

Invasive Alien Species

Challenges and Opportunities of Member States in Implementing EU Legal Measures

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Inland Fisheries Ireland

Scope

Ireland's approach to tackling IAS

Case study for IAS impacting Irish biodiversity

Lessons learnt from this work

Ireland's expectations of an EU legislative instrument on IAS

Fasten Your Seat Belts



Ireland is totally committed to addressing IAS problems

All Ireland

Government Involvement

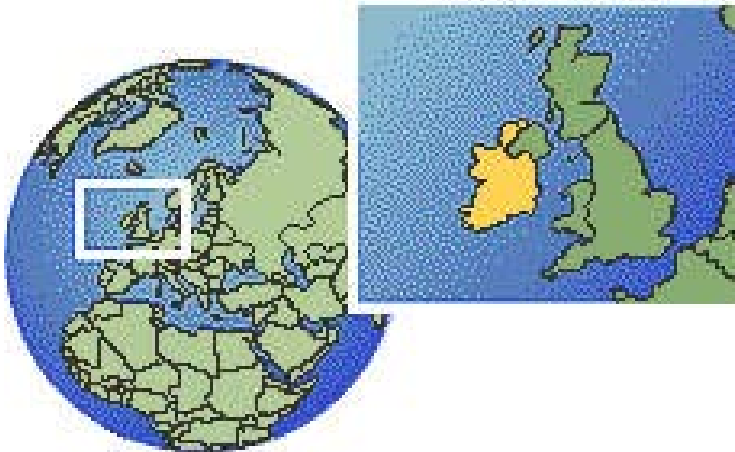
DCENR, DAHG, DECLG, DAFM

International Approach

EU, EIFAAC, CITES, UKTAG

Agency Commitment

IFI, NPWS, NBDC, ISI, OPW, Heritage Council



IFI - competent authority



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Some IAS Case Studies see www.fisheriesireland.ie

Curly-leaved waterweed

Chub

Asian clam

Giant hogweed

Himalayan balsam

Japanese knotweed

Nuttall's pondweed

New Zealand pigmyweed

Bloody red shrimp

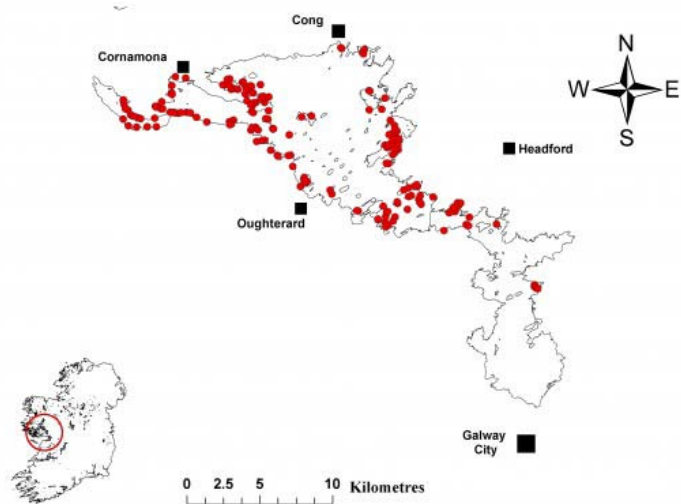
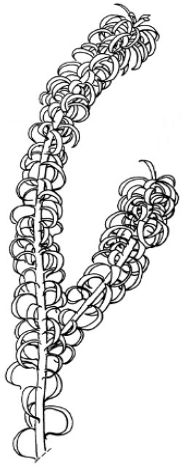


Case study: Invasive Curly-leaved waterweed in Lough Corrib

Lough Corrib is 2nd largest lake, a SAC and renowned fishery

Weed recorded in 2005 (9 sites) - created dense smothering canopies

In few years recorded at 166 sites; devastated native aquatic biota



Rinneroon Bay, Lough Corrib



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Case study: Invasive Curly-leaved waterweed in Lough Corrib

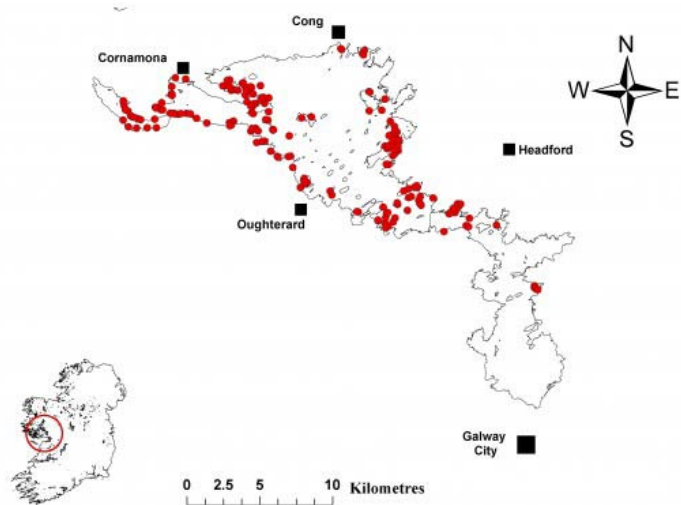
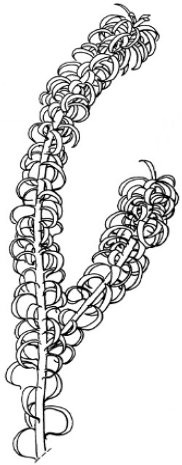
Lough Corrib is 2nd largest lake, a SAC and renowned fishery

Weed recorded in 2005, creates dense canopy, spreads from fragments

In few years present at 166 sites; devastated native aquatic biota

Received €1.5 m from EU Life+ and NPWS in 2009

Research and control works have problem at manageable proportions



Lessons Learnt

Surveillance and monitoring
educated staff and stakeholders

Diversity of control methods necessary for success

Vital to have trained Rapid Response teams and contingency plans available

Early warning and rapid response can and does work!

- chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*)
- water primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*)



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Expectations of EU Legislation on IAS

There is a need for a dedicated EU legal instrument on IAS

- current legislation is diverse and not focused on IAS
- many different organisations involved
- lack of coordination in implementing legislation by MS

Legislation must be consistent across MS

Legislation must be coordinated (by a single authority)

Legislation must be future-proofed

Provisions of PHR and AHR for Ireland are coherent, enforceable and effective

e.g. Foot-and-mouth scare in 2001

Chalara (Ash dieback) outbreak in 2012



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Expectations of EU Legislation on IAS

Establish dedicated EU Centre of Excellence for IAS, to coordinate

- policy development and implementation throughout MS
- establishment of EU-wide Information System
- development of standardised early warning and RR programmes
- development of 'black' lists for IAS
- research to develop control methods (e.g. biocontrol)
- education, awareness and stakeholder engagement

Provide centralised funding - to be drawn down according to set criteria and based on urgency of need among MS



Expectations of EU Legislation on IAS

Biosecurity mechanisms throughout EU should be rigorous and consistent

Border controls must be staffed, trained and resourced

Authorised officers should be empowered to inspect vehicles and belongings, to seize and destroy specimens

EU and MS spend great deal protecting species and habitats

If IAS become established, there may be little to protect!!



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Expectations of EU Legislation on IAS

Legislation should allow for 'nuclear option' in exceptional cases
e.g. *Gyrodactylus* (salmon fluke) in Norway

Ireland, IFI and EIFAAC will be most willing to assist



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Thank You for Your Attention

Acknowledgements to

National Parks and Wildlife Service

National Biodiversity Data Centre

Invasive Species Ireland

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

