



RAPID

Reducing and Preventing
Invasive Alien Species Dispersal

RAPID Newsletter: October 2019



A holistic approach to Invasive Alien Species management in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal ecosystems



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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If you would like to be added to the RAPID LIFE distribution list, to receive a bi-annual eNewsletter and other relevant project outputs such as the Project's Technical Report, please provide contact details.

Please circulate this to any relevant technical stakeholders to whom you think it may be of interest.

Regarding any queries or feedback please email: alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk

For more information, visit our website at www.nonnativespecies.org/rapid

RAPID LIFE Newsletters are produced twice a year. If you have any items that you would like to include in the next issue, please contact sara.macias-rodriquez@apha.gov.uk



Bristol Zoological
Society
Saving Wildlife Together



Update on crayfish work & RAPID team visit to Bristol

American signal crayfish control at Chew Magna

As part of the RAPID LIFE Project, control of American signal crayfish is being carried out at several sites, including Chew Magna Reservoir and Stilling Pond, near Bristol.

Signal crayfish were found in August 2018 at this site and trapping of this invasive species has been carried out since March 2019 and will carry on until November 2019. The methods include weekly artificial refuge trapping and fortnightly baited trapping, followed by removal and humane dispatch of trapped animals.

Other methods of control will contribute to the trapping results. Perch, which are expected to predate the signal crayfish, will be introduced into the reservoir during winter 2019/20. The stilling pond (water reservoir overflow) will be drained and have the sediment removed in Oct-Nov 2019, in order to remove suitable habitat for the crayfish exposing the animal to conditions that will cause mortality e.g. desiccation or predation (*). An assessment of the population density of signal crayfish will be done in spring 2020 and the team are confident that they will reach the RAPID LIFE target of a 75% reduction in the

population. This work is managed by Bristol Zoological Society.

The partnership and collaboration between BZS and contractors, Bristol Water, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, and volunteers has been essential in achieving positive results in this project.



Check, Clean, Dry signage has been installed on site as part of the good practice guidance from the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat which is also followed by RAPID (for more info visit <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleananddry/index.cfm>)

(*). "Review of methods for the control of invasive crayfish in Great Britain", Cefas, 2012.

RAPID team visit

Some of the APHA's RAPID team were lucky enough to visit the white-clawed crayfish hatchery that has been set up at Bristol Zoo. The visit was led by Jen Nightingale from the Bristol Zoological Society and it was inspiring to learn more about this incredible work. The crayfish are kept in different tanks depending on their growth stage. Tank conditions (such as water temperature and oxygen content) are controlled in order to create the ideal conditions for the development and growth of the crayfish. Individuals have been taken from different sites to increase genetic diversity.



White-clawed crayfish in Bristol Zoo hatchery



Checking signal crayfish traps at Chew Magna

While in Bristol, the team was also able to visit the signal crayfish control work being carried out at Chew Magna Reservoir, guided by Jen Nightingale and Neil Green (from Green by Nature) who are very experienced in this field. The team had the opportunity to get our hands wet checking the baited traps (see picture below) and artificial refuges around the reservoir. Several signal crayfish of varying ages were trapped and dispatched humanely that day. We would like to thank Jen and Neil and the rest of the BZS team involved in this work for welcoming us and showing us some of the work they're carrying out (for more info visit their blog <https://rapidresponse.blog/>)

International Biosecurity Conference in France

In May 2019, the RAPID team co-organised and attended a cross-border information exchange event on biosecurity in aquatic marine and freshwater environments in France.

The event was co-organised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the IUCN French National Committee, and the French Agency for Biodiversity (L'Agence française pour la biodiversité) and was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge and expertise between stakeholders working on IAS in different European countries, particularly Great Britain and France.



