

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.

Future of the Marine Pathways Group

The Marine Pathways Steering Group presented a paper to the GB NNS Programme Board in October, presenting options for the continuation and formalisation of the Steering Group. The Board commended the work of the Marine Pathways Group and stated that it is an important group that does excellent work in a difficult area. The Board confirmed the need for the Steering group to continue and agreed that the work of the group fits closely with the MSFD. Following this endorsement the Steering Group are in discussions with DEFRA and the devolved Administrations around where the Marine Pathways Steering Group (and wider Pathway Advisory Groups) fits into the delivery structure for MSFD. Ireland will continue to participate, contributing information on national projects and where opportunities arise, working collaboratively with the UK partners.

Gulf Wedge Clam Introduction into UK waters

The Gulf Wedge Clam, *Rangia cuneata*, has been found for the first time in GB. It was reported in South Forty Foot Drains which lead into the River Witham in Boston, Lincolnshire in November 2015. The Gulf wedge clam is 4-5cm in diameter and native to the Gulf of Mexico. It is usually found in brackish water but can survive in fresh water also.



The need to establish a greater knowledge of the distribution of this species in Lincolnshire is crucial given the potential impacts that this species could have. Dr. Sarah Henshall, Buglife's Lead Ecologist explained that "These species could pose a potential threat to our native fresh and brackish water ecosystems. Gulf wedge clams grow quickly and once established can become the dominant species, crowding out native species and potentially changing the structure of the ecosystem and environment. In addition they may cause potentially adverse economic impacts, such as problems with water pipes".

Using scientific techniques the origin and date of arrival of this non-native species will be assessed. In addition the spread of this species will be monitored by The Environment Agency in collaboration with the Conochological Society, National Museum of Wales and Buglife.

For more information please see: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/news-%26-events/news/american-invaders-in-lincolnshire>

Biosecurity Guidance Planning – England and Wales

In November 2015, Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance for England and Wales was published (<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=1401>) This guidance is an edited version of the very successful Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance document produced for Firth of Clyde Forum and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2014 (<http://www.snh.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/guidance-documents/>

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:

Veined Rapa Whelk (*Rapana venosa*)



Native range:

Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, Bohai Sea and the east China Sea to Taiwan.

Impacts:

- Outcompetes the native common whelk.
- Limits food availability for other predators of bivalves such as crabs, birds and fish.
- Consumes economically valuable bivalves thereby impacting commercial industries.

[document/?category_code=Guidance&topic_id=1628](#)). NRW and NE members of the Marine Pathways Group worked together to develop an England and Wales version following feedback from stakeholders to make it more user friendly - with legislation and case studies more relevant to English and Welsh users. Contributions and input was gratefully received from others including the RYA, Cefas, Defra and Welsh Government.

Given that current legislation in England and Wales does not require biosecurity plans to be in place unless it is a requirement of a license condition (in which case it would be a legal requirement) the document provides best practice guidance only.

The production and implementation of biosecurity plans for specific operations or events can make a positive contribution towards controlling the introduction and spread of INNS in our waters.

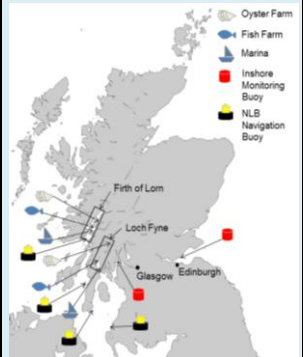
The document provides guidance to a wide range of marine users e.g. operators and users of harbors, moorings, boatyards, marinas, ports and slipways on developing a site-based biosecurity plan for INNS. It also covers the development of a biosecurity plan for a time-limited operation in the marine environment e.g. a construction project or major recreation event. Shellfish and finfish farms can also use the guidance to expand their disease Biosecurity Measures Plans (which are required by their license) to include INNS.



Coming up:

An article providing information on:

A project, funded by Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage, which assessed the merit of 5 different INNS detection techniques: rapid assessment, settlement panels, scrape samples, in-situ photographs and settlement panel photographs. The results from the project will be used to inform INNS early detection and management strategies.



EU Regulations and Species List

The aim of the EU IAS Regulation, (EU) No 1143/2014, is to enable European-wide controls to be put in place to prevent the establishment and spread of a species which would otherwise be likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife. These controls include the requirement to put in place border controls to prevent the introduction of species to the EU, surveillance and early detection to tackle new arrivals, and restrictions on the keeping, movement and sale of such species.

Defra has confirmed that the Commission's proposal to include 37 plant and animal species on a list of Union concern has been adopted. Members of the Marine Pathway Steering Group have input into the development of the species list of Union concern. These species become subject to the restrictions contained in Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014, and Member States are required to undertake surveillance, eradication and management of the species when they occur in their territory.

All the species on the list have been shown to be harmful in several Member States and without a ban on trade those countries could be under threat because of the single market. There is only one marine species on the list, the Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*. While this species is already established in the UK, management plans need to be sufficient to prevent the spread of this species, particularly to other Member States.

Adoption of the list requires a number of important actions, including:

- 12 months after the EU list is adopted – keepers of commercial stocks of listed species may no longer sell such species, other than to approved ex-situ conservation or research institutes (which they can only do so for a further 12 months).
- 18 months after the EU list is adopted – Member States shall have carried out a comprehensive analysis of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of those species, and identified pathways.
- 18 Months after the EU list is adopted – Member States shall have established a surveillance scheme for the species of Union concern.
- 18 months after the EU list is adopted – Member States shall have in place effective management measures for the species of Union concern.

The inclusion of 2 actions relating to NNS in Ireland's National Strategic Plan.

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