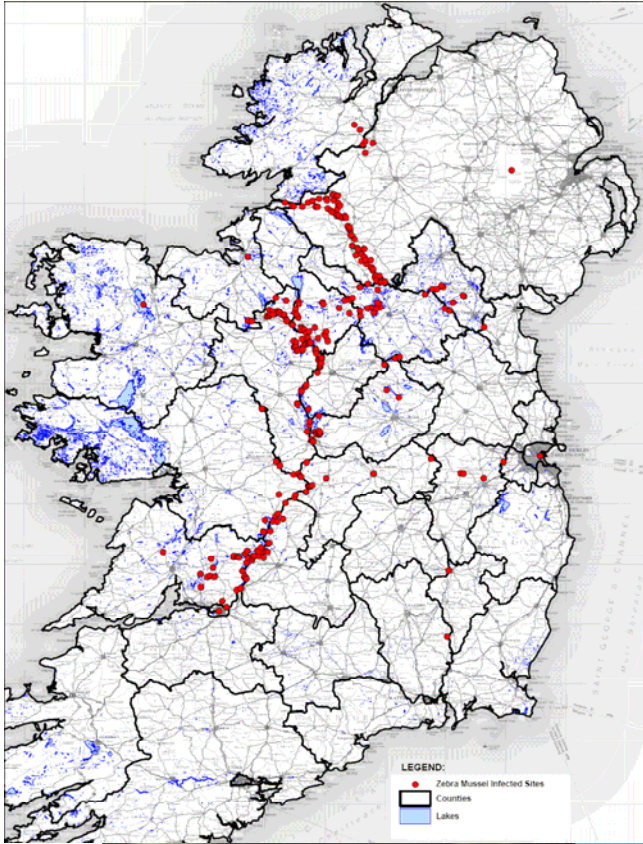


# Invasive Species In Ireland

**Risk Assessments, Policy Development and International Co-operation**

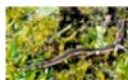
Cathy Maguire, John Kelly, Peter Cosgrove, Robbie McDonald, Chris Maggs  
and Jaimie Dick



Environment & Heritage Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service

## INVASIVE SPECIES IN IRELAND

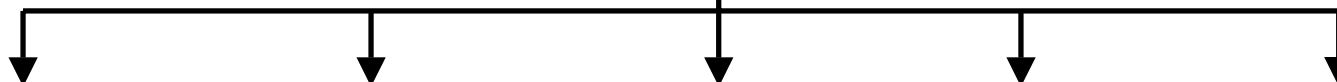
Report prepared by Quercus, Queen's University, Belfast



# Invasive Species in Ireland



## Section 3 Stakeholder Engagement



### Section 1

Risk  
Assessment/  
Policy  
Development

### Section 2

Rapid  
Response  
Facilitation

### Section 4

Monitoring,  
surveillance  
and  
recording

### Section 5

Review/  
Outreach

### Section 6

Legislation

## Risk Assessment/Policy Development

- **Preparation of risk assessments, exclusion strategies and contingency plans for species that are likely to invade Ireland but are not yet known here**
- **Preparation of risk assessments and management plans for established invasive species, taking into account the implications arising under new legislation and Directives**

## Rapid Response Facilitation

- **Provide a rapid response in the event of a newly reported invasion or new occurrences of invasive species at the request of EHS or NPWS**

## Stakeholder Engagement

- **Stakeholder engagement programme and Invasive Species Forum**
- **Development of ‘Codes of Practice’ in conjunction with stakeholders**
- **Development and delivery of education and awareness programmes**
- **Engagement with relevant Government Departments**

