Awareness of INNS and uptake of biosecurity by GB recreational anglers

Dr Emily Smith
Emily.smith@anglingtrust.net
Emily.r.smith@ucl.ac.uk
Angling as a pathway/vector

Listed as a pathway on the EU IAS Regulation (1143/2014).

Focus on the unintentional spread of INNS by anglers as hitchhikers in damp angling equipment (nets, hooking mats) and clothing (waders, boots).
Engagement with anglers

- Regional angling forums
- Angling shows
Engagement with anglers

- Regional angling forums
- Angling shows
- Posters/signs at fishing venues
- Angling specific signs at ports
Engagement with anglers

- Regional angling forums
- Angling shows
- Posters/signs at fishing venues
- Angling specific signs at ports
- Angling magazines
- Social media (tweets, Facebook)
- Invasive week
3 surveys to monitor changes in the uptake of biosecurity measures by GB anglers.

1. 2011
2. 2015
3. 2018
Online survey

Promotion
• Social media
• EA newsletter circulated to rod licence holders
• Angling Trust magazine

Latest survey (Oct-Dec 2018)
• 3540 responses
• 66% of anglers go fishing at least once per fortnight

• 48% once per week or more
Number of waters visited by anglers each year

With the exception of game anglers, on average other angling disciplines visited 6-10 different waters per year.
High number of anglers fishing abroad

Left: 2015
300 out of 680
44%

Right: 2018
1197 out of 3540
33.8%
Number of trips per year

In 2018:

- 54% went abroad once a year
- 20% twice
- 16% less than once
Fishing upon return to GB

Time period between an angler returning from a fishing trip abroad and going fishing at a water body in Great Britain.

- Less than a week: 20%
- Within a fortnight: 35%
- Within 3 weeks: 5%
- Within a month: 10%
- Over a month: 15%
- No response: 10%
More cleaning AND drying after every trip

More cleaning after every trip
Changes in cleaning methods

- **Hot water**
  - 2015: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major
  - 2018: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major

- **Cold water**
  - 2015: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major
  - 2018: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major

- **Washing down facilities**
  - 2015: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major
  - 2018: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major

- **Dip net**
  - 2015: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major
  - 2018: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major

- **No cleaning undertaken**
  - 2015: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major
  - 2018: Low + Minor + Moderate + Major

Increase in the uptake of hot water between 2015 and 2018
Reasons for not undertaking biosecurity

**Top reasons**

1. Lack of facilities
2. Weather
3. Lack of space at home
4. Lack of time
Awareness of CCD

Fall in awareness of CCD
2015 - 37.5%
2018 - 19.9%
Awareness of CCD

Fall in awareness of CCD
2015 - 37.5%
2018 - 19.9%

• 63.9% heard of CCD from angling magazines
Definitions of CCD

- Mention the method
- Animals/ seeds/ plant material
- Frequency
- Reduction of risk
Conclusions

• Biosecurity message is getting through

• Caution over using CCD as sole predictor of biosecurity uptake by a group. Important to ask about cleaning and drying behaviour

• Greater work on explaining what “cleaning” entails

• Not one size fit all for biosecurity – practical

• Some social channels may be more effective than others

• The value in monitoring behaviour change.
Thank-you...any questions?

Dr Emily Smith
Emily.smith@anglingtrust.net
Emily.r.smith@ucl.ac.uk

07854 239 713
Work to promote INNS and biosecurity to anglers

- **KEY:** Education and awareness – only way to change behaviour in the long term

- Engage angling community

- Voluntary Codes of Conduct
Under the GB Pathway Action Plan (PAP) working group a series of different documents are being produced for:

- Angling leaflets, videos and posters
- Local and international competitions
  - Event organisers
  - Competitors
- Biosecurity risk assessments for fisheries
- Guidance for fishing tour operators
  - Guides themselves
  - Attending anglers
Latest survey

- Open Oct- Dec 2018
- 3540 responses
## Most popular fishing destinations for British anglers in Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage of anglers travelling abroad in 2015 (n=300) (%)</th>
<th>Percentage of anglers travelling abroad in 2018 (n=1197) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>