

# Biosecurity Practice to Stop the Spread of Invasive Alien Species – An Irish Perspective

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Ireland

Invasives 2017, ISCBC – 7th February 2017



# Scope

What is biosecurity?

What is required to achieve successful biosecurity

Biosecurity practice

Biosecurity initiatives

Where to from here?



# Biosecurity

Biosecurity covers all activities aimed at managing and PREVENTING the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive species, and mitigating their impacts



# How Can We Prevent the Introduction & Spread of IAS?

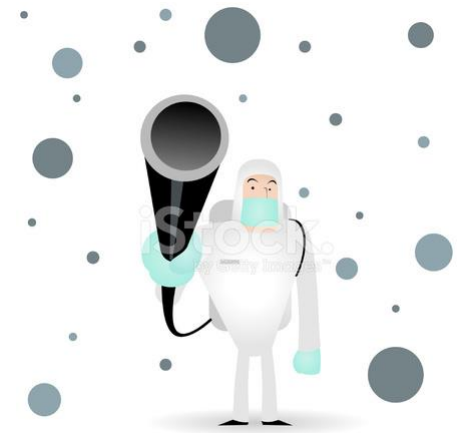
Appropriate legislation and enforcement

Coordinated monitoring, surveillance and rapid reaction capabilities

Tried-and-tested control / eradication procedures

Buy-in from government, industry, stakeholders and public

## Good biosecurity practice



# What is Required to Achieve Effective Biosecurity?

*Government agencies, industry, stakeholders and public must share a common understanding of biosecurity and know their roles and responsibilities*

Essential:

- ID and agree priority IAS

# Priority Invasive Alien Species in Ireland



Lucky to have few high impact invasive species

Risk assessments show large no. on the horizon – which we must keep out !!!



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- Target priority pathways (e.g. hotspots – garden centres, marinas, event hubs ...)

# Priority Pathways for IAS in Ireland

- Horticultural and aquarium trades
- Vessels
- Intentional release
- Recreational activities
- Escapes





# Priority Pathways for IAS

Aquatic IAS can survive in damp equipment (e.g. nets, boats, creases in wet gear, mud on boots ....)

Zebra mussel	> 5 days
Killer shrimp	> 15 days
New Zealand pigmyweed	> 22 days
Asian clam	> 30 days



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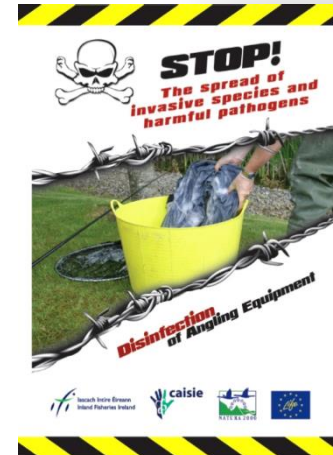
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- Disseminate knowledge (e.g. information, signage, campaigns, alerts ....)

# Education & Awareness Materials

- Information leaflets
- Popular, technical and scientific articles
- Biosecurity protocols for stakeholders
- Signage
- Pop-ups and back-drops
- IS Alerts
- Identification guides (e.g. leaflets, key rings)
- Calendars
- Rulers, badges, wrist bands, T-shirts, pens, USB keys ....
- Disinfection Kits



- Emergency no. (24/7)
- Websites
- Facebook and Twitter
- DVDs
- App for smart 'phones and more .....



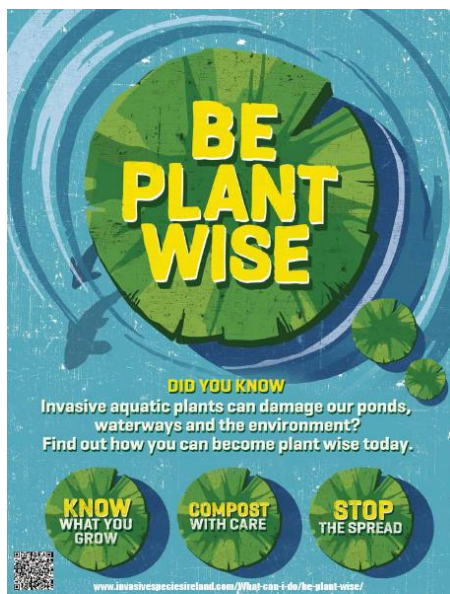
# Biosecurity Campaigns

*To raise awareness of good biosecurity practice*

NZ and UK      Check - Clean - Dry

UK      Be Plant Wise

Ireland (IFI)      5 Point Plan



# Agreed Protocols

Already produced for:

