

## **Terms of reference of the GB Non-native Risk Analysis Forum (GB NNNRAF)**

### **Objectives of the GB Non-native Risk Analysis Forum (GB NNRAF)**

1. To provide the GB Invasive Non-native Species Committee (“the GB Committee”) with robust, independent risk-based evidence to underpin decision making on non-native species and the application of the retained EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species as amended<sup>1</sup> (“the retained Regulation”). When providing advice in relation to Scotland only, the GB NNRAF does so under the EU Regulation 1143/2014 as retained in Scotland, as set out in paragraph 3.

2. To provide a risk analysis function and scientific advice to the UK Non-Native Species Programme Board (“the UKNNSPB”) in relation to the GB INNS strategy. Northern Ireland will have a place on the UKNNSPB, however, the GB NNRAF will not provide a risk analysis function to Northern Ireland, as a result of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

### **Remit**

3. In line with Article 28 of the amended Regulation, the GB NNRAF will meet as a scientific forum for the purpose of providing the GB Committee with the risk assessment and scientific advice needed for the application of Articles 4, 5, 9, 10 and 18 of the amended Regulation.

4. The GB NNRAF will also fill the role that the Non-Native Risk Analysis Panel (NNRAP) previously held: providing advice on all non-native plant and animal species and pathways in the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments and the application of the GB INNS strategy. There will be no duplication of risk analysis functions where they already exist e.g. Plant Health.

### **Role**

5. The role of the GB NNRAF is to provide advice on any scientific question related to the application of the relevant articles within the amended Regulation as retained in each relevant administration.

- Article 4: The GB NNRAF to provide advice on (a) the addition of new invasive alien species to the list of Species of Special Concern and the removal of listed species if they no longer meet one or more of the criteria laid down in paragraph 3 of Article 4.
- Article 5: The GB NNRAF to carry out risk assessments in line with Article 5, when requested by the Committee or Minister.
- Article 9: Ministers, before issuing a permit, must have consulted and have regard to the opinion of the GB NNRAF.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by the Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/223); the Animal Health, Alien Species in Aquaculture and Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/813); and the Animal Welfare and Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1590).

- Article 10: In the instance Emergency Measures are enacted the GB NNRAF must without delay carry out a risk assessment pursuant to Article 5 for the invasive alien species subject to the emergency measures, given the available technical and scientific information, and in any case within 24 months from the date of the decision to introduce emergency measures.
- Article 18: The GB NNRAF must provide advice relating to derogations from the rapid eradication obligation.
- The GB NNRAF will provide advice to the UKNNSPB and produce risk assessments at its request in relation to the GB INNS strategy.

6. A key role of the GB NNRAF is the production of species risk assessments. These are drafted by independent experts and peer reviewed by at least one other expert. Both the risk assessment and peer review are then reviewed by the GB NNRAF, which determines whether the risk assessment is fit-for-purpose and requesting modification if it is not.

7. To perform its functions the GB NNRAF will comprise a small core of experts with risk analysis experience in (i) marine species, (ii) freshwater species, (iii) plants, (iv) invertebrates and (v) economics as well as (where relevant) vertebrate disease and human health impacts. It will meet up to four times per year but with much of the work of the GB NNRAF carried out by email.

8. The GB NNRAF will also continue to perform the role previously performed by the NNRAF: providing the UKNNSPB (previously the GBNNSPB) with robust, independent risk-based evidence to underpin decision making on non-native species and aid the prioritisation of resources.

9. When meeting as a scientific forum for the purposes of Article 28 of the amended Regulation, the GB NNRAF will report to the GB Committee. It will report to the UKNNSPB for all other matters.

### **Rules of procedure**

10. The GB NNRAF follows the rules of procedure set out below (based on those of the EU Scientific Forum).

11. The GB NNRAF should make a clear distinction between when it is performing its role as the scientific forum, advising the GB Committee under Article 28 the retained EU IAS regulation and when it is performing its role for the UKNNSPB in relation to GB INNS strategy.

### **Convening a meeting**

12. Meetings of the GB NNRAF are convened by the Chair, supported by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNSS). Meetings of the GB NNRAF shall be held in York, or at other locations, including virtual spaces, agreed by the GB NNRAF.

