

# UNWANTED



Photo- BioImages (UK)

## THE SIGNAL CRAYFISH (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)

This American Crayfish has spread widely through England and has now reached Scotland: Brought originally as a species for farming it has escaped and established itself in the wild in many places. It has also been spread by people attracted by its bright colours taking them home as aquarium pets, then later getting rid of them in the nearest water. These are burrowing animals and can cause severe damage to riverbanks by undermining them, making them dangerous for farm animals. They can reach very high densities in streams and are predators of the youngest and most vulnerable stages of Trout and Salmon. Once established, alien freshwater species of any sort are extremely difficult to eradicate and their presence permanently changes the natural identity of the area, making it less distinctive and more like any other place. TO HELP SAFEGUARD THE NATURAL IDENTITY AND THE FISHERIES OF THE TWEED, **PLEASE** :

**\* DO NOT BRING ANY LIVING COLD FRESHWATER FISH, SHRIMPS, CRAYFISH OR OTHER PLANT OR ANIMAL THAT COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD INTO THE CATCHMENT:- IF IN DOUBT, PHONE SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE, 01896 756652**

**\* DO NOT TIP WATER BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT INTO ANY POND, LOCH OR STREAM - POUR IT AWAY ON THE GROUND**