

## Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau (PLAS) Biosecurity Project – January 2022 update

Happy New Year!

Since the last update, we've been busy raising awareness of marine invasive non-native species (INNS) and biosecurity through running events, producing fact sheets, social media posts, [producing a video on how to ID the slipper limpet](#), an [article in PLAS SAC's O Dan Y Don magazine](#) and adding information to the [PLAS SAC website](#). We've produced up to date INNS distribution maps for marine INNS in Wales, have been working with a number of partners to improve INNS data flow and are working with the Welsh Fishermen's Association on an INNS contingency plan.

### Workshops



We held the first project workshop online back in June 2021. Fishers, recreational boaters, local authorities, divers, marina managers and others attended.

There were two breakout sessions to discuss feasible biosecurity actions, barriers to carrying out biosecurity, resources that are needed to carry out biosecurity and what the biosecurity plan should look like. Comments were collected using an online platform and written up into a report which has guided the next steps in the project.

We later ran a marine INNS training event alongside The North Wales Wildlife trust, Ecostructure project and National Museum Wales. The event focused on marine INNS identification with around 40 marine INNS samples on display. Feedback was great and the hope is to hold another event in 2022.

### Environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring

Preventing INNS from arriving in the first place is by far the most effective thing we can do. If that fails and a non-native plant or animal arrives, then the next best thing we can do is to act quickly. Part of the biosecurity project involves looking at the potential of using eDNA to monitor for marine INNS. Aberystwyth University are carrying out the work which involves developing 'primers' to pick up priority species including the American slipper limpet, American lobster, Chinese mitten crab and the Carpet sea squirt. We will also be looking at more general species composition using metabarcoding.



### What's next?

Next steps are to complete, print and distribute the Welsh marine INNS ID guide, put information together into pathway action plans and species actions plans and continue working with stakeholders to collate all information into a biosecurity plan.

We are also currently working on installing and trialling advanced mooring systems at Porthdinllaen. The hope is, that by installing these moorings, there will be less damage to the seagrass beds in the area. This will mean less opportunity for the invasive Japanese wireweed to colonise and spread in these damaged areas (bare patches of sand where it thrives).

It would be great to hear from you, please contact Chloe at [chloe.powelljennings@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.powelljennings@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) or call 07813407562 for more information/ to chat