

NOBANIS

NEWS

No. 1 January 2009



Neogobius melanostomus found in Swedish waters

The Round Goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) was found for the first time in Swedish waters in July 2008. In October the finding was verified as the Round Goby. The Goby was caught in the waters outside Karlskrona which is unsurprising as intensive boat traffic occurs between Karlskrona and the Polish waters, where the fish has been present since 1990.

New focal points for Ireland

Ireland has appointed two more focal points for NOBANIS and we will like to welcome Mr. John Early from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (john.early@doeni.gov.uk) and Dr. Matthew Jebb from the National Botanic Gardens (matthew.jebb@opw.ie).

Dr. Cathy Maguire is already national focal point for Ireland and we are looking forward to the continued cooperation with the Irish trio.

Finnish Action plan

Work on the Finnish national action plan on IAS has been initiated. It is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment. The strategy and action plan is expected to be ready in the end of 2010. Harry Helmisaari represents the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in the steering group, and any questions on the strategy and action plan can be directed to Harry. (harry.helmisaari@ymparisto.fi)

Spanish slug (*Arion lusitanicus*) discovered in Estonia

In the end of the summer 2008 the Spanish slug (*Arion lusitanicus*) was found for the first time in Estonia in gardens in the town Pärnu. After the discovery caused great attention in the media, reports of Spanish slug also came from Tallin. The slugs have most probably been imported involuntarily by arboretums and gardening centres. There have been no additional reports of this species, and as far as the Ministry of Environment knows all the Spanish slugs found have been eradicated.

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First non-native crayfish found in Estonian nature

The Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) has been found for the first time in Estonia in September 2008. One male was found in the tributary of Jägala River, although importing live specimens of alien crayfish is illegal in Estonia. In the survey no Noble Crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) was found, even though this species was present in the area at the last survey. It is therefore assumed that introduced Signal Crayfish has been carrying Crayfish Plague.

An investigation of this and nearby tributary rivers is planned to take place in late summer 2009 to reveal the spread of this species in Estonia. Dependent on the result, an eradication programme of alien crayfish in Estonia may be prepared.

3 new slugs and 1 new snail found in Denmark

In connection with a survey of eggs of Danish garden snails and slugs, three new alien slug species and 1 new alien snail for Denmark was discovered. The three slugs are *Milax rusticus*, *Lehmanna nyctelia* and *Boettgerilla pallens*. The snail is *Oxychilus helveticus*. There are no indications yet on these species will become invasive.

Mapping and eradication of invasive plants in Finland

A number of regional initiatives on mapping and eradication of *Heracleum mantegazzianum* and *Impatiens glandulifera* has been initiated in Finland. In the Åbo region *H. mantegazzianum*, *I. glandulifera* and *Rosa rugosa* have been mapped during the summer 2008 and eradication measures will be initiated during 2009.

Eradication programme on Raccoon dog

Estonia is planning an eradication programme on Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*). The first part of the eradication scheme has been finished. The first part gives an overview of the species, the initial introductions, biology of the species, ecological role, impact on native (protected) species etc. The second half containing eradication measures and recommendations will be prepared in 2009.

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Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in Denmark

During the last half of 2008, 8 racoon dogs were killed in Denmark. They were all killed in Jutland, the peninsula north of Germany. In the period 1995-2003 a total of approximately 25 racoon dogs have been killed in Denmark, indicating that racoon dogs now have reached Denmark.