## Monitoring, surveillance and recording

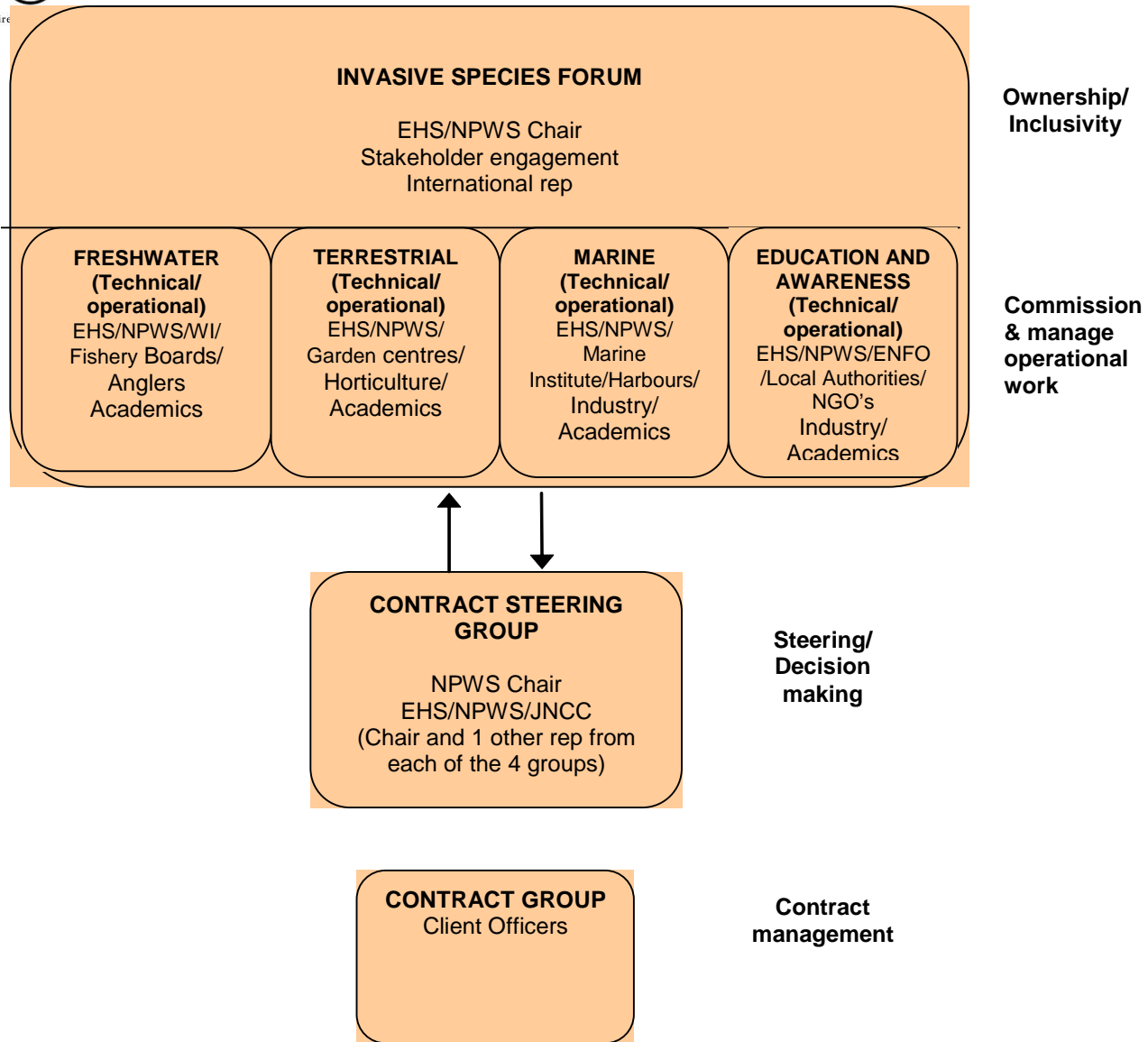
- **Recommend monitoring, surveillance and recording programmes**

## Legislation

- **Review legislative provisions and make recommendations for improvements**

## Review and outreach

- **Review the progress after 2 years and make recommendations for future work required**
- **Organise conference with stakeholders and present findings and recommendations**
- **Provide general advice in relation to invasive species work to both Governments**
- **Provide a short report on opportunities for partnership working and link into European and other funding to carry out invasive species work, both locally and at an all-Ireland level**



## Risk Assessment/Policy Development

### Objectives:

To identify potential invaders

Classify as high, medium and low risk

To select top ten potential invaders

To identify established invasives

Classify as high, medium and low risk

To select top ten established invaders

### Outputs:

Database of established and potential invasive species

Risk Assessment protocol for Ireland

Ireland's most unwanted list

Exclusion Strategies  
/Contingency Plans  
Management plans


Switchboard - [Established]

Species: *Alosa alosa* Common Name: Bream Current status: [dropdown]  
 Taxonomic Group: Fish Habitat: Freshwater Justification: [dropdown]  
 Type of Organism: Freshwater fish Source: Quercus report