- Routine
- Anglers
- Boaters
- Scuba di
- Paddle s

**STOP!**  
The spread of  
invasive species and  
harmful pathogens

**Disinfection of Paddle  
Sports Equipment**

**Inspect**  
**Remove**  
**Clean**  
**Dispose**  
**Notify**

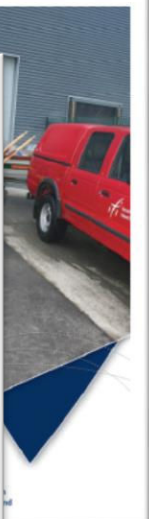
Please report sightings to [info@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:info@fisheriesireland.ie)  
[www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/)  
or FREEPHONE 1890 34 74 24

Iascach Intire Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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**Canoeing**

(Produced and illustrated by Eirak 23/0013)



- Anglers must display the colour wristband to the weigh officer in order to draw their pig.
- The angler's catch will only be weighed on submission of the wrist band to the weigh master.
- It is essential that all weigh slings are disinfected before any weigh in commences.

Dr Joe Caffrey, Senior Research Officer, July 2012



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- Develop comprehensive Biosecurity Action Plans (e.g. for State agencies, industry, sports clubs, key stakeholders, community groups ....)

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- Develop and promote best biosecurity practice

*Much of this is covered by the EU Regulation on IAS (1143/2014)*

# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland

*PREMISE - Biosecurity must become an instinctive and integral part of one's work or play activities*

..... but how is this achieved?



"Just your husbands feet will suffice Mam".





# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland

Develop: protocols and guidelines for Industry and diverse Stakeholder Groups

- accessible
- easy to use
- efficient
- environmentally safe
- cost effective

Convince: cleaning and disinfection **will** slow the introduction and spread

Research: cleaning and disinfection methods

drying

hot water ( $\geq 45$  C)

household bleach

Virkon Aquatic



Collaborate: with research institutions ... to explore new methods, disinfectants, etc.

# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland

## Prepare clear and simple guidelines for potential users

cognisant that - human activity (recreational or work) plays a major role in the introduction and spread of IAS

**Example:** *before embarking on recreational activity or field sampling:*

- check if the area is known to support IAS
- move from non-infested to infested areas
- on rivers, travel in a downstream direction
- clean/disinfect gear and equipment before travelling
- clean/disinfect gear and equipment after each trip



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland

In respect of Recreational Activities, where did it all start?



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland – Fishing Competitions

## *Ground Zero*

Roll out of basic angler disinfection in 2010 – IADA (large Irish angling federation)

“No Dip – No Draw”

compulsory disinfection at all federation events



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland – Fishing Competitions

Upgraded disinfection systems in 2011 to date

- largely run by anglers, clubs or federations
- compulsory to disinfect
- proof of disinfection needed to register



# Voluntary or Compulsory Disinfection for Anglers?

Fly Fishing World Cup, Lough Mask

2013

optional

2014

mandatory



**NOTICE**  
All anglers using these facilities must wear a life jacket at all times, when afloat.  
No angling/boating is permitted when a Small Craft Warning is in operation.  
Check local weather forecasts before setting out from the pier on 1580 122 852 or visit us  
All incidents should be reported to the Safety Officer: 08 666 877052  
By Order  
20.10.2013

**DISINFECTION AREA**



04-MO-3204

08-L-2603

# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland

## Prepare clear and simple guidelines

cognizant that - human activity (recreational or work) plays a major role in the introduction and spread of IAS

**Example: on work (e.g. State agency field staff) or construction sites with IAS:**

- assess IAS risks at work site (what species, where, what extent, origin ...)
- erect signage and appropriate information (toolbox talk)
- limit the number of entry and exit points
- ensure all vehicles and equipment arrive clean (certified, if possible)
- do not import topsoil or only if certified IAS-free
- provide cleaning / disinfection stations at access points



# Protocol for IFI Operations Staff

IFI/2014/I-4182



**Biosecurity Protocol  
for IFI Field Staff**  
2014

*Important for IFI to lead by example*

- Every vehicle must have Disinfection Kit
- Explicit instructions provided
- Disinfect
  - all PPE
  - field equipment
  - boats, engines, trailerson completion of all field operations
- **Adherence to Protocol is MANDATORY**



