

AHTEG Issues in Developing Countries

Imported pets (incl. aquarium and terrarium species), live bait and live food are not of great importance in developing countries as compared to developed countries and those in transition

Developing countries are more often the **sources** of species introduced for these reasons into more-developed countries which then become problematic upon escape or release of propagules

However, a few examples follow with some general observations

PETS – Songbirds and birds with attractive colours or habits have been imported for centuries and some are becoming invasive after release: or escape from cages – for example **Mynahs, Sparrows, Love Birds and Parakeets, Crows**



Aquarium fish and snails – especially brightly **coloured Cichlids and algae-eating species** that will clean the transparent parts of aquaria



Foreign freshwater food fish, often from aquaculture, to be sold alive for freshness of food and appreciation of the diner!



Aquatic alien species for aquaculture

The case of alien invasive crayfish on mainland Africa



Cherax from Australia



Procambarus from sthn USA

The major issues are awareness, capacity and resources

Regulations and standards to prevent further introductions of such species – recognising that resources are scarce

Tools for relevant risk assessment are needed for local situations and species not invasive in other countries

Recognition of alien species and capacity for Rapid Response is essential but not widespread

Realisation that escapes from aquaculture are certain

Industry awareness and willingness to cooperate is often absent and regulations may exist but capacity to implement is often lacking

If propagules enter large freshwater bodies, like lakes and swamps, they are often virtually unstoppable

Thus the solutions are:- awareness, relevant risk assessments and mechanisms to react quickly – to prevent serious invasions

Other aspects

Developed country solutions are not always appropriate or applicable as models

Continental countries (in Asia, Central and Southern America, Tropical Africa) must have the capacity to act both nationally and regionally and to exchange information and expertise in effective prevention, management

Caged and open aquaculture is spreading – often with limited regulation - food security is often more urgent than biodiversity conservation