

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed crayfish)
Lead Partner/Agency	GAME CONSERVANCY TRUST
Steering Group/Other organisations	YES Environment Agency (Lead Contact) - Jonathan Brickland & Julie Bywater Game Conservancy Trust (Lead Partner) - ? English Nature – Maggie Robinson Countryside Council for Wales - Mike Howe Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science - Alasdair Scott Institute of Freshwater Ecology – Jon Bass Sparsholt College - Adrian Hutchings Kingcombe Aquacare - John Colton Crayfish Consultants International - David Rogers
Work programme in existence?	NO

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Attempt to maintain the present distribution of this species by limiting the spread of crayfish plague, limiting the spread of non-native species, and by maintaining appropriate habitat conditions.	*					The issues vary from one country to another depending on the numbers of white-clawed crayfish populations and the number of wild non-native crayfish populations. Northern Ireland has no non-native populations but does have white-clawed crayfish. In England, Scotland and Wales the majority of white-clawed crayfish populations are found in England and parts of Wales. The majority of non-native populations occur in Southern England.

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

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Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Designate "no-go" areas for the keeping of non-native crayfish under the Import of Live Fish (England and Wales) Act 1980 and the Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Act 1978.		*		*	*	NO	COMPLETE
5.1.2 Section 14 of the WCA and Article 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order should be used to prevent the further spread of non-native crayfish into areas which contain natural populations.	*					YES	ONGOING
5.1.3 The use of bylaws to control baiting with crayfish by anglers should be reviewed.		*			*	NO	ONGOING
5.1.4 Seek to control the keeping of non-native crayfish which are not yet established in the wild, and the trade of non-native crayfish as pets or for other ornamental purposes throughout the UK.	*					YES	COMPLETED
5.2.1 Consider designating further sites vital for the white-clawed crayfish as SSSI/ASSIs.		*			*	YES	
5.2.2 Ensure appropriate habitat management is undertaken.		*		*	*	NO	ONGOING
5.3.1 Establish the feasibility of eradicating non-native crayfish populations from the wild where they threaten sensitive sites or important populations of native crayfish.		*			*	YES	ONGOING
5.3.2 If feasible, instigate and support re-introduction programmes to selected sites.		*		*	*	NO	ONGOING
5.3.3 Licences should not be issued for the release of non-native crayfish to sites where there are inadequate precautions to prevent escape within "no-go" areas.		*		*	*	NO	COMPLETED
5.4.1 Provide advice for those involved in the conservation of this species and the management of non-native crayfish populations.	*					NO	COMPLETED
5.4.2 Provide advice on disinfection procedures to prevent the transmission of crayfish plague.		*			*	NO	ONGOING
5.5.1 Make inventories of SSSIs/ASSIs which contain native crayfish populations. Monitor populations in protected areas. Maintain the detailed databases on the distribution of the native and non-native crayfish held at Nottingham University and the Biological Records Centre.	*					YES	ONGOING
5.5.2 Investigate the potential for recovery of native crayfish in areas affected by crayfish plague, and the feasibility of re-introducing the species to these areas.		*	*		*	NO	ONGOING

5.5.3 Assess the morphological and genetic variability across the range before decisions are made on stocks for re-introduction programmes.		*			*	NO	COMPLETED
5.5.4 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC or BRC so that it can be incorporated in national databases.	*					NO	ONGOING
5.5.5 Provide information annually to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the UK status of the species to contribute to maintenance of an up-to-date global red list.	*					NO	DON'T KNOW
5.6.1 Increase public awareness of the presence of this species in local rivers and the threats to its existence. Publicise the need for conservation and how the public can help by contributing records to the databases on distribution.	*					NO	ONGOING
5.6.2 Ensure that anglers (and others using the aquatic environment), and visitors to nature reserves and SSSI/ASSIs containing the crayfish, are made aware of the risks of spreading crayfish plague on equipment and of the legislative controls on release of non-native species.	*					NO	ONGOING

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							
England					*		
Northern Ireland				*			
Scotland	*						
Wales					*		
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
<p>England & Wales – There is evidence to suggest that populations of white-clawed crayfish are still in decline. In cases where they co-exist with signal crayfish they will ultimately be out-competed and pollution incidents, particularly from sheep dip chemicals have wiped out several populations. Guidance on re-introductions is planned and will help the situation but eradicating signal crayfish populations will be essential if the white-clawed crayfish is to survive.</p> <p>Northern Ireland – There are no known non-native crayfish populations in Northern Ireland. Therefore, the main threats are from pollution and damage to habitat.</p> <p>Scotland – There is only one population of white-clawed crayfish which was introduced.</p>							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