Photo credit: APHA

Presentation on marine non-native species by John Bishop (Marine Biological society)



Photo credit: APHA

The attendees gathered for a group photo in the sun outside the Marinarium

Delivered workshops

Two "Priority Species" workshops and one Small-scale demonstrative project workshop were successfully run by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in September 2019. This is the beginning of a series of workshops that will be run throughout the autumn and winter (see next section).



Priority species workshop in Kent

Upcoming events

RAPID workshops autumn & winter 2019/2020

Please click on [hyperlinks](#) to see more information and to register.

More workshops dates and venues to be confirmed. For more information about future workshops please check the "News" section in the RAPID website: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=616> or contact sara.macias-rodriguez@apha.gov.uk

Marine Biosecurity workshops		
29/10/2019	Fowey, Cornwall Marine and Coastal Biosecurity and Priority Species Workshop - FOWEY Tickets, Tue 29 Oct 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
12/11/2019	Exeter, Devon Marine and Coastal Biosecurity and Priority Species Workshop - EXETER Tickets, Tue 12 Nov 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	
25/11/2019	Fal Estuary, Cornwall Marine and Coastal Biosecurity and Priority Species Workshop - FAL ESTUARY Tickets, Mon 25 Nov 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	
31/10/2019	Kings Lynn Biosecurity workshop - The Wash Tickets, Thu 31 Oct 2019 at 09:30 Eventbrite	Norfolk NNS Initiative
Freshwater Biosecurity workshops		
28/10/2019	Norwich Freshwater Biosecurity and Priority Invasive Species workshop - Norwich Tickets, Mon 28 Oct 2019 at 09:30 Eventbrite	Norfolk NNS Initiative
25/11/2019	Horncastle Biosecurity and priority invasive species workshop - Horncastle Tickets, Mon 25 Nov 2019 at 09:30 Eventbrite	

12/11/2019	London Freshwater & Riparian Biosecurity/ Invasive Species Workshop Tickets, Tue 12 Nov 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	Kent Wildlife Trust
12/11/2019	Exeter, Devon Freshwater and Riparian Biosecurity and Priority Species Workshop - EXETER Tickets, Tue 12 Nov 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
19/11/2019	Chew Valley, Bristol Freshwater and Riparian Biosecurity and Invasive Species Workshop - BRISTOL Tickets, Tue 19 Nov 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	
04/12/2019	Studland, Dorset Freshwater and Riparian Biosecurity and Priority Species Workshop -STUDLAND Tickets, Wed 4 Dec 2019 at 10:00 Eventbrite	
Priority species workshops		
28/10/2019	Norwich Freshwater Priority Invasive Species Workshop - Norwich Tickets, Mon 28 Oct 2019 at 14:00 Eventbrite	Norfolk NNS Initiative
Combined Biosecurity and Priority species workshops		
27/11/2019	Ipswich Biosecurity and priority species workshop - Ipswich Tickets, Wed 27 Nov 2019 at 09:30 Eventbrite	Norfolk NNS Initiative
Large-scale flagship projects workshop (Himalayan balsam + Japanese Knotweed)		
01/02/2020	Pavillion in Clifton, Bristol	Green by Nature

Brussels International Workshop

The RAPID team are organising an international workshop on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Brussels on the 18th of December called "Exchanging experience on IAS management in Europe". This event will be co-organised by RAPID Life and the Belgian Forum on Invasive Species (BFIS).

The objective of the event will be to share knowledge and expertise on the prevention and management of IAS between stakeholders in different European countries. After the success of the International Conference in France, we are confident that this workshop will contribute in a positive way towards developing the network of organisations and projects working on IAS throughout Europe, helping to share knowledge and lessons learned.

For more info please contact rebecca.jones@apha.gov.uk or alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk

Other news

A reminder that any amendments to the RIMPs (Regional IAS Management Plans) must be submitted by January 2020.

If you want more information on other activities going on with RAPID such as biocontrol or crayfish work visit the news section of our webpages <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=616>



For more information please visit www.nonnativespecies.org/rapid