Environment Agency’s Approach to Biosecurity

Name Martin Fenn
Job title Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer
Date 31st January 2018
What the Environment Agency does
We protect and improve the environment

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution.

We work as part of the Defra group to create a better place for people and wildlife.
What is biosecurity?

bio-security in British

noun

the precautions taken to protect against the spread of lethal or harmful organisms and diseases

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Biosecurity isn’t an optional extra
It’s fundamental to how we do our job professionally
Our approach

- **Inform** staff of the risks and potential consequences;
- encourage them to **innovate**, suggesting ways they can adapt the way they work to reduce the risk of spread;
- **enthuse** staff to share and adopt their ideas.
Plan  - the order in which you visit sites, the equipment you take and the information you have with you.

Avoid - areas that harbour propagules, seasons during which propagules peak and equipment that is likely to harbour them.

Check - clothing and equipment.

Clean – thoroughly, and use equipment that is easily cleaned.

Dry – thoroughly, for 48 hours before reuse, and take dry duplicate equipment, if necessary.
## Biosecurity Action Plan

- Every area produces one

### Area Biosecurity Action Plan for: West Midlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Area actions from the National Plan</th>
<th>Example Activities</th>
<th>Lead person/group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A clear mandate for biosecurity from management and the funds required to deliver it</td>
<td>1.4 Make Area Leadership Teams (ALT) aware of biosecurity planning and seek their support</td>
<td>ALT to include biosecurity within their discussion topics and business planning</td>
<td>ALT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff to have biosecurity objectives, where appropriate. Especially those within the Biosecurity Working Group</td>
<td>ALT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5 Secure funding for the improvements to facilities needed to address priority pathways of spread described within Area Biosecurity Plans</td>
<td>Area to maintain and support representatives for ISAG and ISBN</td>
<td>Martin Fenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Make sure that all offices and depots within West Midlands have had a biosecurity audit</td>
<td>Biosecurity Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete risk assessment for activities around the West Midlands and fill in asset requirements</td>
<td>Biosecurity Working Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Biosecurity Risk Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Teams</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Likelihood (or frequency) of event (3 (high) - 1 (low))</th>
<th>Potential severity of event (3 (high) - 1 (low))</th>
<th>Risk score</th>
<th>Risk reduction measure 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>electric fishing</td>
<td>A&amp;R, S&amp;C, FBG</td>
<td>vehicle, boat and trailer, electric fishing equipment, hand nets, stop nets, tubs for holding fish and ppe</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Planning the days work to ensure working downstream and ideally not changing catchments (if so duplicate kit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Asset requirement list

### Area asset requirement list for: West Midlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Will this involve changes to premises?</th>
<th>How many staff will use the equipment or facility?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Top trock drying system</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Future?

• Work in progress
• Governments 25 year plan
• PhD students/research

25 Year Environment Plan

Our 25-year goals

By adopting this Plan we will achieve:

1. Clean air.
2. Clean and plentiful water.
3. Thriving plants and wildlife.
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought.
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

In addition, we will manage pressures on the environment by:

7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
8. Minimising waste.
10. Enhancing biosecurity.
Questions?