

**GB COMMITTEE FOR NON-NATIVE SPECIES
THIRD MEETING**

**VIRTUAL
13 APRIL 2022, 15:15 – 16:30**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Attendance / apologies

Present:

Richard Pullen (Defra) – Chair
Olaf Booy (NNSS) - Secretary
Matthew Bird (Scottish Government)
Leasa Fielding (Welsh Government)
Emilie Hall (Defra, Marine)
Rebecca Isted (Forestry Commission)
Theresa Kudelska (NRW)
Jo Long (SEPA)
Christine Maggs (JNCC)
Lisa McCann (Scottish Government)
Gavin Measures (NE)
Niall Moore (NNSS)
Trevor Renals (Environment Agency)
Nicola Spence (Defra, Plant Health)
Kath Webster (APHA)
Sarah Webster (Defra)
Stan Whitaker (NatureScot)

Observing:

Mark Preston (DAERA - Northern Ireland)
Richard Gray (DAERA - Northern Ireland)

Apologies:

Mark Diamond (EA) – replaced by Trevor Renals
Colin Edwards (Scottish Forestry)
Nicholas Greenwood (MMO)
Bill MacDonald (Welsh Government)
Peter Pollard (SEPA) - replaced by Jo Long
Neil Riddle (Forestry Commission) – replaced by Rebecca Isted
Des Thompson (NatureScot) – replaced by Stan Whitaker

2. Minutes of meeting on 1 October 2021

Paper circulated (Cte Apr 22-02)

The minutes were signed off with one minor modification.

3. Actions and matters arising

Paper circulated (Cte Apr 22-03)

All actions had been completed and there were no matters arising.

4. Comprehensive review of species of special concern

Papers circulated (Cte Apr 22-04)

Olaf introduced the paper summarising the comprehensive review of IAS of special concern that has been taken forward by the task and finish group in the last year. The paper also summarised the comments received from stakeholders on the recommended way forward, which is to de-list species that, based on expert review, are currently unable to establish and also unlikely to be able to establish by 2050 (rather than by 2100). There was considerable discussion on the issue and queries about the opportunities to review this listing in the future with the suggestion, agreed by the Committee, that de-listed species would also be considered in future reviews. The Committee agreed with the recommendation from the task and finish group to use the 2050 climate scenario and thus to recommend to Ministers of each GB Administration that 10 species are de-listed.

ACTION 1: Defra, Scottish and Welsh Government to proceed with the preparation of advice for Ministers following the recommendation of the GB Committee to de-list 10 species.

ACTION 2: GBNNSS to maintain a list of species that are removed from the list of special concern, which will be reviewed by the GB Committee at each comprehensive review.

5. New species to consider for listing

Paper circulated (Cte Apr 22-05)

At its last meeting the Committee asked the Secretariat to begin the process of identifying species for adding to the list of special concern using the GB horizon scanning species and those species being proposed by the European Commission for listing as a starting point. Olaf introduced the paper outlining progress which included some tentative suggestions to take forward as a priority, pointing out that it would take 1-2 years to complete the process of undertaking risk assessments and collating relevant risk management information for the Committee and the risk analysis process can only handle 10-15 species in that time.

There was considerable discussion on the merits of the species suggested in the paper, with Gavin pointing out that no marine species were included. Others agreed and it was decided that there needed to be a more concerted trawl for marine species. Trevor pointed out the limitations of the horizon scanning when it came to plants at an early stage of invasion and suggested that giant cane, *Arundo donax* (in Annex 5 of the paper – species with existing risk assessments) should also be added to the priority list. Stan supported inclusion of the first seven species in Table 1 but queried whether the ants and possibly African-clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis*, should be included too, and suggested the inclusion of thicket shadbush, *Amelanchier spicata*, and purple pitcher-plant, *Sarracenia purpurea*, from Annex 5 as well as possibly several flatworms and pheasant’s tail, *Anemathelle lessoniana*. Niall suggested that *Xenopus laevis* should not be a priority due to its previous low risk and widespread keeping in laboratories.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should proceed with commissioning risk assessments for the following species. It was stressed that prioritising these species for risk analysis does not mean the GB Committee will necessarily recommend them for listing.

1	<i>Acer rufinerve</i>	Snake-bark maple
2	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Chocolate vine
3	<i>Bellamyia chinensis</i>	Chinese mystery snail
4	<i>Dikerogammarus bispinosus</i>	An amphipod
5	<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i>	Round goby
6	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Alexandrine parakeet
7	<i>Sinanodonta woodiana</i>	Chinese pond mussel
8	<i>Solenopsis richteri</i>	Black imported ant
9	<i>Wasmannia auropunctata</i>	Electric ant
10	<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	Purple pitcher plant
11	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Cane
12	<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	Thicket shadbush

In addition, the Committee agreed that a small number of marine species (2-3) should be identified and included in the priority list. The Chair requested that the GBNNSS keep the Committee updated with progress with the risk assessments and collation of risk management information.

ACTION 3: Olaf to circulate a list of potential marine species to marine colleagues by April 30 with a view to agreeing a small number of species to add to the priority list.

ACTION 4: Olaf to commission risk assessments for the agreed priority species (plus the marine additions) as soon as is practicable.

ACTION 5: Olaf to update the Committee with progress on the risk assessments and collation of risk management information for the priority species at the next Committee meeting.

6. NNRAF membership

Paper circulated (Cte Apr 22-06)

Olaf introduced the paper informing the Board that there has been a gap in the coverage of NNRAF on marine risks following the resignation of Liz Cottier-Cook in 2021. The Secretariat has consulted the NNRAF and had come up with a suggested replacement – Gabe Wyn, formerly of NRW and with long and extensive experience on marine INNS. In addition, the NNRAF suggested adding Prof. Helen Roy to the main NNRAF panel to support its ability to assess complex ecological impacts, build additional links with the wider non-native species scientific community and help ensure risk analysis standards are kept in line with international good practice

The Committee agreed with both recommendations.

ACTION 6: Olaf and **Joe** to proceed with the process for appointing Gabe and Helen to the NNRAF.

7. Early detection notification

Paper circulated (Cte Apr 22-07)

Joe Payne introduced the paper detailing the proposed format and process for early detection notifications for listed species and this approach was agreed by the Committee.

ACTION 7: All GB administrations to adopt the early detection notification approach set out in the paper and agreed by the GB Committee.

8. AOB

None.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in late September/October. Chairing to be agreed.

ACTION 8: GBNNSS to seek dates in late September/early October for the next GB Committee meeting.