



The IAS regulation and the policy framework for article 15

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10 December 2024 - Brussels

IAS in the EU Biodiversity Strategy

- BDS to 2020 **Target 5**: ‘Combat IAS’ – **Action 16**: ‘Establish a dedicated legislative instrument on IAS’
- → **EU Regulation 1143/2014** on the prevention & management of the introduction & spread of IAS
- **IAS in Biodiversity Strategy to 2030**
- “The implementation of the EU IAS Regulation and other relevant and international agreements must be stepped up”.
- “This should aim to minimise, and where possible eliminate, the introduction of alien species in the EU environment. The aim will be to manage established invasive alien species and decrease the number of Red List species they threaten by 50%”



Brussels, 20.5.2020
COM(2020) 380 final

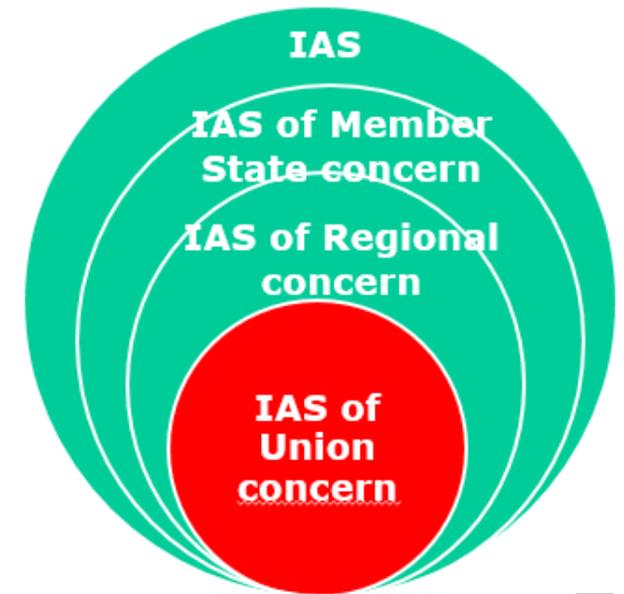
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Bringing nature back into our lives

The IAS regulation: Basic elements

- **Objective (Art 1)** - prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread within the Union, both intentional and unintentional, of IAS.
- At the core of the Regulation: **list of IAS of Union concern** = species for which concerted action at Union level is required
- Based on criteria & risk assessment
- Dynamic list, developed and updated with the assistance of
- Scientific Forum (advice on scientific questions)
- Committee (agreement of Member States)



Action triggered by the Union list

- **Prevention of new introductions or further spread**
- Restrictions on intentional activities (Art 7) such as imported into the Union
kept, bred, grown, sold, transported or released into the environment
- Pathway management to tackle unintentional
- introductions (Art 13)
- **Early detection and rapid eradication of new populations**
- Surveillance & **official controls** (Art 14 & 15)
- Early detection and notification (Art 16)
- Rapid eradication (Art 17)
- **Management of established IAS**
- Management measures for widely spread species (Art 19)

Official controls

Article 15

Official controls

1. By 2 January 2016, Member States shall have in place fully functioning structures to carry out the official controls necessary to prevent the intentional introduction into the Union of invasive alien species of Union concern. Those official controls shall apply to the categories of goods falling within the Combined Nomenclature codes to which a reference is made in the Union pursuant to Article 4(5).
2. Competent authorities shall carry out the appropriate risk-based controls to the goods mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article verifying that:
 - (a) they are not on the Union list; or
 - (b) they are covered by a valid permit as referred to in Article 8.
3. The controls referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, consisting of documentary, identity and where necessary, physical checks, shall take place when goods referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article are brought into the Union. Where Union law already provides for specific official controls at border entities in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC or at points of entry in accordance with Directive 2000/29/EC, for categories of goods referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, Member States shall confer the responsibility of carrying out the controls referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article to the competent authorities tasked with those controls in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 or with point (g) of Article 2(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC.
4. The handling in free zones or free warehouses and the placing of goods referred to in paragraph 1 under the customs procedures of release for free circulation, transit, customs warehousing, inward processing, processing under customs control or temporary admission shall be subject to the declaration to the customs authorities of:
 - (a) the relevant entry document duly completed by the competent authorities referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article attesting that the conditions referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article are met, in cases where the controls have been carried out at border entities in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC or at points of entry in accordance with point (j) of Article 2(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC. The customs procedure indicated therein shall be followed; or
 - (b) where goods are not subject to official controls according to Union law, other documentary evidence that the controls have been carried out with satisfactory results and the subsequent entry document.

