

Signal Crayfish



Signal Crayfish are a North American species which was first introduced to rivers in England in the 1970's. Since then, Signal Crayfish have spread and are now found in several catchments throughout Scotland, including in the Tweed.

Crayfish in the Tweed

Signal Crayfish can be found in a number of locations throughout the Tweed catchment. They were first introduced by humans, likely for wild harvest, fish food or weed control, but they can also be spread unintentionally through stocking still waters with fish. The Crayfish are now spreading throughout the catchment and can now be found in four of the Tweed's tributaries.

What Does This Mean?

Studies carried out have found that Signal Crayfish can be damaging to the local flora and fauna of an area, including to fish. Crayfish will feed on small fish and fish eggs and have been shown to out compete certain fish species for space and food, such as the Stone Loach. It is thought that this is also the case with juvenile Atlantic Salmon and Trout.

What Can Be Done?

The Tweed Foundation have been trapping Crayfish in the tributaries where they are known to be established. This allows us to get an idea of the numbers of Crayfish present at a site and also monitor how far they are spreading. Any Crayfish caught in our traps are dispatched on site by crushing them underfoot, as recommended by SNH.

You can also help us by reporting any sightings of Crayfish or signs of Crayfish within the Tweed catchment using the contact details below.

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