Invasive Alien Species Management in Japan

- Regulation (IAS Act in Japan)
- Eradication Projects (Mongoose, Ogasawara Is.)
- Effects and challenges

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1. Regulation
Invasive Alien Species Act
Background of IAS Act
Largemouth bass
(*Micropterus salmoides*)

- **1925**: introduced from USA for aquaculture
- **1999**: established in all prefectures

Damage to native-fishes

Damage to fisheries

Damage to biodiversity
Agricultural damages by raccoon

Number of capture

万円/ten thousand Yen

頭/head
Framework of IAS Act
1. **Plant Quarantine** (植物検疫)

... preventing damages to *agricultural plants*

- Plant protection Act

2. **Animal Quarantine** (動物検疫)

... preventing damages to *domestic animal or human health caused by infectious diseases*

- Domestic animal infectious diseases control Act
- Infectious diseases prevent Act

3. **Alien Species Regulation**

... Preventing damage to *Wild fauna and flora etc.*


**Related Organizations:**
- IPPC
- MAFF, MOE
- MAFF, MHLW
Purpose of Invasive Alien Species Act

1. Ecosystems
   Prey on endangered species …

2. Agriculture, forestry and fishery
   Damages to agricultural Products …

3. Human safety
   Biting and injuring humans …
IAS Act (main points)

Point 1
Prohibition of various actions (e.g. import) with regard to designated IAS without permission

Point 2
Suspension of importing UAS (Uncategorized Alien Species)

Point 3
Controlling IAS (Eradication, Prevention of Damage)
Prohibition of actions with regard to “Designated Invasive Alien Species” (IAS)

- Importing
- Raising
- Planting
- Transporting

Prohibited without permission by competent ministers

Permissions are given for

- Exhibiting at zoo etc.
- Education/Research
- Sustaining livelihood

IAS must be kept in facilities that meet standards.

Prohibited under any condition

- Releasing IAS to the wild

Prevent IAS from escaping to Japan’s ecosystem

Competent Ministers

IAS causing damages to

- environment ... MOE
- agriculture, fishery ... MOE & MAFF

Import regulation at ports/Airports

... Cooperation with Custom house, Quarantine service
Designation of IAS …97 Types (as of March 2010)

- Small Asian mongoose
- Green anole
- Cane toad
- Raccoon
- Large Earth bumblebee
- Largemouth bass
- Western mosquito fish
- Signal crayfish
- Blue gill
- And more…
Suspension of importing UAS

(Uncategorized Alien Species : about 2,600 types)

Point 2

**Uncategorized Alien Species (UAS)**

...Same genus (or family) as IAS – similar ecological impacts are predicted in principle

...Not substantially introduced to Japan

**Importer** who intends to import

Decide whether the species should be designated as IAS or not

Competent Ministers

notification

Invasive

Designate as IAS

Not invasive

No restriction

Suspension of importing UAS until estimation finished
Competent ministers publicly announce controlling plans of IAS clarifying the target, area, period, and method.

Competent ministries: implement controlling according to the controlling plans.

Local government, NGOs etc.: controlling plans are able to be authorized by competent authorities.

→ Exception to the prohibition of keeping and carrying living IAS for the purpose of eradication.
1. By Ministry of the Environment

IAS causing severe damages
- to endangered species or,
- in the national protected areas are given the highest priority

Support other sectors by developing and gathering information of management techniques

2. By Local Government, Private sector, NGOs

Others given high priority in each local community
- preventing damages to agriculture, forestry, fishery
- conservation of important ecosystems for local community

Authorization by competent ministers (enables to keep and carry living IAS)

3. Other ministries

MAFF: Financial Support for preventing damages to agriculture, forestry and fishery
MLIT: Controlling IAS as a part of management of public infrastructure (river bank etc.)
Control measures by Local Government

- **Raccoon**
  - **Purpose:** Prevent damage to agriculture and fishery
  - **Species:** Mammals and fishes

- **Nutria**

- **Largemouth bass**
Control measures by NGOs

- Purpose: ...conservation of local ecosystems
- Species: ...fishes and plants

- Largemouth bass
- Bluegill
- Onseed bur cucumber