### **Agenda**

13. The GB NNESS shall draw up the agenda under the responsibility of the Chair and send it to the members of the GB NNRAF. The agenda shall be adopted by the GB NNRAF at the start of the meeting.

#### **Documentation to be sent to GB NNRAF members**

14. The GB NNESS shall send the invitation to the meeting and the draft agenda to the GB NNRAF members no later than thirty calendar days before the date of the meeting.

15. The GB NNESS shall send documents on which the GB NNRAF is consulted to the GB NNRAF members no later than fourteen calendar days before the date of the meeting.

16. In urgent or exceptional cases, the time limits for sending the documentation mentioned in 14 and 15 may be reduced to five calendar days before the date of the meeting.

#### **Opinions of the GB NNRAF**

17. As far as possible, the GB NNRAF shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus.

18. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by a simple majority of the members. The Chair has the casting vote in the event votes are tied.

#### **Admission of third parties**

19. For specific meetings or items of work the Chair may invite experts on an ad hoc basis from outside the GB NNRAF with specific competence in a subject on the agenda to participate in the work of the GB NNRAF. In addition, the Chair may give observer status to individuals or organisations for specific meetings.

#### **Permanent changes to Membership**

20. Members of the GB NNRAF will be appointed by the appropriate authorities<sup>2</sup> acting jointly after seeking the advice of the GB Committee. The initial membership of the GB NNRAF is laid out at point 33.

#### **Written procedure**

21. If necessary, the GB NNRAF opinion or recommendation on a specific question may be delivered via a written procedure. To this end, the GB NNESS sends the members the document(s) on which the GB NNRAF is being consulted.

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<sup>2</sup> The “appropriate authority” means:

- a. the Secretary of State in relation to
  - i. England;
  - ii. the offshore marine area; and
  - iii. the regulation of imports into, and exports from, the United Kingdom;
- b. in relation to Wales, the Welsh Ministers;
- c. in relation to Scotland, the Scottish Ministers.

22. However, if a simple majority of members asks for the question to be examined at a meeting of the GB NNRAF, the written procedure shall be terminated without result and the Chair shall convene a meeting of the GB NNRAF as soon as possible.

**Secretariat**

23. The GB NNSS shall provide secretarial support for the GB NNRAF.

**Summary minutes of the meetings**

24. Summary minutes of the discussion on each point on the agenda and the opinions delivered by the GB NNRAF shall be drafted by the GB NNSS under the responsibility of the Chair. The minutes shall not mention the individual position of the members during the GB NNRAF’s deliberations.

**Attendance list**

25. At each meeting, the GB NNSS shall draw up, under the responsibility of the Chair, an attendance list specifying, where appropriate, the authorities, organisations or bodies to which the participants belong.

**Conflicts of interest**

26. Should a conflict of interest in relation to an expert arise, the GB NNSS, acting on behalf of the GB Committee, may exclude this expert from the group or a particular meeting thereof or they may decide that the expert in question shall abstain from discussing the items on the agenda concerned and from any vote on these items.

27. At the start of each meeting, any expert whose participation in the GB NNRAF’s work would raise a conflict of interest shall inform the Chair.

28. Conflicts of interest shall be reported in writing, e.g. in the summary minutes of the meeting.

**Correspondence**

29. Correspondence relating to the GB NNRAF shall be addressed to the GB NNSS, for the attention of the Chair.

30. Correspondence for GB NNRAF members shall be sent to the GB NNSS.

**Confidentiality of deliberations**

31. The GB NNRAF’s deliberations shall be confidential.

32. The GB NNRAF may, by a simple majority of its members, decide to open its deliberations to the public.

33. Initial members of GB NNRAF will be

Name	Organisation
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Prof. John Mumford (chair)	Imperial College London
Prof. Elizabeth Cottier-Cook	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Prof. Gordon Copp	Cefas
Prof. Mark Rees	University of Sheffield
Dr. Alan MacLeod	Defra (Plant Health)
Dr. Paul Duff	Animal and Plant Health Agency [attends when relevant to vertebrate disease]
Dr. Jolyon Medlock	Public Health England [attends when relevant to public health]