



Biosecurity Plan for Taupō Waka Ama Club

Te Wheke Challenge

Saturday 13th April 2024

The Taupō Te Wheke Challenge is a W6 21km race that starts from inside Tapuaeharuru Bay and goes out to the Mine Bay Rock Carvings showcasing our beautiful lake.

There is also a W6 7.5km novice/junior race, a W6 16km race that travels around Tapuaeharuru Bay and a W1 & W2 11km race.

The freshwater waterway used in this event is Lake Taupō.

Number of participants - to be confirmed.

Registration times: from 6.30am, Saturday 13th April 2024

Location – Parikiri Reserve, Ferry Road, Taupō

A Department of Conservation (DOC) representative is required by Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board (TMTB) to attend this event and has signed off this plan.

Contact person of event – Julie Gordon,
President, Taupō Waka Ama Club
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The purpose of this plan is to prevent the spread of any invasive species by our event – both by our event equipment and by participants equipment.

Our aim is to communicate the 'Clam specific Check Clean Dry' (CCD) to all our waka ama whanau entering our event and ask for the use of this plan for all future waterway movements.

Attached to this plan is the Waka Ama Aotearoa (being our governing body) freshwater gold clam information sheet which we will be forwarding along with this plan to all participants to the Te Wheke Challenge and upon entry a wavier is to be signed acknowledging that all practices will be adhered to.

The North Island has adopted the 'Clam specific CCD' due to the invasive freshwater clam *Corbicula fluminea* being found in the Waikato River from Whakamaru Dam – Lake Maraetai downstream "the clam zone".

Other invasive species exist in NZ not limited to – *Lindavia Intermedia* (Lake Snow), Didymo, Hornwort, *Lagarosiphon* (oxygen weeds), Catfish, Koi Carp. Some of these exist in Taupō.



Assessing risk for Lake Taupō from our event:

When assessing the risk to Lake Taupō, clubs and individuals wanting to enter the Te Wheke Challenge and that are travelling from other waterways with waka and any equipment used (paddles/skirts etc.) are to follow these principles + the strong advice to avoid borrowing gear from other lakes:

- **High Risk**

i.e. Equipment from “the clam zone” will require to follow the ‘Clam specific CCD’ instructions for entry to Taupō. Boats must be off water for 5 to 7 days prior and must be treated with 10% bleach wash prior to drying.

Where possible encourage to hire equipment from Taupo Waka Club.

Downstream to go home so ‘Clam specific CCD’ not required.

- **Medium Risk**

i.e. Equipment from other North Island lakes, rivers, and estuaries that contain a large amount of freshwater – i.e. Whanganui, Whakatane. ‘Clam specific CCD’ instructions for entry to Taupō. For return home ‘Clam specific CCD’ is also required.

- **No Risk**

i.e. Equipment resident in Taupō & from saltwater locations with minimal freshwater input - no treatment required post event.

Process taken by Taupō Waka Ama Club:

Pre-Event Comms:

- Share appropriate Biosecurity NZ info about Clams and ‘Clam specific CCD’ via our communication channels – Facebook, emails to participants and the Waka Ama NZ event site Pānui.
- Share Taupō generated Clam specific plan (details in this plan) with clubs wishing to enter the event.
- A waiver will be sent to all participants when requesting an entry form which will include the ‘Clam specific CCD’ requirements for entry acceptance to our event + specific techniques for cleaning equipment = **ALL BOATS - bungs are required to be taken out and bleach added if not able to be drained** + we will be asking for specific information from participants to assess their individual risk = **Waikato “Clam Zone” boats and equipment require a minimum 5 to 7 days off the water and are required to add 10% bleach treatment for boats cleaning.**
- This waiver will be signed acknowledging that all ‘Clam specific CCD’ processes will be adhered to and received prior to the event day along with the entrance fee.
- Liaise with DOC representative who will be present on event day to advise and educate.
- We will hold a record of Comms sent out to participants.



Entry Forms

- Signed confirmation that 'Clam specific CCD' info has been read and will be/has been completed i.e. 'Clam specific CCD' completed if from any other lake, river, or estuary >50% freshwater.

Late Entries

- As the 'Clam specific CCD' takes a minimum of 3 days there will be restriction placed on late entries.
- Depending on when the participant last used their equipment and what waterway they were in. i.e. no entry from the Waikato "Clam Zone".
- This is specific to each event – to be discussed with DOC representative.

Registration

- Confirmation at registration that participants have followed 'Clam specific CCD', the signed waiver is received prior to the event along with entrance fee.
- As the organiser it is our responsibility of any participant if they have not followed event conditions, therefore no signed waiver or entry fee received prior to the event = there will be no entry to event.
- DOC representative will be present to assist and discuss options – i.e. Biosecurity NZ may approve a late clean option dependant on assessed risk.

Race Briefings/Prizegiving

- Include Clam information and CCD either by club MC, or DOC representative.

Post Event CCD

- Reminders that Lake Taupō has invasive species present and is high risk for a clam incursion, so 'Clam specific CCD' must be used on exit from Taupō.
- Provide Clam updates to your sporting community in between events.

Post Event Assessment

- Club member comments on CCD at your event to be reviewed - what worked well, what could be improved? Attitude of participants.
- Allow DOC to edit and add any comments/improvements.

Approved by Department of Conservation Representative:

Name: Brenda Lawson

Signature: Approved – unable to digitally sign will approve by email to TMTB

Date: 26/02/2024