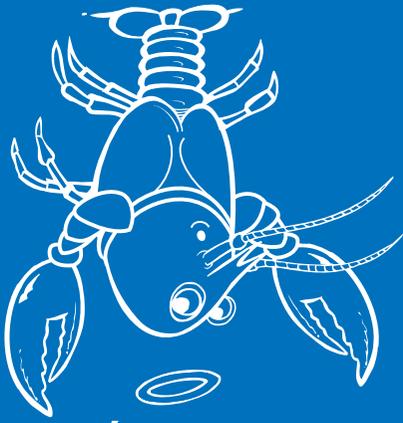


# Conserve native white clawed crayfish Protect our freshwaterers



**WHAT TYPE OF CRAYFISH DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR LOCAL RIVER, LAKE OR STREAM?**

Use the identification guide overleaf to find out.

Native white-clawed crayfish and their habitats are protected by law and must be left undisturbed.

Native white-clawed crayfish have been present in our UK waters for hundreds of years. The invading alien species were introduced in the 1970's and 80's.

Alien non-native crayfish are aggressive and invasive and must be controlled.

They are now killing our native species by being more aggressive, faster breeding and carrying crayfish plague. They also damage riverbanks by burrowing into them.

Our native white-clawed crayfish likes clean, flowing waters. If you have native crayfish in your river then you have a healthy environment.

That's good for humans and for the plants and animals that live in our waterways.



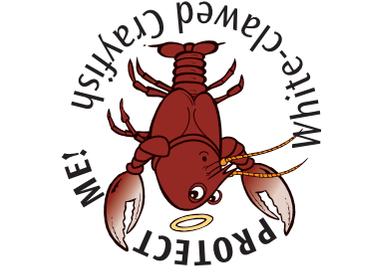
## PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NON-NATIVE/ALIEN CRAYFISH

**Help protect our native white-clawed crayfish.**

Native white clawed crayfish cannot compete with alien crayfish which are now found in over 87% of river catchments. These introduced crayfish breed faster, damage riverbanks, eat lots of other river species and travel further than our native white-clawed crayfish. If people continue to help these alien/non-native crayfish move to new areas efforts to control them may not be in time to save the native white-clawed from extinction.

It is illegal to disturb native white-clawed crayfish. The introduction of alien/non-native crayfish to ANY waters is illegal. All fishing must be under Environment Agency licence and crayfish must not be used as bait. Saltwater fish are suitable for use as bait in freshwaterers as they will not have been exposed to crayfish plague.

Please contact the organisations listed on the back page of this booklet if you have any information that may help protect our native white-clawed crayfish.



**CRAYFISH PLAGUE**  
*Aphanomyces astaci*

Crayfish plague is caused by a fungus; it is carried by alien crayfish but kills our native white-clawed crayfish. Spores of the crayfish plague can be carried on fish, nets, lines, wellies & boats. ALL river users can help by sterilizing their equipment before using it in another river. Wet equipment can be sterilised by drying in bright sunlight and/or rinsing in dilute iodophore solution (or dilute bleach: 1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and then drying outside. Drying for 24 hours in the outdoors is the best and easiest method.

All movement of fish and damp equipment must be avoided between rivers.

# ALIEN CRAYFISH

# REDUCE DON'T INTRODUCE

**Introduced alien crayfish are destroying our rivers:**

- Reducing biodiversity and eroding riverbanks
- Out-competing native white-clawed crayfish populations and carrying crayfish plague
- Spreading through waterways and across land to damage more and more areas

**87% OF RIVER CATCHMENTS ARE NOW AFFECTED.**

**We must STOP alien crayfish being introduced illegally into our rivers and do what we can to monitor and control the spread of alien crayfish.**

**THE LAW**

- Crayfishing can only be carried out under Environment Agency licence with the permission of the landowner
- The use of crayfish as bait is illegal
- The introduction or reintroduction of alien crayfish to any waters is illegal. **Once caught they must be removed and humanely killed by freezing or boiling and then securely wrapped and disposed of in domestic wastebins.**
- Native white-clawed crayfish are a species protected by law and **MUST** be left undisturbed.



**NATIVE WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH IDENTIFICATION**

Usually less than 10cm long (can be up to 12cm). Brown to olive colour, pitted appearance

**CLAWS**

Underside dirty pinky white.



*Austropotamobius pallipes*

**ALIEN AMERICAN RED SIGNAL CRAYFISH IDENTIFICATION**

Average 15cm long (can be up to 30cm) Reddish brown colour

**CLAWS**

Underside bright red, turquoise/white patch on upper claw junction



*Pacifastacus leniusculus*

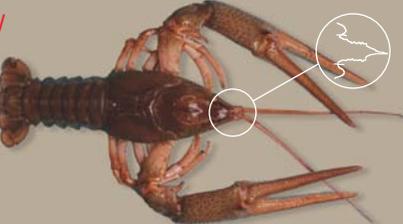
**ALIEN NARROW CLAWED/ TURKISH CRAYFISH IDENTIFICATION**

Average 15cm long (can be up to 30cm)

**CLAWS**

Long and narrow, underside same colour as body

Photographs by David Holdich



*Astacus leptodactylus*

**IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION**

- Take care near water especially with children
- Cover all cuts, scratches and abrasions
- Avoid rubbing your eyes, nose and mouth during water-based activities
- Wash your hands THOROUGHLY using soap and water after activity
- DO NOT EAT OR DRINK UNTIL YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY WASHED YOUR HANDS
- Clean clothing, footwear and equipment after use
- Flu-like symptoms (raised temperature/chills and pains in joints or muscles) can indicate **WEILS DISEASE/LEPTOSPIROSIS**. Diagnosis is through laboratory investigations so medical staff need to be aware that you are at risk through water-based activities.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Environment Agency  
www.environment-agency.gov.uk  
Environment Agency Hotline: 0800 807060  
"Fishstoppers" Hotline: 01480 483023

Lark Angling & Preservation Society  
admin@lark-angling.co.uk  
www.lark-angling.co.uk

abby.standcliffe-vaughan@anglia.ac.uk  
www.anglia.ac.uk/abbystandcliffe