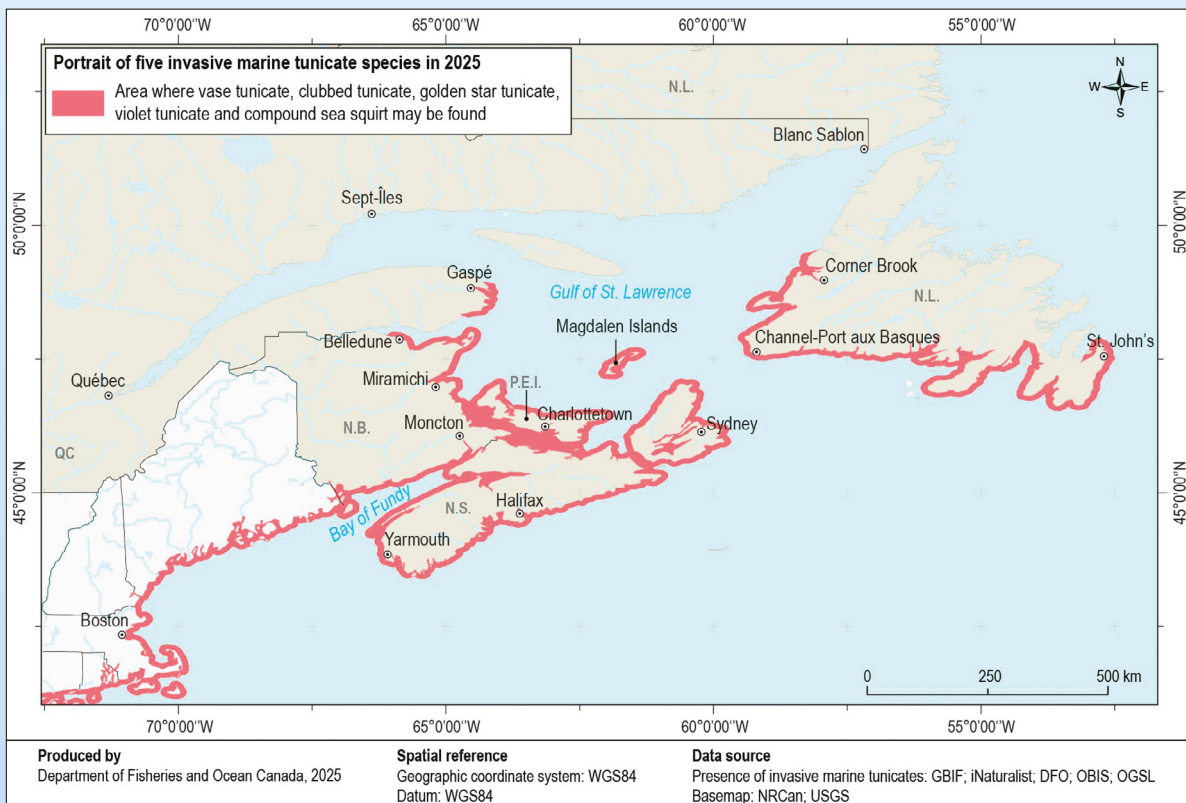
### WHY?

Anything that comes into contact with water during work can transport invasive species when moved from one site to another. It is essential to properly **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** vessels and equipment before relocating them. For vessels that cannot be taken out from the water, you may **clean them directly in the water** at the work site before leaving the area.

