

## P14 Catchment invasive species co-ordinator

Theme(s):	A: Conserve and restore river habitat, and adapt to / mitigate for the physical impacts of weather extremes and climate change.
Goal(s):	A2: Retain or restore biodiversity, taking account of weather extremes and climate change.
Sub-goal(s):	A2b: Remove or manage problem non-native species, and prevent the introduction of new invasive species where possible.

Comprehensively tackle the issue of invasive freshwater and marine plants and animals at a catchment-scale. Appoint a full time co-ordinator to:

- link up action taken by landowners, volunteers and councils to create a co-ordinated targeted effort (with an initial focus on depletion of seed banks of plant invasives from upstream to downstream)
- raise awareness about the problems caused by invasive species and educate about biosecurity to prevent the introduction of new invasive species
- inspire more people (recreational river users, volunteers, parish councils and land managers) to become involved in mapping and removal
- provide advice (including for accessing steep banks, boggy areas, islands and standing in-stream)
- map the scale of the problem and
- report on success and further work needed.

The project would need commitment for a minimum of 5 years to see substantial change, but could be limited to the summer growing season each year.

*Update as at April 2013: there is widespread support for this project, with a number of organisations keen to be involved and help deliver. However, there is concern that the budget is underestimated and that tackling invasive species is slipping down the priority list in terms of project funding, despite the threats from currently present and potential future invasive species, including marine species such as Chinese mitten crab.*

Project Status:	Proposed
Potential Deliverer(s):	The co-ordinator could be 'hosted' by any number of local environmental organisations
Estimated Timeframe:	1 to 5 years
Estimated Project Cost:	£100,000 to £250,000
Potential Funding Source(s):	Nature conservation trusts & sponsors, Environment Agency Catchment Restoration Fund, Defra, local authorities