Official controls

- Article 15 states the official requirements to prevent intentional introductions of IAS of Union concern
- First step administrative and risk-based
- If necessary, a physical control can be applied
- Based on existing procedures and checks under other EU legislations, such as the animal and plant health laws.
- If not complying with IAS regulation goods can be detained.
- Costs of non-compliances are with natural or legal person who brought the goods into the Union

Official controls

- Commission will provide training programmes and guidelines to facilitate detection
- Exceptions are possible in line with article 8 of the IAS regulation



Current state of play

- Commission has developed training materials and guidelines
- Strengthened relation with plant health and CITES departments on the implementation of the IAS regulation
- Further discussion with needs of Member States on official controls.



For more information contact

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or visit:

**[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/
invasivealien/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm)**

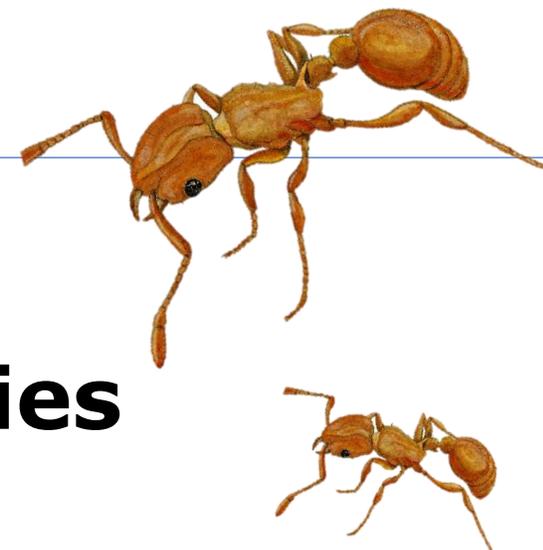
Thank you



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EU Regulation on invasive alien species n.1143/2014

Art.15(8)

Based on best practices, the Commission, together with all Member States, shall develop **guidelines and training programmes** to facilitate the identification and detection of invasive alien species of Union concern and the performance of efficient and effective controls.

Activities on Art.15(8)

Tasks assigned to IUCN by the European Commission for providing support to Member States for the implementation of the Regulation:

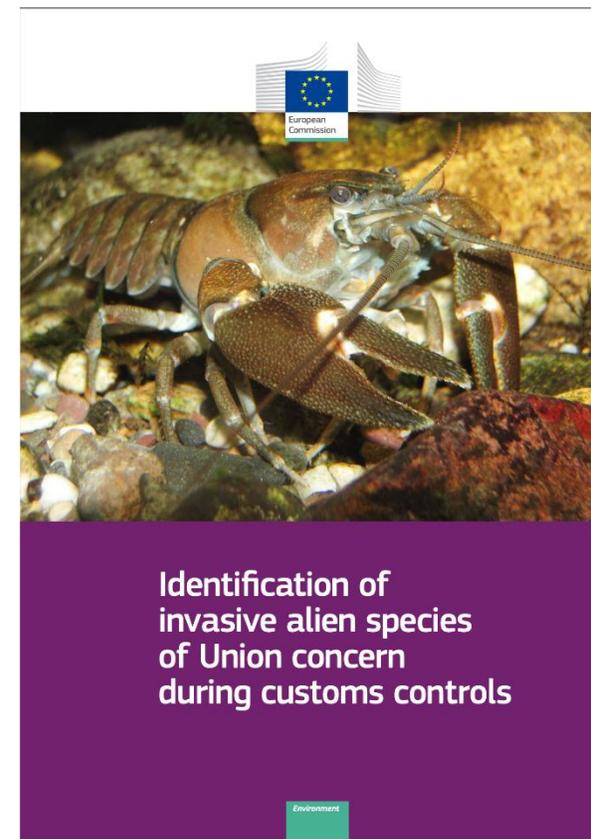
- Support to implementation of Art. 15(8): survey to MS
- IAS Regulation Art. 15(8) Training and Guiding Materials



Activities on Art.15(8)

Tasks assigned to IUCN by the European Commission for providing support to Member States for the implementation of the Regulation:

- Identification guides for custom controls
- Posters and plastified cards



Support to implementation of Art. 15(8): survey to MS

Objectives

1. Review of the findings arising from relevant MS reports, and the consultation made through a dedicated questionnaire;
2. Propose guidance materials, training programmes and any other material recommended to be developed.

Implementation of art.15(8)

TSSR 2022 01.06.

