Tackling unintentional pathways of introduction and spread of invasive alien freshwater species in Belgium

Dido Gosse, Jane Reniers, Tim Adriaens, Sonia Vanderhoeven, Etienne Branquart, Bram D’hondt
Overview

- EU Regulation No 1143/2014 on IAS
- Implementation in Belgium
- Pathway prioritization protocol
- Freshwater pathway action plan
European regulation No 1143/2014 on invasive alien species
Obligations for Member States

**Prevention**

Intentional
- Import, Export, Transport
- Detention, Breeding
- Sale and Exchange
- Release in the wild

Unintentional
- Action plans for prioritized pathways of unintentional introduction and spread

**Early Detection and Eradication**
- Surveillance system
- Controls risky goods

**Management**
- Restauration
- Management of widespread species
- Controls Permit systems
Federal level
Flanders
Brussels Capital Region
Wallonia
Implementation of the Regulation in BE

EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) N° 1143/2014

Belgian Cooperation Agreement

EU Scientific Forum on IAS
EU Committee on IAS

National Scientific Secretariat on IAS
National Scientific Council on IAS
National Committee on IAS
IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE EU REGULATION ON IAS IN BELGIUM

ITERATIVE PROCESS FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING & DECISION-MAKING

1. National Scientific Secretariat on IAS
   - Prepares scientific inputs

2. National Scientific Council on IAS
   - Provides scientific advice

3. National Committee on IAS
   - Proposes Belgian position

4. Ministers of Environment (CIE/ICL)
   - Decides on Belgian position

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS
STEP 1 - Pathway inventory

Guidance for interpretation of CBD categories on introduction pathways

Harrower, C.A., Scallera, R., Pagad, S., Schönrogge, K., Roy, H.E.

This note has been drafted by a team of experts under the supervision of IUCN within the framework of the contract No. 07/0292/2010/73524/SP/JENV/02 "Technical and Scientific Information and views set out in this note do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or data included in this note. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission’s behalf 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:"


Date of completion: 12/01/2018
### STEP 2 - Volume/frequency - Belgium

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<th>Aquaculture</th>
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<th>Horticulture</th>
<th>Ornamental</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Live food and live bait</th>
<th>Other escape from confinement</th>
<th>Contaminant nursery material</th>
<th>Contaminated bait</th>
<th>Contaminant on animals</th>
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<th>Seed contaminant</th>
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STEP 3 - Species Impact - Belgium

• Adapted ISEIA protocol (score from 4-12)
  • Included score for establishment potential (1-5)
    • Downplay species that are unable to establish in Belgium

• Variables used to calculate the impact
  • Dispersal potential
  • Colonization of high conservation value habitats
  • Adverse impacts on native species
  • Alteration of ecosystem functions

• Impact modifier = (impact/10)*establishment potential
Pathway Prioritization for Union Concern Species - Belgium

Importance of the pathway = \( \Sigma (\text{Impact modifier} \times \text{Volume}) \) of all species
Pathway Prioritization for Union Concern Species - Belgium

-> Freshwater pathway!
Freshwater Pathway Action Plan

Action plan on the introductions and spread of invasive alien species through recreational and commercial/professional use of freshwater

Angling equipment
Hitchhikers on boat
Contaminant on animals
Live food and live bait
Actions under consideration

1. Baseline study
   Survey targeting water users and analysis of their activities especially in relation to IAS

2. Adoption of Code of conducts
   By administrations and stakeholders
   Based on baseline results + EU Code of conducts
Actions under consideration

3. Adaptation of the federal and regional regulatory frameworks
   Controls and stricter rules

4. Biosecurity best-practice pilot project at the regional administrations level
5. Awareness campaigns on biosecurity – tools:
   - Fishing permits
   - Signs near key fishing spots
   - Social media
   - Actions during events
   - Specific for fish stockers

6. Monitoring and scientific research
   - E.g. Study on fish contaminant
Next steps

- Discussions with more stakeholders
- Official public consultation
- Adoption by ministers (2020)
- Implementation of the plan!

New prioritization as species get added to the list!
Thank you!