MR (Major)Faxonius limosus

Date assessed	2020-08-12
Year published	2020
Eicat category	MR (Major)
Justification for EICAT assessment	In Romania, Poland and Croatia, F. limosus was reported to displace native European crayfish species (Pontastacus leptodactylus, Astacus astacus and P. leptodactylus respectively) that led to their disappearance at multiple sites, hence, MR is assigned. Moreover, in the Czech Republic, outbreaks caused by crayfish plague pathogen, Aphanomyces astaci strain transmitted by F. limosus led to local extinction of populations of three native crayfish species, A. astacus, Austropotamobius torrentium and Pontastacus leptodactylus. Transmission of A. astaci by F. limosus was also reported to be responsible for local extinction of A. torrentium and A. pallipes populations in Italy. Since the changes are reversible after removal of F. limosus from the invaded sites, the MR category was assigned.
Confidence rating	Medium
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Transmission of disease; Competition; Transmission of desease
Countries of most severe impact	Czech Republic; Poland; Romania; Croatia; Italy
Description of impact	F. limosus is of concern due to a) its competition with native crayfish species that may lead to disappearance of native crayfish species at invaded sites, b) transmission of the crayfish plague pathogen A. astaci that often leads to crayfish plague outbreaks in populations of infected European crayfish species (and other crayfish species that do not originate from North America), c) potential transmission of fish louse to fish species, and d) predation on benthic macro-invertebrates.
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