This note has been drafted by IUCN within the framework of the contract No 09.0201/2021/856079/SER/ENV.D.2 "Technical and Scientific support in relation to the *Implementation of Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species*". The information and views set out in this note do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission, or IUCN. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this note. Neither the Commission nor IUCN or any person acting on the Commission's behalf, including any authors or contributors of the notes themselves, may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. This document shall be cited as:

IUCN. 2022. Implementation of art.15(8). Technical note prepared by IUCN for the European Commission.

Date of completion: 28/09/2022

Comments which could support improvement of this document are welcome. Please send your comments by e-mail to ENV-IAS@ec.europa.eu

The survey

A questionnaire targeting MS competent authorities was developed with the purpose of supporting the identification of guidelines and training programmes that could be developed in line with Art. 15(8).

It was structured into three main sections focusing on the main elements underpinning the relevant provision:

1. Identification of IAS of Union concern
2. Detection of IAS of Union concern
3. Performing efficient and effective controls

QUESTIONNAIRE (required to be filled in)		COMMENTS (optional/recommended to be filled in)
Please tick the appropriate reply by replacing the "□" with a "X"		Please provide any relevant feedback, particularly on any best practice and any constraint or caveat , unless otherwise specified in the relevant question
GUIDELINES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF IAS OF UNION CONCERN		
1) Is dedicated guidance available to authorities in charge of official controls in your country for the IDENTIFICATION of IAS of Union concern?		
1.1) ID Guides (printed)	Available	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Not available – not needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Not available – but is a priority	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2) ID Guides (online)	Available	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Not available – not needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Not available – but is a priority	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3) Mobile Applications	Available	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Under development	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusions

- Several MS have already created a number of tools for the identification and detection of invasive alien species of Union concern (including ID guides –printed and/or online - and mobile applications), along with other training tools developed to ensure the performance of efficient and effective controls, e.g. slides, e-webinars, workshops in person, learning tools, training on site, and exchange of experience with the authorities in other MS.
- Some MS noted that some of these tools are not yet available, yet they would be considered as a priority (but there are also MS that considered some of these tools not necessary, although the information on this regard was not always consistent among MS).

Conclusions

- The capacity to develop the required training material or the best practices required for official controls, differs between Member States, and some noted that they would appreciate the support of the EC in this regard.
- Some MS noted that guidance from the EC would be beneficial for developing tools as this would guarantee a common approach across MS.



Training and Guiding Materials - Art. 15

Training and Guiding Materials

IAS Regulation
(EU) 1143/2014 (Art. 15.8)

Training programme: contents

Four stand-alone modules:

1. Introduction for the readers
2. Invasive alien species
3. The EU Regulation on IAS
4. Implementing Art. 15 of the Regulation



Sc🎯pe and Audience

Public and private
sector customs
professionals
(inspectors and
enforcement officers)

Other government and police
officials involved in
enforcement of wildlife laws
and regulations (unless
already combined), as well as
any relevant
health/biosecurity authority

National administrations
and national authorities'
staff, as well as EC officials





Slides: contents of the course

The training programme provides a series of slides focusing on the following topics:

- an overview of the **invasive alien species** issue;
- information on the **EU Regulation on invasive alien species**;
- information on the **implementation of Art. 15 of the Regulation**.

& includes speaker's notes, a list of references and other resources.



Slides: contents of the course

Both the slides and accompanying speaker's notes can be tailored to reflect the **specific needs of the audience**, the **length of the presentation** and any **personal style**.

For example, some slides could be **removed**, while others may be **added** on some extra topics, or **updated**, as appropriate

Slides: contents of the course

Material created for use by EU Member States for training staff on Art.15
four stand-alone modules:

1. Introduction for the readers
2. Invasive alien species
3. The EU Regulation on IAS
4. Implementing Art. 15 of the Regulation



1. Introduction for the readers

Material intended for use by Member States for training of their own staff and to “train the trainers”.

PowerPoint presentation to be **used as a basis** for **workshops and seminars**.

The EC encourages usage and relevant **feedback** for **improvements**.



1. Introduction for the readers

The EC also encourages trainers to include **Q&A sessions** and exchanges of ideas **during or after** the presentation.

The slides may also be **amended** e.g. by **showcasing examples** from specific **regions or institutions**, or by supplementing with extra images, so to **increase their impact**.