Question	Score	Notes and Comments
Does the species currently have a widespread recorded distribution in Ireland? (3=very localised (only at one site); 2=current recorded at two sites; 1=recorded at several sites in small geographic area (less than 10 hectares) or uncertain; 0=Ireland wide distribution)	0	Island wide
Is the species currently expanding its range in Ireland? (0=no; 1=uncertain; 2=yes)	1	Fish are stocked
Is the species in its present range (including Ireland) known to be invasive i.e. to threaten species, habitats or ecosystems? (0=no; 1=uncertain; 2=yes)	1	(Uncertain: interactions with Roach)
Is there potential for this species to be spread intentionally or unintentionally across Ireland? (0=no; 1=uncertain; 2=yes)	2	Intentional stocking
How widespread are suitable habitats to allow establishment of the species? (0=localised; 1=uncertain; 2=Ireland wide (with respect to available habitats))	2	(Established)
If the species becomes established, will it or has it negatively affected the conservation goals in a region (0=no; 1=uncertain; 2=species of domestic concern; 4=Affect either/both Natura 2000 sites and the goals of the WFD)	1	No baseline data available
Is the species poisonous, or does it pose other risks to human health, and/or plant and animal welfare due to its parasites or pathogens? (0=no direct or indirect risks to humans, plant or animal health; 1=poisonous, parasitic or carrier of pathogen/parasites to humans, plants or animals or uncertain; 2=poisonous, parasitic or carrier of pathogen/parasites to a protected species)	0	None described
Has the species directly or indirectly caused economic losses in Ireland or elsewhere? (0=no economic impact; 1=low/unknown economic impact; 2=moderate economic impact; 3=high economic impact)	0	None described
Are there effective control methods that can be applied? (0=control methods highly effective with low resource requirement; 1=control methods highly effective but resource intensive with minimal ecological disturbance and/or destruction; 2=control methods highly effective but resource intensive and with a high degree of ecological disturbance and/or destruction; 3=none described or only ineffective control methods)	3	None described
Are there societal factors that may hinder the control of the species? (0=none; 1=wider public opinion that may favour the establishment of the species; 2=difficulties associated with a co-ordinated response)	1	Fisheries

Score: 11

Completed by: Cathy Maguire General Notes and Comments:  
 Complete risk assessment: Yes

ENVIRO Centre 

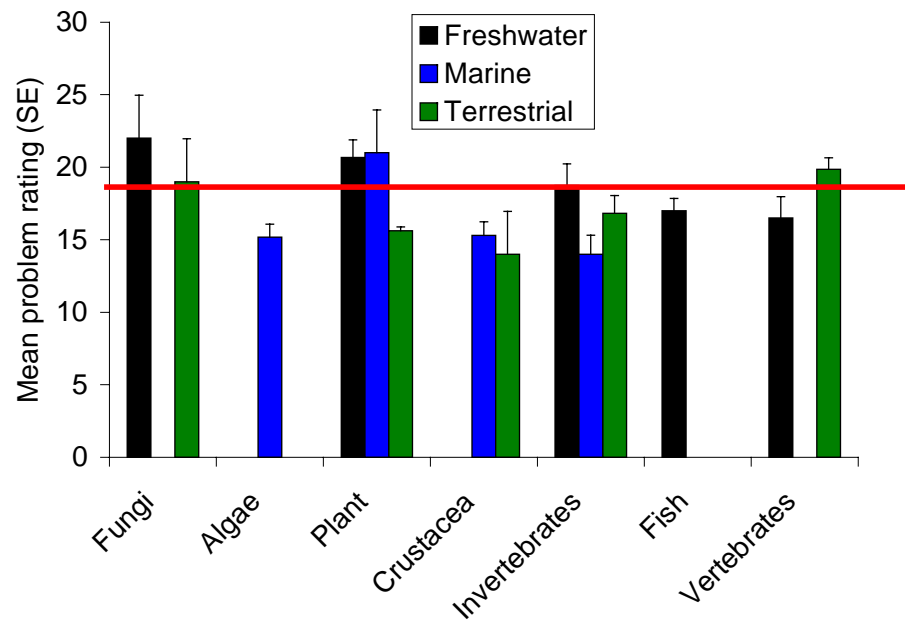
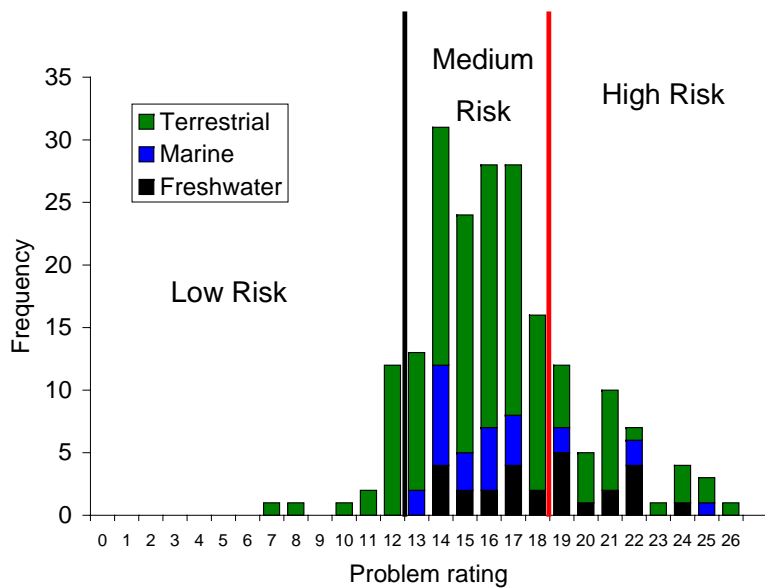
Record: 1 | 1 | 365 of 365  
 Form View NLP

