

**UK PROGRAMME BOARD FOR NON-NATIVE SPECIES  
SECOND MEETING**

**VIRTUAL  
1 OCTOBER 2021, 11:30 – 13:00**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. Attendance / apologies**

*Present:*

Lisa McCann (Scottish Government) – Chair  
Niall Moore (NNSS) - Secretary  
Matthew Bird (Scottish Government)  
Olaf Booy (NNSS)  
Mark Diamond (Environment Agency)  
Colin Edwards (Scottish Forestry)  
Leasa Fielding (Welsh Government)  
Theresa Kudelska (NRW)  
Jo Long (SEPA)  
Christine Maggs (JNCC)  
Gavin Measures (NE)  
Mark Preston (DAERA – NI)  
Neil Riddle (Forestry Commission)  
Michael Sigsworth (Defra)  
Graham Smith (APHA)  
Des Thompson (NatureScot)  
Sarah Webster (Defra)  
Martin Williams (Welsh Government)

Iain Henderson (APHA) - for Item 4

*Apologies:*

Nicholas Greenwood (MMO)  
Emilie Hall (Defra - Marine)  
Peter Pollard (SEPA) - replaced by Jo Long  
Richard Pullen (Defra) – replaced by Michael Sigsworth  
Nicola Spence (Defra, Plant Health)  
Kath Webster (APHA) – replaced by Graham Smith  
Stan Whitaker (NatureScot)

**2. Minutes of meeting on 10 March 2021**

*Paper circulated (PB Oct 21-02)*

The minutes were signed off with no modifications.

### **3. Actions / matters arising**

*Paper circulated (PB Oct 21-03)*

All actions were discharged.

### **4. Inspectorate update**

*Paper circulated (PB Oct 21-04)*

Niall introduced this paper and summarised work so far on the scoping and piloting of an inspectorate. The pilot inspectorate is now up to full strength and has been busy carrying out inspections and following up intelligence leads. There have been a number of barriers and limitations identified, the most substantial of which is an inability so far to carry out inspections at ferry-ports due to a lack of powers to stop vehicles (which is being discussed with border force). Covid has also had an impact on the traffic at the border and the number of boating / sailing events taking place. While much progress will be made by this piloting work, there will be outstanding questions which may require further investigation and piloting next year (funding dependent).

A bid has been put in to SR21 to maintain and grow the inspectorate team – it is not yet clear how likely this is to succeed. Welsh Government has submitted a bid to continue to support this work (£40k for next year) and Scottish Government indicated its likely willingness to continue funding at a similar level to this year while the pilot work is ongoing.

The Board noted progress and made a number of comments:

- We need to consider how to evaluate the impact of the inspectorate: what risks have been reduced by this activity; can we quantify the benefit it provides?
- Taking inspections through to successful enforcement action is complex. This is an area for further investigation, with a focus on clarifying the way in which the inspectorate would work with policy officials, agencies and the police.
- There is a need to better understand the different constitutional arrangements within GB, with potentially different requirements in England, Wales and Scotland.
- The governance framework of the inspectorate needs to be considered. Where within APHA should it sit? To whom would it report?

### **5. GB INNS Strategy**

*Strategy Review (PB Oct 21-05, 05A)*

Niall introduced this item and handed over to Sarah to present the findings of the strategy review (carried out by APEM) and the paper on this item, including its recommendations for the 'refresh' of the strategy.

The Board agreed that the refreshed strategy should follow the same structure as the original. They also agreed that a draft version should be shared with stakeholders at the 2022 stakeholder forum. They commented that the APEM review had not investigated whether the strategy had an impact on the trend in species arriving, establishing, spreading or causing impacts since 2015. It will be useful to consider how to measure this as part of the future strategy. The Board noted the need to align the refreshed strategy with related strategies, including those for Animal Health and, particularly, Plant Biosecurity. Mark noted that there were a number of errors in the APEM report, which he will note and send to Sarah.

The Board had differing views on whether the refreshed strategy should be for 10 years (running to 2032) or should run until 2030 in order to align with other biodiversity targets. On one hand it makes sense to align with the targets, on the other it may be useful to have the strategy in place until 2032 to guide our work while other targets are being renewed in 2030. The Board agreed that this issue should be taken away, discussed further, and brought back to the Board.

Theresa queried whether the strategy refresh would incorporate all 49 of the APEM report recommendations. Christine suggested that there were far too many recommendations. Leasa suggested, and the Board agreed, that the drafting group should decide which recommendations should be incorporated into the refreshed strategy and which should not.

**ACTION 1: Mark D.** (and any other board members) to send any errors in the APEM strategy review report to Sarah Webster – by October 15.

**ACTION 2: Defra / NNSS** to further discuss the timing of the future strategy review (10 years or to 2030) with the strategy drafting group and come back to the Board with a proposal.

