



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Non-native Species Inspectorate

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Non-native species – the problem

- Approximately 12 non-native species become established each year in GB.
- 10-15% of these will become invasive. Recent examples include Killer Shrimp and Quagga mussel.
- The rate of invasion is rising inexorably due to increasing global trade, transport and travel.
- Invasive non-native species are estimated to cost the economy at least £2.3 billion annually.

Desk-based work 2020 – what was done

1. An investigation of the sectors that pose significant risk, assessing:
 - a. The ‘volumes’ of each sector (boating, angling, zoos etc.)
 - b. The approximate risks posed by each of these sectors
 - c. How much staff time it would take to adequately inspect each sector
 - d. What, if any, extra powers would be needed

2. An investigation of existing inspectorates, assessing:
 - a. Staff numbers, geographical coverage, taxonomic and other expertise, roles etc.
 - b. If existing inspectorates could cover potential INNS inspection roles

Details of work in 2020 – how it was done

- Collection of information from wide range of stakeholders including Angling Trust, British Canoeing, Royal Yachting Association, Hawk Board.
- Some information provided by private individuals e.g. on escapes of falconry birds.
- Wherever possible the information provided by third parties was validated and reinforced by internet searches.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Review of relevant literature
- Discussions with other inspectorates in Great Britain

Sectors identified:

- AT THE BORDER
- Boats
- Anglers
- Containers/Contaminants

- EVENTS
- Trade fairs
- Angling events
- Boating events

Sectors identified

- POST-BORDER
- Exotic pet owners
- Animal rescue centres
- Zoos
- Garden centres and nurseries

- Butterfly farms
- Falconry
- Exotic waterfowl

- Online sales
- Deliberate releases

Formation of pilot Inspectorate April 2021

- Aim - reduce the numbers of non-natives species becoming established in Great Britain
- Step change – inspections on the ground for first time
- 3.6 FTE equivalents
- Much of work focused on filling in gaps in knowledge e.g. contamination rates in certain sectors, time needed to arrange and carry out inspections, whether additional legal powers needed to work effectively etc.

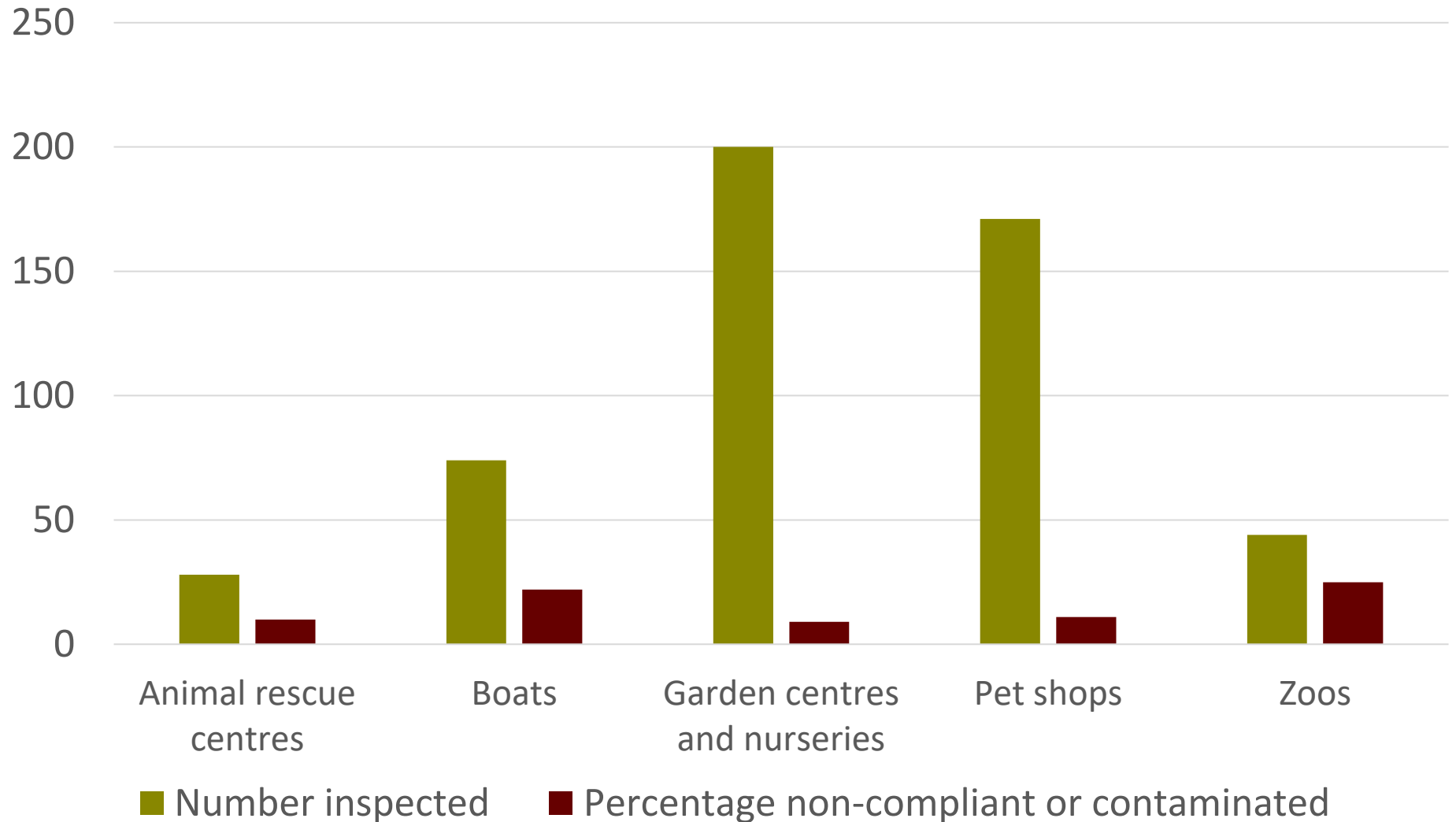
Where we are now.....

- Currently seven inspectors covering Scotland, England, and Wales, plus one administrative officer.
- Generally each inspector covers all the sectors in their area but specialist help available if required e.g. DNA analysis, expert botanists and entomologists etc.

Legal powers

- Authorised as Enforcement Officers under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.
- Covers 66 species of special concern only.
- Powers to seize samples and imports of listed species, powers to enter premises (but not private dwellings), but both require “reasonable grounds to believe” an offence is being committed.

Results of inspections in selected sectors 2022/23



Specific problems with plants

- Poor labelling in garden centres e.g. to genus level only
- Poor understanding of legislation e.g. continued sale of Species of Special Concern (e.g. *Myriophyllum aquaticum*) and species banned under WCA (e.g. *Crassula helmsii* and *Azolla filiculoides*)



British Waterways and RPS Group plc

Hitch-hikers/contaminants

- Uncertain proportion of horticultural imports contaminated with hitch-hikers e.g. *Azolla filiculoides*, non-native flatworms, white rhino beetle.
- Containers may contain non-native species not linked to their contents e.g. Italian Wall Lizards, various species of gecko.



Working in partnership

- Close working partnership with permitting and licencing authorities to ensure legal compliance for IAS animals.
- The inspectorate works closely with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental bodies on non-native species.
- Also forging links with other inspectorates to avoid duplication of work, particularly Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate.

How can LAGS help?

- Pass on any suspicions about illegal introductions into the wild, whether plant or animal.
- Highlight any unusual species of concern you come across.
- Tell us about any living non-native species that arrive as hitchhikers e.g. in plant pots.
- Pass on any details of Species of Special Concern being sold or offered for sale.

With particular thanks to.....



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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