Implementation of the IAS Regulation in the UK

Alexia Fish (Invasive Non-native Species Specialist at the Animal and Plant Health Agency) presenting on behalf of:

Invasive Non-Native Species Policy Team, DEFRA
I will talk about …

- Devolution and implementation – The importance of strong collaboration
- Licensing
- Pathway Action Plans
- Contingency and Direct action
- Communication strategy
- Retaining the EU Regulation
Devolution, Implementation & Enforcement

• There are 4 different legislatures across the UK, each with a different range of powers.

• England and Wales have put in place a joint piece of legislation – the IAS Order 2019.

• As activities at the border are not devolved, the E+W Order governs border activities across the UK.

• Northern Ireland, and Scotland are each putting in place their own legislation to implement the IAS Reg.
Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.

- Laid on 8th March 2019
- Came into force on the 1st December 2019
- Similar legislation in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar.
Enforcement, licensing and permitting.

- **Enforcement – civil and criminal sanctions**
  - Warnings, stop notices
  - Fines up to £250,000
  - Prison sentences
  - Powers for enforcement bodies

- **Permits and licences**
  - Permits only for ex situ conservation, research, and the advancement of human health
  - Licences for range of measures.
Licensing – Overview

- Art 17. Rapid Eradication
- Art 31. Transitional arrangements
- Art 19. Management Measures

- Licensing is used to allow otherwise prohibited actions aimed at fulfilling specific essential requirements of the EU Reg.
Licensing - Management Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American skunk cabbage</th>
<th>Chilean rhubarb</th>
<th>Chinese mitten crab</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curly waterweed</td>
<td>Egyptian goose</td>
<td>Floating pennywort</td>
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<td>Giant hogweed</td>
<td>Grey squirrel</td>
<td>Himalayan balsam</td>
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<td>Muntjac deer</td>
<td>Nuttall’s waterweed</td>
<td>Parrot’s feather</td>
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<td>Red eared terrapin</td>
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<td>Signal crayfish</td>
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Consultation ➔ Analysis of response ➔ Government response*

* Delayed due to general election

Pathways for unintentional introduction and spread were assessed for the UK.

6 Priority PAPs were identified:
- Hull fouling (recreational boats)
- Horticultural escapes
- Horticultural contaminants
- Ballast water
- Fishing equipment
- Zoos and botanic gardens

3 Action plans are now complete, with the others in progress.
- Hull fouling (recreational boats)
- Fishing equipment
- Zoos and botanic gardens
Direct action

• Steps have been taken to eradicate a number of IAS species.
• The Animal and Plant Health Agency has developed specialist management capabilities.
• 40+ contingency plans have been developed.
Direct action – international collaboration

- The Ruddy duck has been reduced to 21 individuals in the UK.

- This work has been a great success, and has allowed us to now deal with this species under Art 17.

- We further support the work being undertaken in other member states to achieve control of this species.
Communication strategy

- Media & Comms Plan, was updated in 2019.
- Communicating with key target audiences
  - Stakeholders from priority pathways
  - Wider public
- Training and education
Communication strategy

1 panel in the House of Lords
2 Ministers helping to control invasive plants
12 blogs posted
4 TV interviews
31 videos

Isle of Man
Northern Ireland
Ireland
Wales
Guernsey
Jersey

working together to raise awareness

INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK
2019

93 more than 320 organisations involved

events held including practical management talks, and training

1 international exchange day

34 work parties to remove
150,000 tweets from @InvasiveSp
43 7 invasive plants

CHECK
CLEAN
DRY
Retaining the EU Regulation

• On the UK’s exit from the EU the IAS Regulation will become part of retained EU law in the UK.

• UK legislation will maintain the existing safeguards and it does not change existing policy.

• Replacement bodies in the UK will take on the responsibilities that are currently undertaken by the Committee and Scientific Forum.
Thank you…
…any questions?

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