Start | Inboxes - Microsoft Out... | MNEPL REPORT | images | Invasives Database F... | Stage 1 Switchboard | Established | 14:01

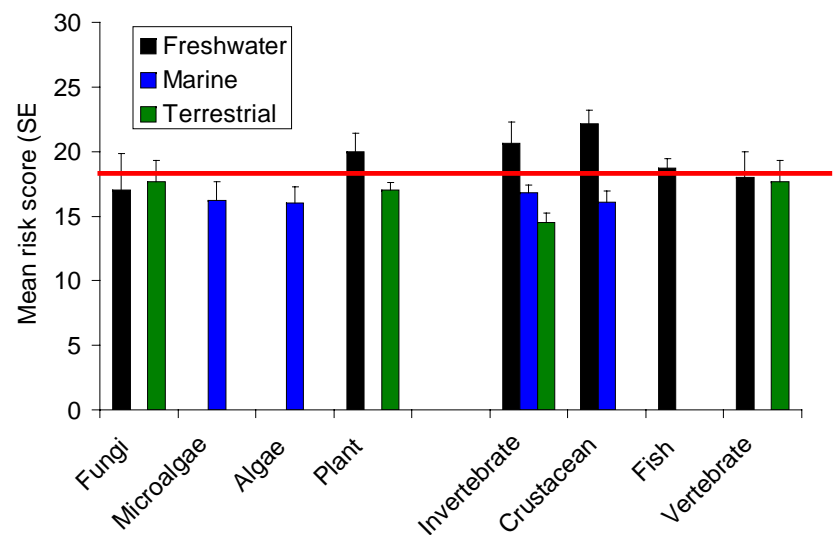
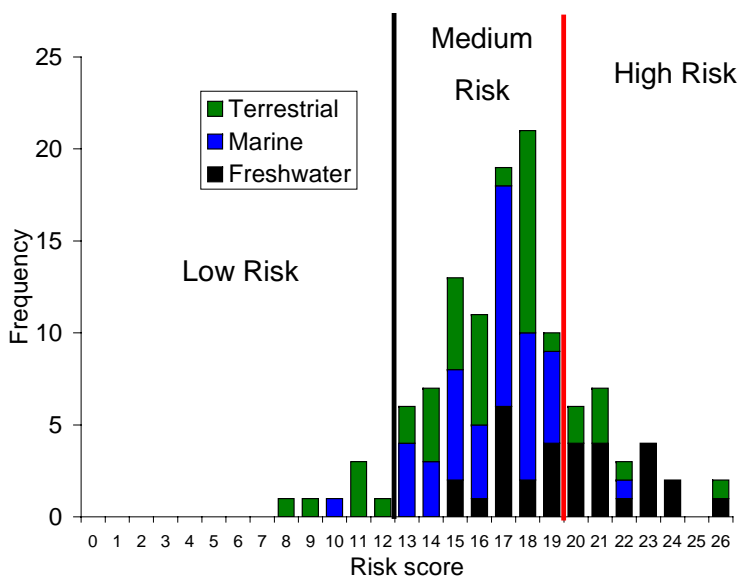
Factors assessed:

