

Rivers with confirmed CRAYFISH PLAGUE OUTBREAKS (with year first detected)

1. River Bruskey/Erne, Co Cavan. (2015).
2. River Suir, Co Waterford and Tipperary. (2017)
3. River Deel, Co Limerick (2017)
4. River Barrow (2017). Crayfish Plague is now widespread in the main channel as far upstream as Monasterevin (detected 2018). A further area of infection is now confirmed (29/5/19) on the River Slate at Rathangan (not shown on map).
5. Lorrha River, Co Tipperary (2017)
6. River AI, Co Westmeath. (2018)
7. River Clare, Co Galway (2019). This is based on testing of water samples.
8. River Maigne, Co. Limerick (2019)
9. River Nore, Co Kilkenny (August 2019) Not shown on map.

Northern Ireland had its first confirmed outbreak on the River blackwater in Co. Tyrone in 2018.

What can we do to help prevent the spread of the Crayfish Plague?

The advice is that strict biosecurity is observed when working in all these catchments. The highest level of risk is moving equipment that has been used in an affected area to an unaffected catchment.

The Crayfish Plague disease organism (a water-mould *Aphanomyces astaci*) is microscopic and invisible to the naked eye and is only viable in water. It is completely harmless to people, pets, livestock and all other freshwater organisms.

The presumption should be made that any equipment which becomes wet and has been used in an affected catchment will be contaminated and there is a potential for spreading the disease to new sites.

We should all follow the Check, Clean, Dry/Disinfect Campaign regardless of whether we know if the Crayfish plague is in a waterbody or not See: www.biodiversityireland.ie/check-clean-dry