2. Invasive Alien Species

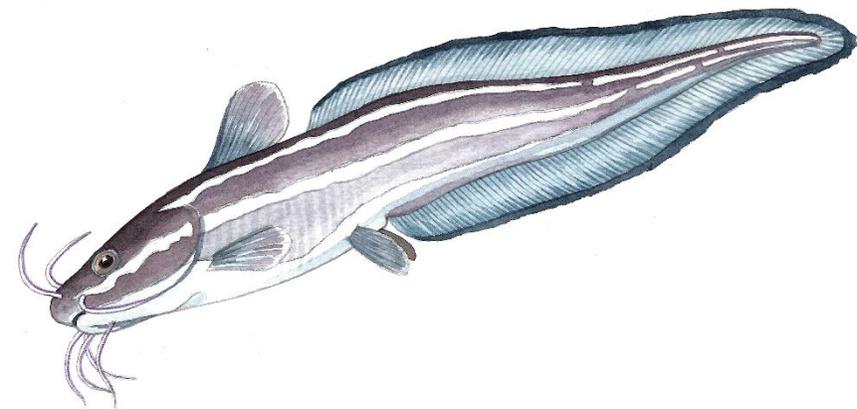
This module focuses on the main **terminology**, and is particularly useful for an **audience not fully familiar** with the topic of biological invasions.

It describes the main **impact** and **pathways** for IAS, as well as the existing **options for management and policy responses**



3. The EU Regulation on IAS

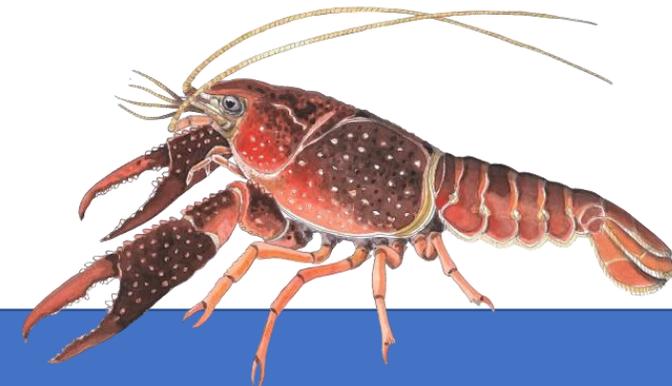
This module aims at providing an **overview of the history** of the regulation and its **rationale**, with a **focus on the main provisions**, as well as the **key tools** for implementation, for example the **EASIN and NOTSYS platforms**, managed by the JRC, or the available financial tools, like the **LIFE programme**



4. Implementing Art. 15 of the Regulation

This module, **similarly to the previous one**, looks at the detail of the regulation requirements and tools, but is specifically dedicated to the implementation of official controls

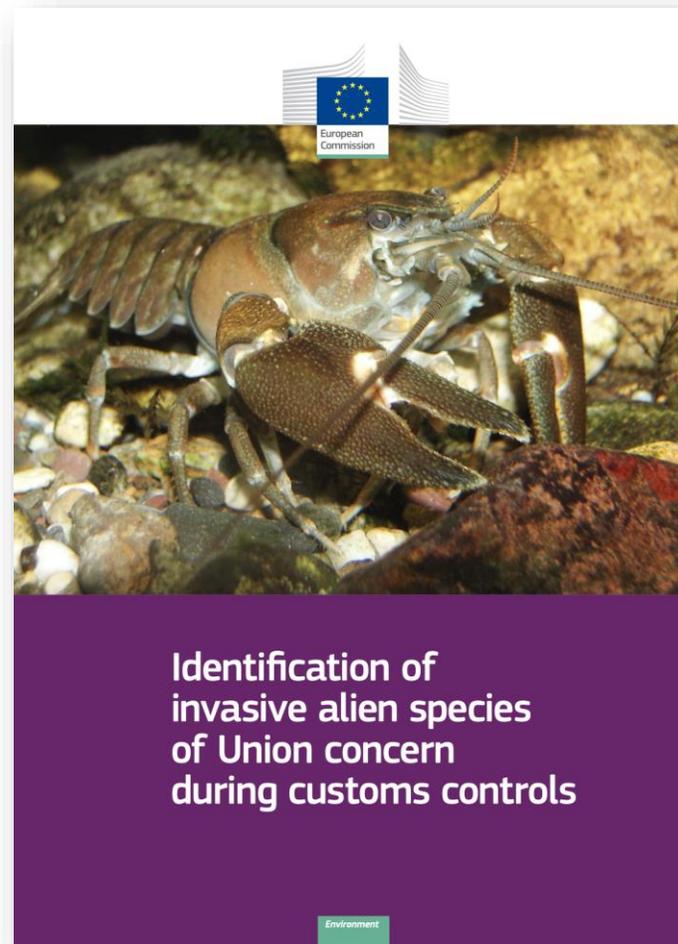
It is a **very technical module**, whose contents needs to be adjusted according to the **experience and expertise of the speaker/trainer**, as well as of the **skills, roles and necessities of the audience**.



Learning tools: ID guides for customs



- *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- *Callosciurus erythraeus*
- *Gunnera tinctoria*
- *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*
- *Orconectes limosus*
- *Pennisetum setaceum*
- *Procambarus fallax*
- *Sciurus carolinensis*
- *Tamias sibiricus*



ID guides for customs

Distinctive characteristics

Carapace dark lateral horizontal, slight through the carapace and pleon, flanked ventrally by a light coloured area.

Carapace smooth, with lateral surface slightly granulated, acute central spine present at each side. Row of tubercles on shoulders of carapace behind central spine. One pair of prominent ridges and one pair of prominent hepatic spines and some nodules.

Rostrum prominent, with smooth border tapering to a small, triangular acumen. Median carina acute.

Areola open, approximately four times as long as wide.

Carapace indistinct median light tan stripe from rostrum to caudal margin of carapace.

Movable finger slightly longer than medial margin of the fixed one.

Distal surface of fixed finger weakly granulated, upper and lower surface of chela also roughened. Prominent spur on inferior margin of cheliped carpus.

Chela (claws) small, rounded with dark tubercles, weakly granulate. Fixed finger elongated, with two tubercles on inner margin.

Walking legs coloured uniformly, ranging from tan to greenish or blue.

Vertical side dirty white to beige coloured, with dark and white tubercles extending to the median ventral surface of the pleon.

All individuals are female and the offspring are genetically identical to the parent. © Aleksander Niewiński

Similar species

About 460 species of cambarids are known, of which around 170 species belonging to the genus *Procambarus*, although not all are found in trade. A high degree of overlap exists between species. Additionally, *Procambarus fallax f. virginicus* is characterised by a high intraspecific variability, e.g. concerning coloration, growth, the spines, reproduction behaviour and number of sense organs, due to non-genetic or environmentally induced changes during ontogeny. For example differences concern the marbled pattern, the rostrum shape, and the presence of several spines at the margin of the rostrum. In particular, the rostrum variations both uncertainties because shape and other features of this body part are important characters for species identification within cambarids (Martin et al. 2010).

	Carapace	Chelae
<i>Procambarus fallax f. virginicus</i>		
<i>Procambarus bartonii</i>		
<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>		
<i>Procambarus fallax</i>		
<i>Procambarus anthurus</i> and <i>Procambarus anemoneus</i>		
<i>Procambarus allenii</i>		

Annulus ventralis

Terminal receptacle of a female crayfish. It is located on the ventral side between the bases of the 4th and 5th walking legs, and becomes coriaceous in mature females.

Procambarus fallax f. virginicus

Procambarus clarkii

1. With the movable extension of an intersexual specimen both *Annulus ventralis* and only one pair of gonopods found in 2020 in a lake (Martin & Schultz 2020).
2. The gonopods are the first two pairs of pleopod tubas broken as summarized in the crayfish abdomen. The gonopods have been specially modified for reproductive purposes. The gonopods are held against the body of the crayfish between the first two pair of walking legs.

© European Union 2020

Similar species

Procambarus fallax f. virginicus is a species that reproduces parthenogenetically, and only females are known. Therefore, a way to exclude that the crayfish to be identified belongs to *Procambarus fallax f. virginicus* is to check the presence of gonopods¹, which occur only in male crayfish (left).

Loaves: obtusate in outline and peristome. 15-40 cm long and 0.4-1.2 cm wide, arranged around the stem in whorls of 4-6. They are usually more densely packed upward.

Female flowers: on very short pedicels in the upper leaf axils, between 2 small bracts. Characterized by 4 white, distinct, dentate sepals (size 0.4-0.5 mm long and 0.3 mm wide) and prominent stigmas with numerous fine white hairs. Involucre absent. Perianth ovary 0.6-0.7 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, longitudinally ribbed between sepals.

Male flowers: There are no male plants present in Europe.

Frut. not observed in Europe.

Annulus ventralis

Terminal receptacle of a female crayfish. It is located on the ventral side between the bases of the 4th and 5th walking legs, and becomes coriaceous in mature females.

Procambarus fallax f. virginicus

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The leaves of a certain feather are usually densely packed upward. © JM Taylor (via iStockphoto) (image below, upper left)

Loaves: obtusate in outline and peristome. 15-40 cm long and 0.4-1.2 cm wide, arranged around the stem in whorls of 4-6. They are usually more densely packed upward.

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Male flowers: There are no male plants present in Europe.

Frut. not observed in Europe.

