A strategy for Floating Pennywort

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Summary

- What’s floating pennywort?
- Invasion history
- Impact
- Cost
- Control methods
- A national perspective
- A LAG perspective
Floating Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
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Invasion history
Water bodies with Floating Pennywort

Floating Pennywort water bodies already infested or 'at risk'
Why does it matter?
Cost

- Total annual cost to England £25 million, of which £1,800 is control costs (Defra 2010);
- £500k+ annual EA cost (EA, 2009);
- Exminster marshes eradication: £160k;
- Cornwall eradication: <£5k;
- Cause of WFD failures
Control options: Prevention

- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981;
- Banned from sale April 2014;
- EU Invasive Alien Regulations 2015;
- Be Plant Wise
Control options: Mechanical
Control options: Manual
Control options: Chemical
Control options: Biological

Listronotus elongatus
Why do we need a national strategy?

- Floating pennywort is still spreading exponentially;
- We don’t respond quickly enough;
- We don’t control it for long enough;
- We may even be spreading it
Why do we need a national strategy?

Case history: River Mole, Surrey

Floating pennywort treated since 2000;
In 2013, a consultancy reviewed the efficacy of the treatment and concluded that the treatment had been effective and that only a ‘few localised patches’ remained
Why do we need a national strategy?

Case history: River Mole, Surrey 2016
Why do we need a national strategy?

Case history: River Inny (2003), River Whipsiderry (2014), Cornwall
What would a national strategy achieve?

- Contain and manage pennywort in areas in which it is already widespread;
- Eradicate pennywort when it appears in new catchments or where the risk it presents makes it cost-beneficial to do so;
- Coordinated response by landowners and agencies
How could LAGs contribute?

- Monitoring/promoting apps/recording;
- Small-scale eradictions;
- Following up large-scale eradictions;
- Compliance with legislation;
- Promoting ‘Be Plantwise’ and ‘Check-Clean-Dry’;
- Working with pond/lake owners to prevent further spread and control/eradicate their infestations.
Thank you