

EVENT ORGANISED BY



Animal & Plant Health Agency



**AGENCE FRANÇAISE
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**CENTRE DE RESSOURCES
ESPÈCES EXOTIQUES
ENVAHISSANTES**

Cross border Information Exchange

**PREVENTION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES :
BIOSECURITY ISSUES IN AQUATIC
MARINE AND FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENTS**

16 - 17 MAY 2019
MARINARIUM IN CONCARNEAU, BRITTANY, FRANCE

Context

Invasive alien species (IAS) are known to be one of the greatest causes of biodiversity loss worldwide. They threaten native species, habitats, and ecosystems, and can have economic and human health impacts. IAS are being introduced at an increasing rate that has accelerated throughout the last two centuries, in tandem with the increasing global movement of goods and people.

There are several international preventative measures aimed at reducing introductions. One example is the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM), which targets ballast water – a major vector of marine alien species globally. The EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species obliges member states to take steps towards managing and preventing the spread of invasive alien species.

Recreational users of aquatic habitats, such as anglers and recreational boat users, can unknowingly transport and spread pathogens and IAS. In Great Britain, the potential threats caused by these recreational users has been evaluated, and this information has been used to inform education and awareness campaigns aimed at improving biosecurity practices and thus reducing the spread of IAS (e.g. the “Check, Clean, Dry” campaign and the RAPID Life Project).

So far, no equivalent biosecurity actions have been implemented or considered for mainland France. There is therefore a need to share information on the risks of involuntarily spreading IAS with recreational users of aquatic habitats. Increased awareness of these risks would allow biosecurity practices to be improved, and thus reduce the spread and potential impacts of IAS.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency of Great Britain, who are leading the EU-funded [RAPID Life project](#) (Reducing and Preventing IAS Dispersal), along with the IUCN French Committee and the French Agency for Biodiversity (Agence française pour la biodiversité), who together run the [French IAS Resource Centre](#) (Centre de ressources sur les EEE), are organising a cross-border information exchange event on biosecurity in aquatic marine and freshwater environments.

Objectives

- To introduce the general issues surrounding the dispersal of IAS in aquatic environments (marine and freshwater);
- To recap existing IAS legislation at the global, European, and national levels;
- To raise awareness amongst stakeholders about the impacts of IAS in aquatic environments and to encourage a sense of responsibility in this area. Stakeholders include port authorities, the tourism sector, marine and riverine transport companies, recreational water users, habitat managers, public services and authorities;
- To share the experience gained in Great Britain in this area and to identify common issues with France, to exchange information and best practice, and to encourage collaborations;
- To identify the key target audiences for education and awareness campaigns in France and share biosecurity tools between countries (such as resources, protocols, and materials).

Provisional programme - 16 May 2019

Presentations will be held in English and French with simultaneous translation.

9.30 **Welcome**

INTRODUCTION

10.00 **Introduction and recap on IAS issues at the European level**
Myriam Dumortier (European Commission). In French.

10.15 **The context of this cross-border exchange**
Alexia Fish (APHA) and Emmanuelle Sarat (IUCN French Committee). In English and French.

THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN AQUATIC FRESHWATER AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

10.30 **Biological invasions in marine environments**
Dr Patrick Le Mao (Ifremer). In French.

11.00 **Monitoring marine non-native species in marinas and on leisure boats to document patterns of geographical range extension**
Dr John Bishop (Marine Biological association). In English.

11.30 **DNA (meta)barcoding used to detect and monitor marine invasive alien species**
Dr Frédérique Viard (Roscoff Marine Station). In French.

12.00 **Catching more than you bargained for: unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species by recreational anglers between France and Great Britain**
Dr Emily Smith (University College London). In English.

12.30 **Lunch (provided)**

Provisional programme - 16 May 2019

PREVENTING INVASIONS: BIOSECURITY MEASURES

- 14.00** **Enhancing biosecurity at the Environment Agency in England**
Trevor Renals (UK Environment Agency). In English.
- 14.30** **Current biosecurity measures in the UK**
Rebecca Jones (APHA). In English.
- 15.00** **Biosecurity awareness in Ireland: is the message getting through?**
Joe Caffrey (INVAS Biosecurity). In English.
- 15.30** Coffee break

HOW CAN FRANCE AND ENGLAND WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE BIOSECURITY IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS?

- 16.00** **Possible collaborations and proposed actions**
Dr Niall Moore (GB Non-native species Secretariat) and Emmanuelle Sarat (IUCN French Committee and French IAS Resource Centre). In French.
- 16.15** **Discussion with the participants**
In French and English.
- 17.15** **Summary and close of the day**
Myriam Dumortier (European Commission). In English.
- 17.30** End of the day

Provisional programme - 17 May 2019

OPTIONAL VISIT OF THE MARINARIUM IN CONCARNEAU

10.00 Free visit of the Marinarium

11.00 Presentations on marine invasive species:

Mnemiopsis leidyi in the Channel and the North Sea: distribution, consequences and prospects
Dr Elvire Atajan (Ifremer). In French.

Marine biological invasions in French overseas territories
Doriane Blottière (IUCN French Committee). In French.

12.00 End of the day

Practical informations



The event will be held at the Marinarium in Concarneau.

The Marinarium is located on the sea front (Place de la Croix), next to the walled city and the marina.

Concarneau Marine Station and Marinarium
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Contacts

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Background

The RAPID Life Project (Reducing and Preventing Invasive Alien Species Dispersal)

[RAPID Life](#), part of the EU's Life program, is a 3-year project (2017-2020) that aims to bring an innovative, holistic approach to the management of IAS in aquatic ecosystems (freshwater, riparian, and coastal) in England, whilst demonstrating the efficacy of this approach for replication across Europe. The project has two strands: one strand engages regional stakeholders in the production and implementation of five Regional IAS Management Plans (RIMPS) delivering consistent, regionally tailored prevention, early warning, rapid response, eradication and control of IAS throughout England. A second phase will produce awareness raising materials and training toolkits for water resource managers and user groups along with materials to improve uptake of biosecurity to slow the spread and prevent introduction of new IAS.

As part of this awareness-raising component, RAPID Life has developed specific biosecurity resources for aquatic environments, including toolkits and training materials for user groups, and has been promoting the "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign.

The French IAS Resource Centre (Centre de ressources sur les espèces exotiques envahissantes)

The [French IAS Resource Centre](#) is a platform led by the IUCN French Committee and the French Agency for Biodiversity (Agence française pour la biodiversité). It provides practical support and contributes to increasing the effectiveness of actions against IAS in France. It also develops management methods and training, gathers information, and disseminates knowledge and information on best practice to stakeholders, such as managers of natural habitats, NGOs, researchers, local authorities, businesses, public institutions, and state services.

The Centre's website provides general information on the subject, regular local, national, and international news updates, as well as many legislative, technical, and scientific resources.