

**GB COMMITTEE FOR NON-NATIVE SPECIES
FOURTH MEETING**

**VIRTUAL
4 OCTOBER 2022, 12:15 – 14:00**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Attendance / apologies

Present:

- Bill MacDonald (Welsh Government) – Chair
- Olaf Booy (NNSS) - Secretary
- Mark Diamond (Environment Agency)
- Finn Eaton (Defra)
- Leasa Fielding (Welsh Government)
- Richard Gray (DAERA – NI)
- Rebecca Isted (FC)
- Theresa Kudelska (NRW)
- Jo Long (SEPA)
- Lisa McCann (Scottish Government)
- Gavin Measures (NE)
- Niall Moore (NNSS)
- Mark Preston (DAERA – NI)
- Dave Rowlands (MMO)
- Michael Sigsworth (Defra)
- Kath Webster (APHA)
- Stan Whitaker (NatureScot)
- Sarah Wood (NRW)
- Nicola Spence (Defra, Plant Health)

Observing:

- Mark Preston (DAERA - Northern Ireland)

Apologies:

- Matthew Bird (Scottish Government)
- Christine Maggs (JNCC)
- Colin Edwards (Scottish Forestry)
- Vanessa Fairbank (Defra – Marine)
- Chris Graham (MMO) – replaced by Dave Rowlands
- Nicholas Greenwood (MMO)
- Richard Pullen (Defra) – replaced by Michael Sigsworth
- Des Thompson (NatureScot) – replaced by Stan Whitaker

2. Minutes of meeting on 13 April 2022

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 22-02)

The minutes were signed off with no modifications.

3. Actions and matters arising

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 22-03)

All actions had been completed apart from Action 4 which is in progress and was dealt with under item 5. Olaf mentioned that Helen Roy and Gabe Wyn had now joined the NNRAF and there had been two meetings since the last Board meeting.

4. De-listing of species of special concern

Papers circulated (Cte Oct 22-04)

Olaf introduced the paper summarising the forward process and likely timings associated with de-listing the 10 species agreed by the Committee at its last meeting. It is hoped that the Statutory Instrument will come into force in April 2023. Olaf invited Scottish colleagues to comment as there is still some uncertainty regarding the Scottish position on de-listing – Lisa noted that they are still awaiting a response in relation to Scotland’s position. Relating to the Committee’s decision at the last meeting - Mark asked for the Committee to note his reservations with using the 2050 timeline as it is not too distant in climate change terms. Rebecca queried how the timeline interacted with the Retained EU Law Bill. Finn replied that this is currently unknown, but it may delay the de-listing process.

After discussion the Committee agreed with the de-listing process but agreed to take offline the issue of the timing and wording of the publicity surrounding the decision.

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| <p>ACTION 1: NNSS to facilitate the Committee agreeing (by correspondence) the timing and wording of the publicity related to the species for de-listing.</p> |
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5. New species to consider for listing: progress update

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 22-05)

Olaf introduced this item, detailing the progress with assessing new species for listing. Firstly, as requested by the Committee at its last meeting, three marine species had been prioritised with the agencies to take forward. The Committee

agreed with the addition of the three marine species. On communicating the list to stakeholders, the Committee agreed that there should be an explanatory note covering (i) the process that has been gone through in order to come up with the priority list plus (ii) the process for scrutiny.

Olaf then outlined the second question posed in the paper – on the template for gathering risk management information. The Committee agreed that the approach outlined in the template (annex 2 of the paper) was appropriate although it may need to be tweaked as the NNSS gathers relevant information. The Committee requested that the Secretariat draft example fiches for its next meeting in April so that it could see how appropriate the information was and suggest possible amendments.

There followed extensive discussion on how exactly the process will work for deciding on which species to list or not list – this included whether unanimity was needed by the three governments, whether species should be considered (and/or voted on) in batches or individually and how much should be done between committee meetings. The Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper for its next meeting that clearly details this process – this would include parts of papers previously agreed by the Committee.

ACTION 2: Olaf to draft several example fiches for different species for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION 3: Olaf to draft a paper that details the process leading to the voting on listing species – for the next Committee meeting.

6. AOB

None.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in April 2023 chaired by Defra.

ACTION 4: NNSS to seek dates in April (avoiding Easter holidays) for the next GB Committee meeting and to poll members on whether the meeting should be in person, virtual or hybrid.