



Biosecurity on the Tweed

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity means trying to stop the spread of species outside of their natural area and the transmission of diseases. Good biosecurity means working and behaving in ways that lower the risks of this happening.

What are non-native species?

Non-native species are animals and plants that have been moved outside of their natural area by human action, whether deliberate or not. Species whose natural area is restricted to the south of the country are not native to the north, for example.

What are Invasive Non-Native Species?

INNS are defined as those plants or animals that have been transported outside of their natural area by humans and damage our environment, the economy, our health and the way we live.

Tweed Biosecurity Plan

The Tweed Biosecurity Plan has three main areas that it works on.

1. Prevent and reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of Non-Native Species (NNS) into and within the Tweed catchment.
2. Set up a plan for the detection and monitoring of NNS which is linked to plans to make sure that responses are quick.
3. Build on the existing controls for NNS and to share knowledge with others.

Here are some examples of how the Tweed Biosecurity Plan can help the Tweed environment.



- The protection of the endangered Water Vole from the American Mink.
- Stopping the Chinese Mitten Crab and Killer Shrimp from entering the Tweed catchment will safeguard the natural plants, fish and animals.
- Preventing the Salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* from entering the Tweed catchment will stop the salmon from becoming infected which not only effects the fish but also the local area. Salmon fishing brings around £23,000,000 into local businesses and about 500 jobs rely on it.
- Giant Hogweed is an invasive plant whose seeds can remain viable for 15 years. It is dangerous to people as it contains chemicals that react with sunlight and make the skin blister. It also shades out other vegetation as it is very tall and dense.

The Tweed Foundation and other organisations, such as the Environment Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, work together to make sure that any biosecurity threats are found, reported and dealt with. This can be through monitoring the threat or removing it. Giant Hogweed, for example, is sprayed with chemicals to poison it so that it cannot produce seeds and keep spreading. It is very important to share information so that all of the organisations involved know that there is a problem and what to do about it. It also makes sure that everyone is treating biosecurity in the same way.

The Tweed Foundation also advises fishers on biosecurity. Some fishers travel to other countries to fish and it is possible to bring back organisms or plant life without realising it on fishing equipment or clothing such as waders. A code of 'Check, Clean, Dry' is advised as some organisms can live for many days in damp conditions.