

Marine pathways work continues throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Here are some updates on the subject of non-native species and on Marine Pathways work.

Guidance for Shellfish Aquaculture Industry

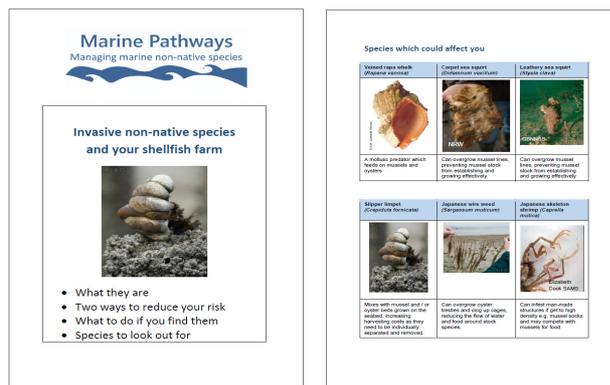
Original aims of Marine Pathways work included raising awareness of biosecurity best practice which will help to limit the introduction and spread of high impact species and contribute to improved knowledge of the distribution of species already established.

The development of guidance for the shellfish aquaculture industry resulted from discussions with relevant members of the Marine Pathways Aquaculture Pathway Advisory Group. A Fish Health Inspectorate 'Shellfish and Biosecurity Measures Plan' already exists for shellfish farmers and inclusion of best practice biosecurity for INNS into this was considered. However, it was decided that this may cause confusion between different statutory requirements and a separate leaflet was suggested as a more appropriate option. More information on the lessons learned working with industry to develop guidance for the aquaculture sector can be found here:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1367>

The final guidance leaflet produced entitled 'Invasive non-native species and your shellfish farm' highlights what INNS are and species relevant to the shellfish aquaculture sector. It also provides guidance on two key ways to reduce potential risk – having a biosecurity plan and basic measures to help stop the spread of species. Finally further links and information are included about what to do if INNS are found in terms of identification, recording and removal. It is hoped that this will be a useful resource for the industry and it is proposed that an amended version, with most relevant species for Scotland, will also be produced. The final leaflet can be found here:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1392>



Pages from the leaflet

Definition:

Invasive non-native species (INNS):

'A species which has been introduced outside its natural, past or present distribution and has a negative environmental, economic or social impact.'

Case Species:

Wireweed
(*Sargassum muticum*)



(GBNNS)

Native range:

North-western Pacific shores of Japan, Russia, Korea and China.

Impacts:

- Outcompetes and reduces diversity of native seaweed species.
- Fouls commercial oyster beds, fishing equipment and manmade structures.
- Dense strands can cause a nuisance to recreational water users.

Local Action Groups tackling INNS

Between 2011 and 2015 Defra provided a £1.5million grant to support local groups tackling INNS in England. These groups are called INNS Local Action Groups (LAGs) and have been set up by volunteers, charities and other partners that have identified problems with INNS in local terrestrial, fresh water or marine areas. LAGs continue to carry out a variety of tasks including raising awareness of INNS, biosecurity training, and where possible eradicating INNS. Despite funding ceasing in March 2015 LAGs continue to contribute to both UK obligations under the EU Water Framework Directive and the aims of the GB INNS Strategy.

A recent report shows LAGs have been productive and achieved the vast majority of the objectives they had agreed with Defra. The majority of LAGs focused on INNS mitigation and control and prevention was through awareness raising activity, most notably the national *Be Plant Wise* and *Check, Clean, Dry* campaigns. This awareness raising work has also engaged a wide range of audiences, from boaters and anglers, to dog walkers and football fans, who represent both risks to biosecurity but also 'eyes on the ground' for

surveillance.

A small number of LAGs have also led early detection initiatives, either with specific audiences or area-wide. Defra also encouraged LAGs to find sustainable sources of match funding with the majority of LAGs having secured this, at least in the short term.

Further information on INNS LAGs can be found on the Non-Native Species Secretariat website at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=13>.



GBNNSS: LAG workshop 2015



The successful Check-Clean-Dry campaign has been extended to the marine environment aimed at raising awareness of biosecurity in marinas across the UK.

This work has been funded by Welsh Government who will be rolling out laminated versions of the posters to a number of marinas across Wales over the next few months. If you would like a copy of the poster please contact Gabrielle Wyn at NRW: Gabrielle.Wyn@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

The poster can be found at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1252>

For further information on Marine Pathways please follow the link to our web pages hosted on the Non-Native Species Secretariat website: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/projects/marinepathways>

Contact us:

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Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy

The GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy was reviewed during 2013 and an updated Strategy was published in August 2015.

The revised strategy aims to address INNS issues and build on successes of the 2008 Strategy which include; bringing together many organisations that have helped to deliver the Strategy's actions, developing a unique risk analysis mechanism, establishing an information portal and alert system and eradicating three species from Great Britain. The Strategy covers the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments as well as species native to one part of a country that become invasive in areas outside their natural range.

The overarching aim of this Strategy is to minimise the risk posed by, and reduce the negative impacts of, INNS in GB. It follows the CBD hierarchical approach stressing prevention, followed by early detection and rapid response and finally long-term management and control. With 10-12 new non-native species becoming established each year, being able to predict in advance which species are likely to invade, establish and have an adverse impact is crucial. This early action has saved the British economy millions, preventing further environmental damage and avoiding the cost of delayed action.

The strategy can be found here:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=55>

Review of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (As amended)

The wildlife and countryside Act includes actions for preventing the establishment of NNS which may be detrimental to native wildlife and prohibits the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9, or animals which are not ordinarily resident or regular visitors to GB into the wild.

The Secretary of State for Defra and the Minister for Natural Resources in the Welsh Government may review the lists of non-native plants or animals on Schedule 9 of the Act. These reviews are overseen by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the statutory nature conservation agencies.

The current 2015 review is the fourth review of Schedule 9, the last taking place in 2006. This review covers England and Wales only. Scotland operates under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which amends the Wildlife & Countryside Act for Scotland

Defra and the Welsh Government asked Natural England and Natural Resources Wales to work jointly through the JNCC to undertake the review. To do this these statutory agencies have formed a working group with representatives of the environmental NGOs and of the horticulture and pet trade bodies. Defra and Welsh Government will consider recommendations made by JNCC during October 2015 before proposing their own amendments to the species listed through a joint Government public consultation due in late 2015. This consultation will help to form final Government decisions on amendments to Schedule 9 which will come into force during 2016.