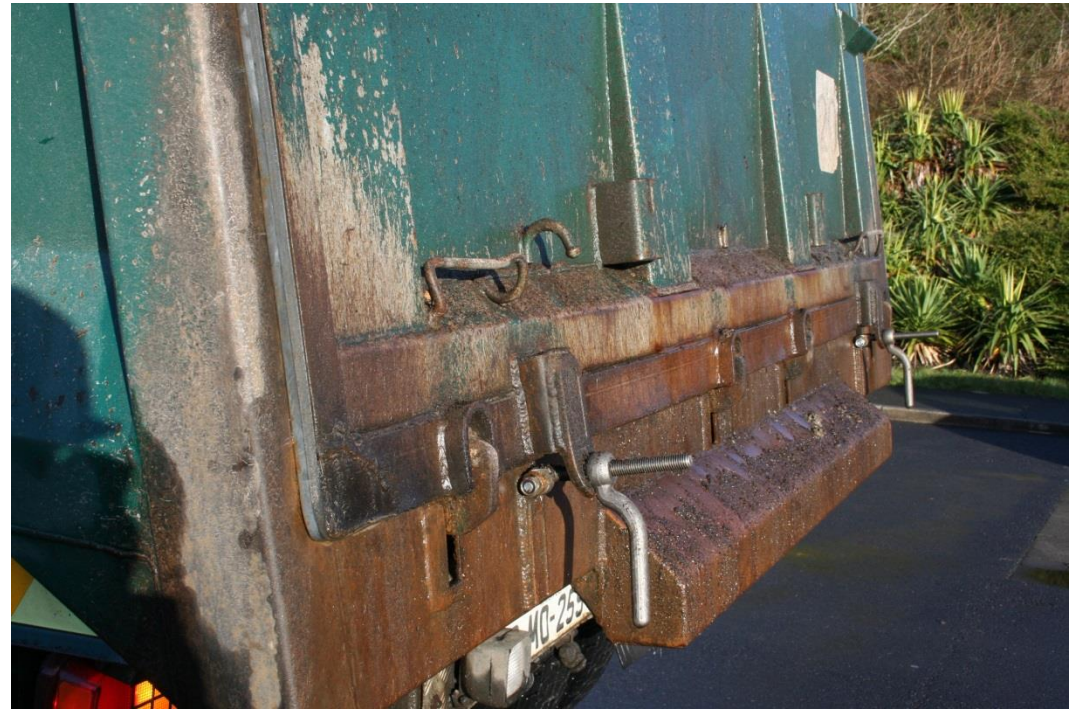
# Biosecurity at Construction Sites – Boot Cleaning



# Biosecurity at Construction Sites – Wheel Wash





## Biosecurity at Construction Sites – Biosecure Trucks



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland – Initiative for Contractors



 River & Canal Services Ltd  
ALL YOUR DREDGING NEEDS

Decontamination of dredger 'Little I'  
Date: 4 November 2009  
Method: Steam cleaned and hull scrubbed  
Project: Dredging works Thames  
Cleaning carried out by: River & Canal Services Ltd  
Signed: 

River & Canal Services Ltd  
Marine and Civil

Farnborough  
01276 600821

# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland – INITIATIVES

## Angler Disinfection Kit

Portable kit for individual angler

Sufficient for up to 50 angling trips

Relatively inexpensive (< €1 per trip)

First of its kind

Currently being sought by:

- forestry personnel
- farmers
- veterinarians
- sports clubs
- event organisers



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland - INITIATIVES

## Disinfection Kits for IFI Staff

Aim is to roll out to other State and semi-state agencies



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland - INITIATIVES

## Permanent Disinfection Station

Permanent (purpose-built) disinfection containers

Industry support from Kingspan Environmental

Keen price

Roll-out to all key angling (boating?) venues



# Biosecurity Practice in Ireland - INITIATIVES

*No. PhD and other studies ongoing to develop new biosecurity initiatives and approaches*

Awareness raising

Cleaning / disinfection methods

- inwater decontamination for boats, cruisers





# Biosecurity in Ireland

*Is biosecurity catching on in Ireland?*

- No. government agencies promoting biosecurity among staff is increasing
- Angling and paddle sports clubs most supportive
- Now included in new legislation proposed by conservation organisations
- Included among Programme of Measures for WFD (2017 – 2021)
- Included in National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017 – 2021)



***Lot Done More To Do***



# Where to from here?

- Implement and enforce EU IAS legislation (1143/2014)
- Work towards biosecurity coordination across Europe
- Promote and implement recommendations in WFD, NBAP .....
- Ensure buy-in for biosecurity from government agencies and industry
- Roll-out facilities for other stakeholders (e.g. boaters, cruiser operators, contractors, farmers)
- Make biosecurity process user-friendly (accessible, easy to use, effective, inexpensive)
- Continue to research new disinfection materials and methods



*Make biosecurity a happy experience*



***Go raibh maith agaibh***

**Thank you**