- Invasion history
- Vectors and pathways
- Habitat suitability
- Propagule pressure
- Establishment success
- Spread potential
- Ecological impacts
- Economic impacts
- EU legislative obligations
- Feasibility of control/eradication

# Established species risk ratings



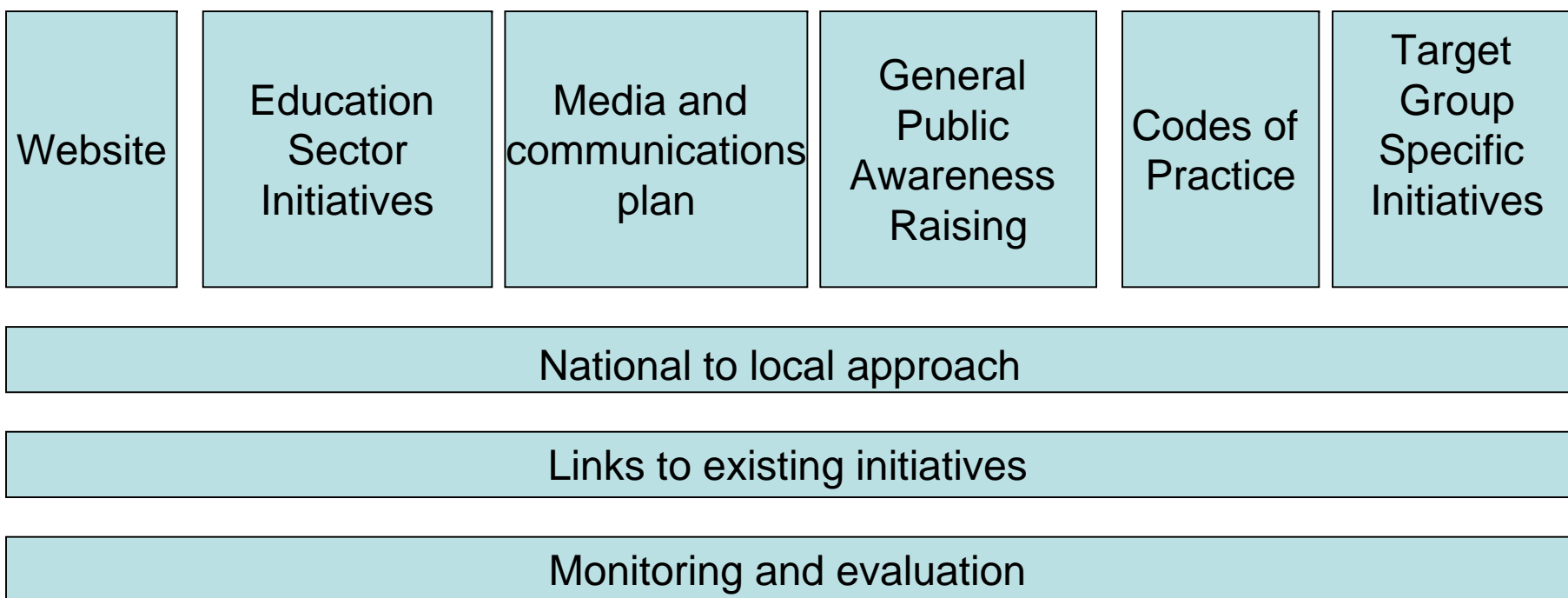
# Potential species risk ratings





# Education and Awareness Programme

## Components of the programme



# Vector Sectors

Industry Pathways

Plants

Food

Non-food Animal

Agriculture

Importation for research

Live seafood

Bait

Pet and Aquaria Trade

Horticulture

Potting soils, growing medium, sods and other materials

Other live food animals

Pet/Aquarium trade

Aquaculture

Landscaping

Plant trade – nursery, agricultural, landscape, floral.

Plant and plant parts as food

Aquaculture

Game rearing

Non-pet animals

Angling

Tourism

Food Importers

Boat Trade

# Strengthening and expanding international co-operation UK and Ireland



To be effective the Invasive Species in Ireland project needs to:

- Take a focused and coherent approach to the different elements of tackling the problem
- Use a mixture of legislative and voluntary measures which focus on human activities
- Co-ordinate and facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience between a diverse range of people and organisations
- Act as a source of information both technical and non-technical