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Similar species

When traded as submerged plant material the identification of *Myriophyllum* species is quite challenging in many cases. Reliable identification can only be achieved with molecular tools. *Myriophyllum aquaticum* has largely been traded as potted plants or rarely imported as branches of emergent.

shoots. In exceptional cases the species was traded as submerged shoots, but this product is very fragile as such. Comparative table of leaf types (species of common aquatic plants traded as overgrowing plants).

<i>Myriophyllum</i>	<i>Columbe</i>
<i>Featherlike in whorls</i>	<i>Fan shaped</i>
<i>Ceratophyllum</i>	<i>Hydrocharitaceae ("potamogeton" species?)</i>
<i>2-3 times jagate</i>	<i>Leaf arranged in whorls (not divided, not compound)</i>
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	<i>Myriophyllum "brasillicum"</i>
<i>Flower: white</i>	<i>Flower: pinkish</i>
<i>Stem and leaves: bluish green (green above water)</i>	<i>Stem: red</i>
<i>Large dimensions in general</i>	<i>Leaves: green</i>

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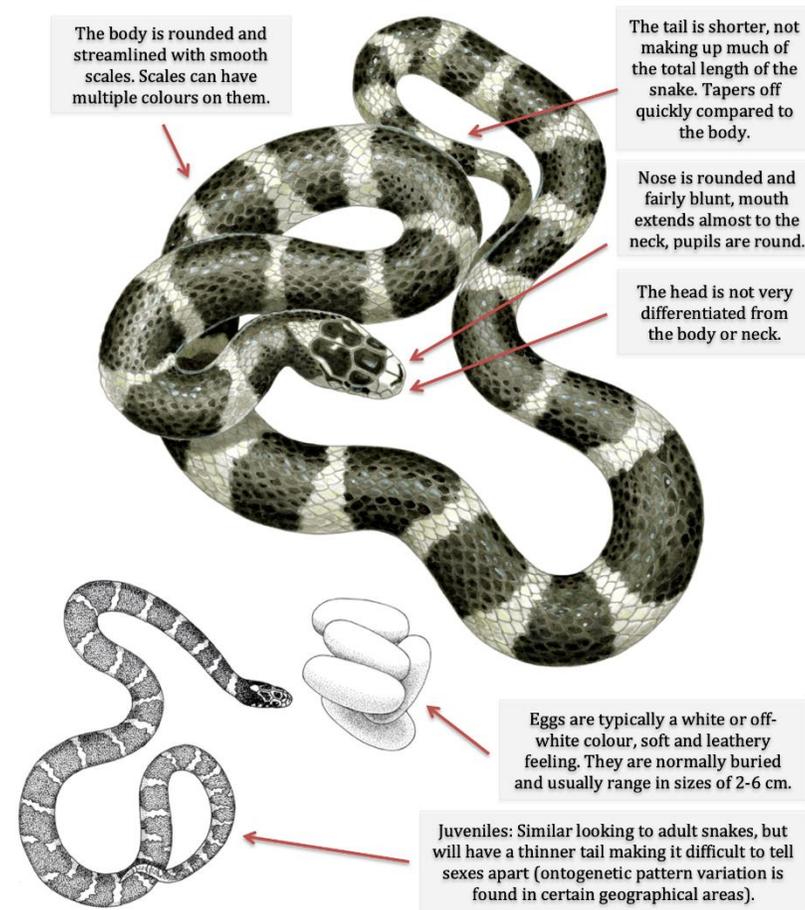
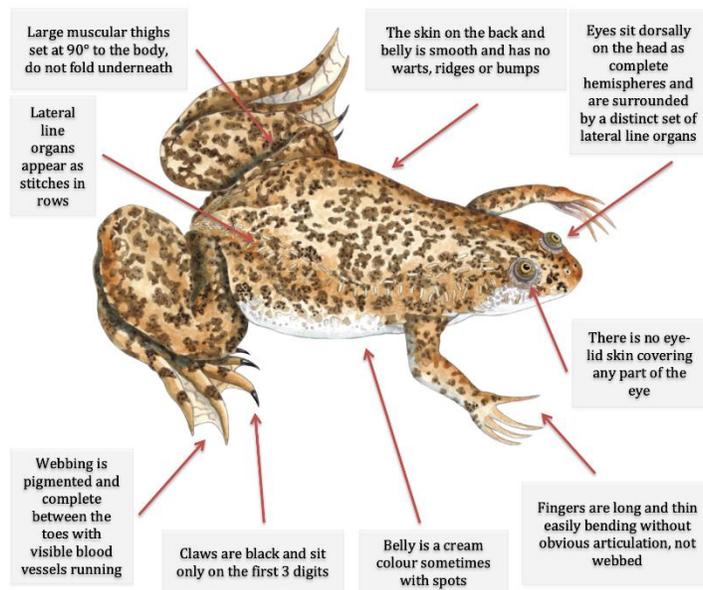
ID guides for customs

