

# IFI ALERT - Invasive Species!

## ***killer shrimp*** ***(Dikerogammarus villosus)***

### What is it?

A highly predatory and aggressive freshwater invasive species that is rapidly dispersing throughout Europe and beyond. It was recently recorded in individual fisheries in England and Wales.

NOT YET RECORDED IN IRELAND



Photo by: Michal Grobowski

### How do you identify it?

- Maximum body length is 30 mm (20 mm for native *Gammarus* species)
- Like *Gammarus* species, the body colouration may appear striped or uniform
- Tail (urosome) with two distinctive cones (see photograph)
- Large and powerful mandibles
- Displays particularly aggressive behaviour

### Why are we concerned?

Called the killer shrimp because it is a much more deadly predator than native shrimps, mainly due to its larger size and more powerful mouthparts. It preys on a wide range of fish-food insects and small fish, often killing but not eating its prey. It can rapidly replace native insects, thus damaging natural food webs in infested waters. This species can survive for at least six days out of water.

### How do we stop the spread of this species?

- Inspect and disinfect all angling tackle and protective clothing before and after use
- Inspect and clean boats, trailers, engines and other equipment before and after use

Please report sighting to Inland Fisheries Ireland at [info@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:info@fisheriesireland.ie)

or call **1890 Fish 24** / **1890 3474 24** (24 hrs)



**STOP! The spread of invasive species**