

KILLER SHRIMP

Dikerogammarus villosus

What is it?

A highly invasive non-native species that has spread from the Ponto-Caspian Region of Eastern Europe. As a voracious predator it kills a range of native species, including young fish, and significantly alters ecosystems. The first known outbreak of this species was found in Grafham Water on 3 September 2010.



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How do you identify it?

- Total body length of up to 30 mm (large for a freshwater amphipod).
- May appear striped or uniform in coloration pattern.
- Mandibles are relatively large.
- Behaviour is particularly vicious and destructive.

What is the urgency?

- This is the first known outbreak in Great Britain. It is vital that we try to stop its spread to new locations. It can be spread inadvertently by people. By following the guidance below you can help to keep it contained.

Help stop the spread of this species by:

- Inspecting and cleaning boats and kit before and after use.
- Inspecting and cleaning launching trailers.
- Draining all bilge water from boats before leaving the site.
- Disinfecting angling kit before use.
- Making sure no lake water is taken away with your kit.
- Not transferring bait between water bodies.



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Relative sizes of Killer Shrimp (left) and other native shrimp species, *Gammarus spp.*

If you find this species, please send a photo and details of the sighting to:

alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk