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International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION R-04

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2017

ENG

# Recommendation on: IPPC coverage of aquatic plants

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### **Publication history**

*This is not an official part of the CPM Recommendation.*

2013-04 presented and discussed at CPM-8.

2014-04 CPM-9 adopted the CPM recommendation on *the IPPC coverage of aquatic plants (R-04)*.

2016-12 CPM Bureau reviewed and agreed with IPPC Secretariat proposed ink amendments.

2017-04 CPM-12 agreed with the reformatting and incorporating of ink amendments.

Publication history last modified: 2017-04

## BACKGROUND

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), having the purpose of “securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products”, does not distinguish between terrestrial and aquatic plants and does not specifically refer to aquatic plants. Furthermore, as clarified by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) (hereafter “Commission”) on several occasions, the IPPC deals with the protection of plants whether cultivated, managed or wild.

Aquatic plants may, as other plants, be infested by pests, provide a pathway for pests or themselves be pests to other plants.

Aquatic plants are mentioned in several International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) as plants that should be protected under the IPPC framework. CPM-1 (2006) noted the IPPC Secretariat’s liaison with other international organizations to clarify the mandate of the IPPC with respect to invasive aquatic plants. The IPPC business plan 2007-2011, adopted at CPM-2 (2007), identified marine and other aquatic plants as an emerging issue to be considered, and it was stated that ISPMs should be developed or modified to take aquatic invasive plants into account.

At CPM-5 (2010) a scientific session on aquatic plants was held, outlining the pest risks to and from aquatic plants. CPM members agreed that in principle aquatic plants were covered under the scope of the IPPC.

At CPM-6 (2011) it was agreed that the issue of aquatic plants (including the question on algae) under the IPPC should be further considered by the Bureau and Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the conclusions be reported back to the CPM (CPM-6, Report, Para 193).

Accordingly, a “scoping study on aquatic plants and their significance to the IPPC” was conducted under the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) project and presented at the IPPC Symposium at CPM-7 (2012).

This Recommendation synthesizes these discussions, taking into account the findings from the IRSS study and concludes with a set of recommended actions.

## ADDRESS TO

Contracting parties, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission confirms that aquatic plants should be protected and invasive aquatic plants considered as potential pests under the IPPC framework. Therefore:

Contracting parties are *encouraged* to:

- (a) *include* an assessment of pest risks to aquatic plants in their pest risk analysis processes.
- (b) *ensure* that relevant government agencies, importers, exporters, shipping service companies and/or agencies (for ship ballasts and tanks) and other stakeholders are aware of the pest risks related to the import and movement of aquatic plants.
- (c) *prevent* the spread of regulated aquatic plants as pests in the ornamental and other trade sectors, using appropriate phytosanitary measures, with support from other national organizations positioned to enforce such measures.
- (d) *ensure* that aquatic plants, as potential pests and pathways, become subject to, or included in, pest risk analysis whenever relevant, in particular in cases where aquatic plants are intentionally imported for intended uses as plants for planting, e.g. in aquaculture or other aquatic habitats.

- (e) *ensure* that, in accordance with the outcome of a pest risk analysis, aquatic plants as pathways or pests become subject to official control and that adequate phytosanitary measures such as phytosanitary import requirements, surveillance, eradication, containment etc. are established.

RPPOs are *encouraged* to:

- (f) *coordinate* regional cooperative efforts on pest risk analysis for aquatic plants as pathways or pests.
- (g) *coordinate* communication among NPPOs and other stakeholders to strengthen regional approaches to managing risk and identifying appropriate management options for aquatic plants as pathways or pests.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) SUPERSEDED BY THE ABOVE**

None.

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## IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

### Organization

- ◆ There are over 180 contracting parties to the IPPC.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a national plant protection organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ Nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) work to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC in countries.
- ◆ IPPC liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ The Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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