*Country working group feedback*

England:

- The last meeting of the England Working Group discussed issues including the impact of the global pandemic and the role of a potential invasive species inspectorate.
- There was considerable interest in the comprehensive review of species and those species that may be considered for de-listing.

Scotland:

- The group has not met since the Board's last meeting.
- However, horizon scanning and pathway analysis are underway – as is implementing pathway action plans.

- Large-scale eradication and management programmes are also currently being reviewed.

Wales:

- New grants are available for invasive species control as part of plans for the National Forest for Wales.
- A project to engage communities in invasive species biosecurity and control (known as WaREN) is underway.
- NRW has inserted an INNS chapter into the State of Natural Resources Report.
- Canoe Wales has been installing washdown facilities at key water bodies.

## 6. Rapid Responses

EA

- Topmouth gudgeon – there are 7 remaining populations in England (23 have been eradicated) with 2 being treated this winter and a third to follow. The future eradication programme is subject to funding availability.
- Gibel carp – two sites confirmed in England and a response group of NE, Defra, EA, NNS and FHI has been established.
- Water primrose – has been detected in 46 locations in total, with 3 new sites in 2021. Sixteen sites are believed to be eradicated. All but 5 of the other sites are under management. A species control order may be needed to support control in one case.

NRW

- Topmouth gudgeon – monitoring is underway, with a view to taking action next year (funding dependent).
- Aesculapian snake – an MSc student has been researching the suspected population in Bridgend, but has not found any signs of a population.
- Raccoon dog – there has been a suspected sighting in the same location as before (Carmarthenshire). This is likely to be the second of two racoon dogs that escaped there, the other was recovered by NRW in 2020.
- Capybara – a reported escapee was recaptured by its owner.

APHA

- Ruddy ducks – there have been a number of sightings including a brood in south west England and a single individual in East Yorkshire. APHA will attempt to shoot these individuals as soon as possible.
- Monk parakeet – there is only 1 breeding colony remaining - on the Isle of Dogs with 3 active nests in 2 trees. APHA is working to eradicate these and removed 24 eggs from these nests in 2022.

NatureScot

- Purple pitcher plant - no living pitcher plants found during monitoring visit in June 2021. Eradication can be declared three years after last flowering plant (September 2022).
- Ring-necked parakeet, Glasgow. No decision taken on eradication. NatureScot meeting with Glasgow City Council (land owner) next week. Roost counts planned (post COP26).
- Floating-pennywort, Moray. Eradication declared in 2020.
- Asian Semele, Edinburgh. 2020 sighting remains unconfirmed.

#### DAERA

- Asian hornet – there was a report in May which provided an opportunity to test the response plan. No Asian hornets were found.
- Slider turtles – have been identified in 3 sites; traps have been set.
- Parrots feather, floating pennywort and American skunk cabbage are currently being managed.
- [Note: in the Republic of Ireland there have been reports of Chinese mitten crab breeding, as well as Asian clam and quagga mussel.]

#### SEPA

- Signal crayfish – a new population has been confirmed in West Lothian. SEPA is working with Forth Rivers Trust, Scottish Canals and others to reduce risk of spread to the Union Canal.
- Pink salmon – there have been 102 records this year. Fisheries Management Scotland has been following this closely with a reporting portal. There is still no evidence of fry emerging - so this species is still considered a vagrant.

**ACTION 3: Jo, Mark D, Mark P and Theresa** to send Niall a short update on (any) reports of Pacific salmon this year.

## 7. Secretariat Report

*Paper circulated (PB Oct 21-10)*

Niall took the Board through highlights of the secretariat report and the future work plan, handing over to Olaf to discuss risk analysis. On the latter, the Board noted progress with risk assessments and the intention to produce more risk management assessments. On *Paulownia* 'Phoenix One' the Board noted that a risk assessment for this novel hybrid has been reviewed using the GB risk analysis mechanism, but that a different process would be required in future.

Gavin raised the issue of the unpublished carp risk assessment stating that NE is keen to see it published. Mark D stated that the Environment Agency would be happy to see it published. Olaf suggested that, if the Board agreed, it would be better to carry out a new risk assessment (using the old assessment as a valuable source of information). He also stressed that it is important to have a clear rationale for why the risk assessment is being undertaken (from NE and other government

bodies as necessary). The Board was not clear whether it would be better to publish the old risk assessment or produce a new assessment and asked for this to be brought back to their next meeting if necessary.

**ACTION 4:** Olaf to assess the draft carp risk assessment and the issues with its publication and, if necessary, prepare a paper for discussion at the next Programme Board meeting.

## **8. AOB**

Sarah briefly mentioned CBD targets and the forthcoming meeting of the Bern Standing Committee which would be taking two papers on INNS – providing guidance on online sales and communications.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Defra will chair the next meeting, which will be in approx. 6 months –March/April 2022.

**ACTION 5:** GBNSS to trawl for dates of next meeting.