

UNWANTED



Photo – Natural History Museums

THE CHINESE MITTEN CRAB (*Eriocheir sinensis*)

This large freshwater crab is a native of northern China, but has been establishing itself in mainland Europe since 1912 and is now found from Portugal to Finland. It appeared in the River Thames in 1935, where there is now a substantial population, and is now in some Yorkshire rivers as well as the Northumberland Tyne. It can cross dry land to new waters and as a burrowing animal can cause extensive damage by undermining river banks. Its burrows can be up to 80cms deep and there can be as many as 50 per square metre. Its arrival here would bring a new and unpredictable factor for the fish and the fisheries of the Tweed as it eats fish eggs and larvae. 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.**

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