- *Acridotheres tristis*
- *Arthurdendyus triangulatus*
- *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*
- *Salvinia molesta*
- *Acacia saligna*



ID guides for customs

- *Xenopus laevis*
- *Lampropeltis getula*



Conference: EU EVENT – BORDER CONTROLS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Brussels, Belgium 14th March 2024

90 participants from 18 Member States

- Environmental authorities
- Animal Health authorities
- Plant Health authorities
- Customs authorities
- other authorities and organizations
- speakers from UK, Australia and the Reunion Island



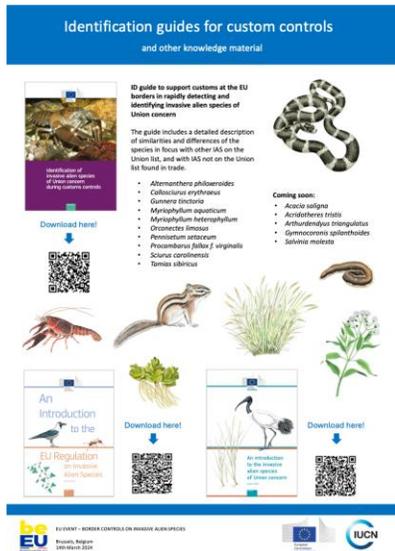
Conference: EU EVENT – BORDER CONTROLS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

- Develop an IAS awareness raising campaign
- Develop clear and well-disseminated Standard Operating Procedures
- Create an interceptions database



Conference: EU EVENT – BORDER CONTROLS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Identification guides for custom controls
and other knowledge material



ID guide to support customs at the EU borders in rapidly detecting and identifying invasive alien species of Union concern

The guide includes a detailed description of similarities and differences of the species in focus with other IAS on the Union list, and with IAS not on the Union list found in trade.

- *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- *Collusianus erythraeus*
- *Quercus ilex*
- *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*
- *Oenocetes limosus*
- *Pennisetum setaceum*
- *Prosochloa fallax* ssp. *arghalla*
- *Scirpus carolinensis*
- *Tennisia albertus*

Coming soon:

- *Acacia saligna*
- *Acridothera tristis*
- *Arthurdendylus triangulatus*
- *Gymnococcus subultrivoides*
- *Selwynia moirata*

An Introduction to the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species

EU EVENT – BORDER CONTROLS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
Brussels, Belgium
20th March 2024

- Consider having descriptions of goods at species level (on top of CN codes), for which AI could then help screen volume of trade
- Consider the need for revisions of, or provide additional guidance on, Articles 13 and 15 of the EU IAS Regulation

Other knowledge and information tools



- Brochure of the EU IAS Regulation
- Brochure of the IAS of Union concern
- ID guides for surveillance in the field

Brochure

EU IAS Regulation

European Commission

An Introduction to the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species

Version 2022

Environment



28

Guide to the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species 1143/2014

Regulation applies to:

- All invasive alien species (IAS)***
 - Introduced outside natural range
 - Live specimens that may reproduce
 - Adversely impact biodiversity and related ecosystem services

Listing criteria:

- Alien to the Union (exc. outer regional)
- Capable of establishing & spreading in >2 Member States or 1 marine region
- Adverse impacts to biodiversity & ecosystem services
- Risk Assessment shows concerted action at Union level required
- Inclusion on the Union List will effectively prevent, minimise or mitigate impacts

Prevention measures

- Emergency measures**
 - For IAS of imminent risk of introduction not on Union List IAS need to likely meet criteria for inclusion on Union List
 - Member States (MS) may apply temporary restrictions
 - MS must notify Commission to decide if apply EU wide
 - MS must carry out Risk Assessment and submit for inclusion on Union List
- IAS of Member State/regional concern**
 - MS may establish a national list of IAS and apply restrictions and other measures at national level
 - For IAS that require enhanced regional co-operation MS may request Commission to require MS concerned to apply the following measures: Action plans, Surveillance, Early detection, Rapid eradication, Management, and Restoration

* Regulation 1143/2014 scope excludes:

- Species that expand range within natural distribution
- Non-native species covered by other EU legislation