The formation of a Steering Group led to a greater exchange of information and has created a forum in which actions can be considered openly and fairly by the necessary experts. There is a general enthusiasm in the Group but a concern that there is no funding for the plan to be effective. The success of the Action Plan relies heavily on our ability to eradicate non-native crayfish species and particularly the invasive signal crayfish. At present this may in many cases not be achievable and this is a serious constraint which would need a serious amount of research investigating some of the options which are available.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name		
Organisation		
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)		

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 Attempt to maintain the present distribution of this species by limiting the spread of crayfish plague, limiting the spread of non-native species, and by maintaining appropriate habitat conditions.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>					
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					
<i>Scotland</i>					
<i>Wales</i>					
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.1.2 Section 14 of the WCA and Article 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order should be used to prevent the further spread of non-native crayfish into areas which contain natural populations.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	DANI MAFF SOAEFD WOAD	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	NO	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	The WCA has been in place since 1981 and signal crayfish were added to Schedule 9 in 1992, labelling them as pests and making it illegal to introduce them to the wild. I am not familiar with the situation in Northern Ireland, although I believe that there are no non-native crayfish species in the wild.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	There is a general reluctance to prosecute under the WCA and until recently there has not been a definition of 'wild' which would have been critical in any case that may have been taken forward. To my knowledge nobody has ever been prosecuted for introducing non-native crayfish to the wild under this legislation.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>		
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.1.4 Seek to control the keeping of non-native crayfish which are not yet established in the wild, and the trade of non-native crayfish as pets or for other ornamental purposes throughout the UK.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	DANI MAFF	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	NO	

Description of work taken and organisation responsible <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	The Prohibition of Keeping of Live Fish (Crayfish) Order 1996 was intended to prevent the spread of non-native crayfish species. It makes it an offence to keep non-native crayfish (without a licence) with the exception of signal crayfish outside of a 'no-go zone'. I am not familiar with the situation in Northern Ireland.	
Output and timescale	Legislation in England, Scotland and Wales passed in May 1996.	MAFF, SOAEFD
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	It is clear that signal crayfish are still being sold and this is not illegal under this legislation, they are also regularly advertised in various magazines. There is no responsibility on the vendor to explain that it would be illegal to release them to the wild and it would be illegal to keep them in the no-go zone without a licence.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	YES	
Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>		
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Consider designating further sites vital for the white-clawed crayfish as SSSI/ASSIs.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	CCW DoE (NI)	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	NO	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	English Nature who were not listed as one of the responsible organisations are considering designating a long stretch of the River Eden as SSSI. In addition there are two possible SSSI citation amendments to include native crayfish.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	ONGOING	

Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.1 Establish the feasibility of eradicating non-native crayfish populations from the wild where they threaten sensitive sites or important populations of native crayfish.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	CCW EN EA	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	NO	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	English Nature and Environment Agency have a joint funded R&D project investigating the options for control and/or eradication of non-native crayfish.	
Output and timescale	Report due 2000	<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	It is generally considered that at present there is no known way of eradicating signal crayfish, particularly in river systems. It may be that there other options, specific pesticides, pheromones etc but this would need considerable research.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	On the reporting of the current R&D research requirements will need to be identified. The eradication of signal crayfish is vital for the survival of our native crayfish.	
Output and timescale	2000	<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.1 Make inventories of SSSIs/ASSIs which contain native crayfish populations. Monitor populations in protected areas. Maintain the detailed databases on the distribution of the native and non-native crayfish held at Nottingham University and the Biological Records Centre.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	CCW JNCC EA	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	NO	

<p>Description of work taken and organisation responsible <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i></p>	<p>The Environment Agency have a database (using BRC data), this is maintained by Environment Agency staff.</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Data and maps. Ongoing</p>	<p><i>Action by</i></p>
<p>Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i></p>	<p>The quality of records on the database varies. To see real changes in crayfish distributions structured national surveys would be required.</p>	
<p>Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	<p>NOT STARTED</p>	
<p>Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p>		
<p>Output and timescale</p>		<p><i>Action by</i></p>