PREVENTION OF IAS: biosecurity issues in aquatic marine and freshwater environments

Context of the cross-border exchange

Contexe de la journée d’échange

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Concarneau, 16 - 17/05
The RAPID LIFE Project

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Background

• RAPID LIFE – holistic management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal ecosystems

• 3 year project in England (July 2017 – July 2020)

• Led by Animal and Plant Health Agency with Natural England and Bristol Zoological Society
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

- Government agency: Safeguarding animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy

- Surveillance, risk assessment, laboratories for animal health, inspection, enforcement, rapid response

- Close relationship with the Great Britain (GB) Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNSS)
RAPID LIFE Project Goal

Protect freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal biodiversity

by embedding a coordinated, strategic and evidence-based approach to managing IAS across England

whilst demonstrating the efficacy of this approach for replication across Europe
Objectives

1) Establish regionally-based framework to deliver more effective IAS management
   - Regional IAS Management Plans (RIMPs)

2) Prevent introduction of novel IAS to target environments
   - Biosecurity awareness

3) Increase awareness and efficacy of GB-level early warning and rapid response systems

4) Eradicate and control established IAS in high-priority areas using strategic and best practice approaches

5) Share the exemplar approach throughout European and international networks
Some of the Actions in the RAPID LIFE Project

• Support update and revision of the Check Clean Dry biosecurity campaign

• Production of IAS management plans covering England

• Production of variety of online resources on IAS management and biosecurity
Some of the Actions in the RAPID LIFE Project

• Practical IAS management, such as removal of the *Pacifastacus leniusculus* and re-introduction of native species

• Biological control of *Impatiens glandulifera* and *Fallopia japonica*

Release of native white clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) at one of RAPID’s “ark” sites.

Biocontrol being carried out on Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) at a RAPID LIFE site.
Meanwhile, in France…

A growing concern on IAS and their management

- 1970: First concerns on IAS issues in aquatic environments
- 2000: 1st Research program « INVABIO »
- 2008: National working group on biological invasions in aquatic environments
- 2015: EU regulation
- 2017: National strategy on IAS
- 2018: Resource center on IAS
French IAS resource Center

- In line with the national work group on Biological invasions in aquatic environments (GT IBMA).
- All species, all ecosystems
- Relies on a network of scientific and technical expertise (REST) composed of 80 members
Aim and objectives

- Improve the effectiveness of prevention and management of IAS
- Support policies on IAS, in particular the national IAS strategy

Main objectives:

- Allow the rise in competences of the stakeholders;
- Produce, capitalize and disseminate knowledge and know-how;
- To develop a collective learning on IAS prevention and management
Information and support

Dedicated website

Scientific digests

www.especes-exotiques-envahissantes.fr
Management feedbacks
Management techniques, costs, results...

Information database
Management, pathways, regulation

Technical and scientific publications
Best practices, scientific reports
Support and networking

• Events on IAS: management and prevention, biosecurity, etc.
• Advice on management techniques and projects, support for territorial networks and strategies
• Training sessions on IAS management
Why a cross border exchange?

- A chance to meet and share ideas in Paris, October 2018

→ Convergent objectives

→ Similar approaches and tools
Convergent Objectives

• Improve the effectiveness of prevention and management of biological invasions
• Bridge gaps between high level strategies and local stakeholder actions and to provide underpinning for those actions
• Raise awareness, capitalize and disseminate knowledge
• Encourage more collaboration on IAS work internationally

→ Biosecurity: an urgent need in France and an interesting feedback from the UK and Ireland

→ All aquatic environments, a cross-border network of marine and freshwater stakeholders
Outputs of this cross-border exchange

• Increase awareness impacts of IAS in freshwater and marine environments

• Encourage collaborations between European countries

• Exchange information and best practice

• To share biosecurity tools between countries (such as resources, protocols, and materials)

• To help identify the key stakeholders involved on IAS biosecurity in France
Thank you for listening!

Merci de votre attention!

Questions?

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