List of IAS of Union concern

- 'Union List' = 88 species
- 2016 = 37 species listed (23 animals and 14 plants)
- 2017 = 12 species listed (3 animals and 9 plants)
- 2019 = 17 species listed (4 animals and 13 plants)
- 2022 = 22 species listed (17 animals and 5 plants)

Prevention measures

- Restrictions**
 - IAS of Union concern shall not intentionally be brought into the Union, kept, bred, transported, sold, used or exchanged, permitted to reproduce, grown or cultivated, released into the environment
- Action plans**
 - Pathways analysis of unintentional introduction for IAS of Union concern
 - Pathway action plans implemented for priority pathways (within 3 years of adoption)
- Authorisations**
 - In exceptional cases for reasons of compelling public interest (incl. social or economic) MS may permit activities
 - Authorisation required from Commission
- Permits**
 - Permits issued by MS allowing for research or ex situ conservation activities

Management of widespread IAS

- Management**
 - MS have in place effective management measures for IAS of Union concern that are widespread in their territory (18 ms. of adoption)
 - Based on cost benefit analysis
- Restoration**
 - MS carry out re-vegetation to assist ecosystem recovery degraded by IAS of Union concern
 - Based on cost benefit analysis

Early detection and rapid eradication

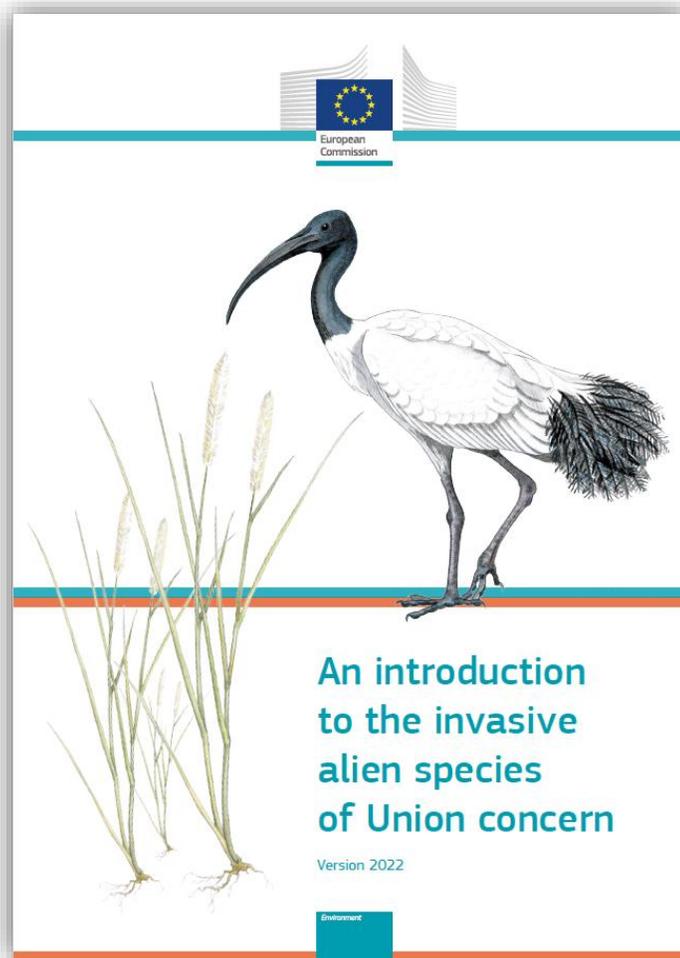
- Surveillance**
 - MS establish a surveillance system for IAS of Union concern
 - Needs to be able to rapidly detect new introductions
- Controls**
 - MS have in place risk-based controls to goods imported to verify they are not on the Union List or are covered by a valid Permit
- Early detection notification to EC**
- Rapid eradication**
 - MS undertake eradication (complete & permanent) within 3 months of notification
 - Methods used with due regard to human health, environment and animal welfare
- Derogations**
 - Within 2 months of detection, MS may not eradicate if one of the following apply:
 - Technically unfeasible
 - Cost benefit analysis show costs disproportionate to benefits
 - Eradication methods not available or have serious impacts to human health or environment
 - Can be rejected by Commission within 2 months

Adapted from IUCN

Brochure

Invasive Alien Species of Union concern

- 41 plants
- 47 animals



Learning tools: ID guides for surveillance

- ID Guides of species of Union concern for surveillance in the field are also available
- Objective: identification and detection of invasive alien species of Union concern



Key resources

- European Commission, DG Environment, Invasive alien species

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/invasive-alien-species_en

- EASIN - European Alien Species Information Network

<https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin/>

- IUCN, Invasive Alien Species

<https://www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/invasive-alien-species>