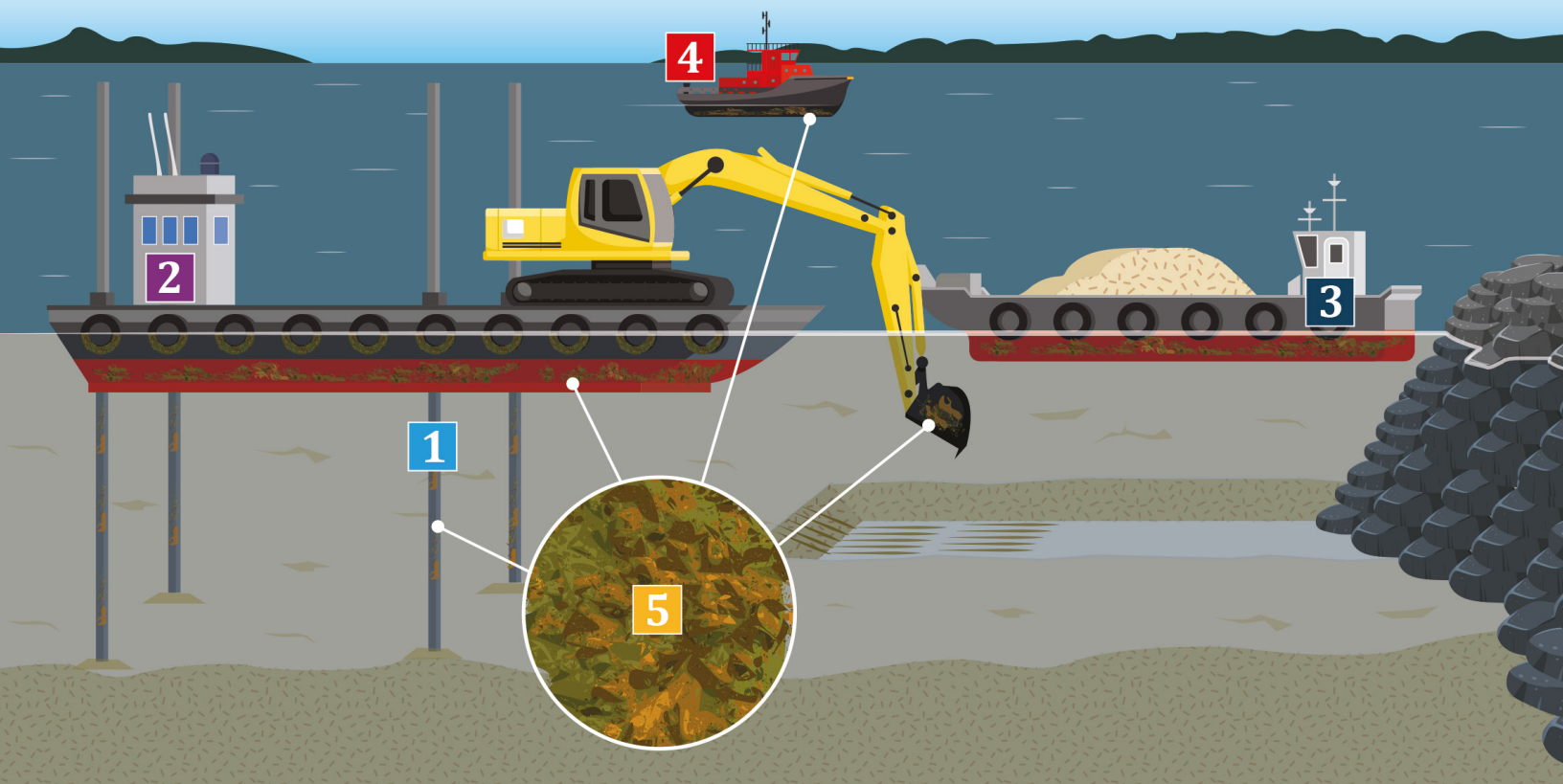


It is recommended to always clean vessels and equipment when moving from one site to another. The risk of introduction and spread of invasive species increases when vessels and equipment:

- remain in the water for long periods without moving,
- are not cleaned or have no antifouling paint,
- travel from a place where invasive species are present to a place where they are absent.



## Remove aquatic invasive species that attach to your vessels and equipment.



**1** Piles

**2** Work barge

**3** Flat barge

**4** Tugboat

**5** Biofouling and debris

### CLEANING IN WATER

- Hire commercial divers to scrape your hull or use long-handled brushes or high-pressure hoses.
- Favor cleaning in a confined area such as a port, marina, or directly at the work site to avoid dispersing species. You can also use a turbidity curtain.
- Stay informed: technologies are evolving rapidly. Remotely operated underwater robots capable of cleaning vessels directly underwater are already in use elsewhere in the world. These innovations may soon be available here.

### CLEANING OUT OF WATER

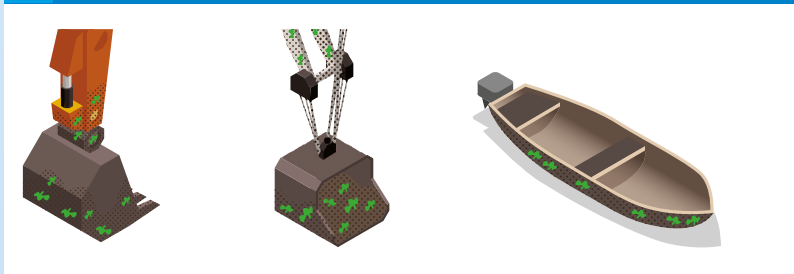
- Use pressurized freshwater, ideally hot (60°C), as it destroys invasive species more effectively.
- Use onland wash stations or dry docks when available.

Lastly, use **antifouling paint**. In addition to saving fuel, it helps reduce the spread of marine invasive species by preventing them from attaching to barge hulls and other vessels. Yearly maintenance in the spring is recommended.

Before moving, clean your equipment and vessels.



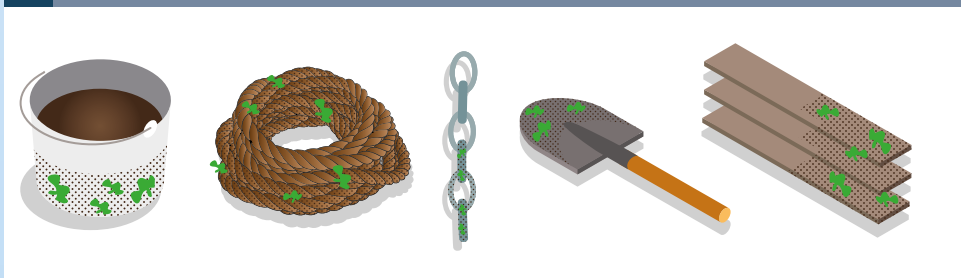
**1 Heavy machinery and boats**



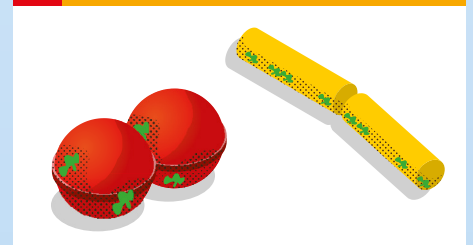
**2 Work gear**



**3 Field equipment**



**4 Booms and turbidity curtains**



For more information on aquatic invasive species and measures to prevent their spread, visit:  
<https://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en/aquatic-invasive-species>

