

IFI ALERT - Invasive Species!

freshwater jellyfish ***(Craspedacusta sowerbyi)***

What is it?

Freshwater jellyfish (also known as peach-blossom jellyfish) are native to the Yangtze River Valley in China. The species was initially discovered in exotic aquatic plant tanks in Regent's Park, London in 1880 but has since spread widely throughout the globe. It is the first recorded freshwater jellyfish found in Ireland (in August 2013).

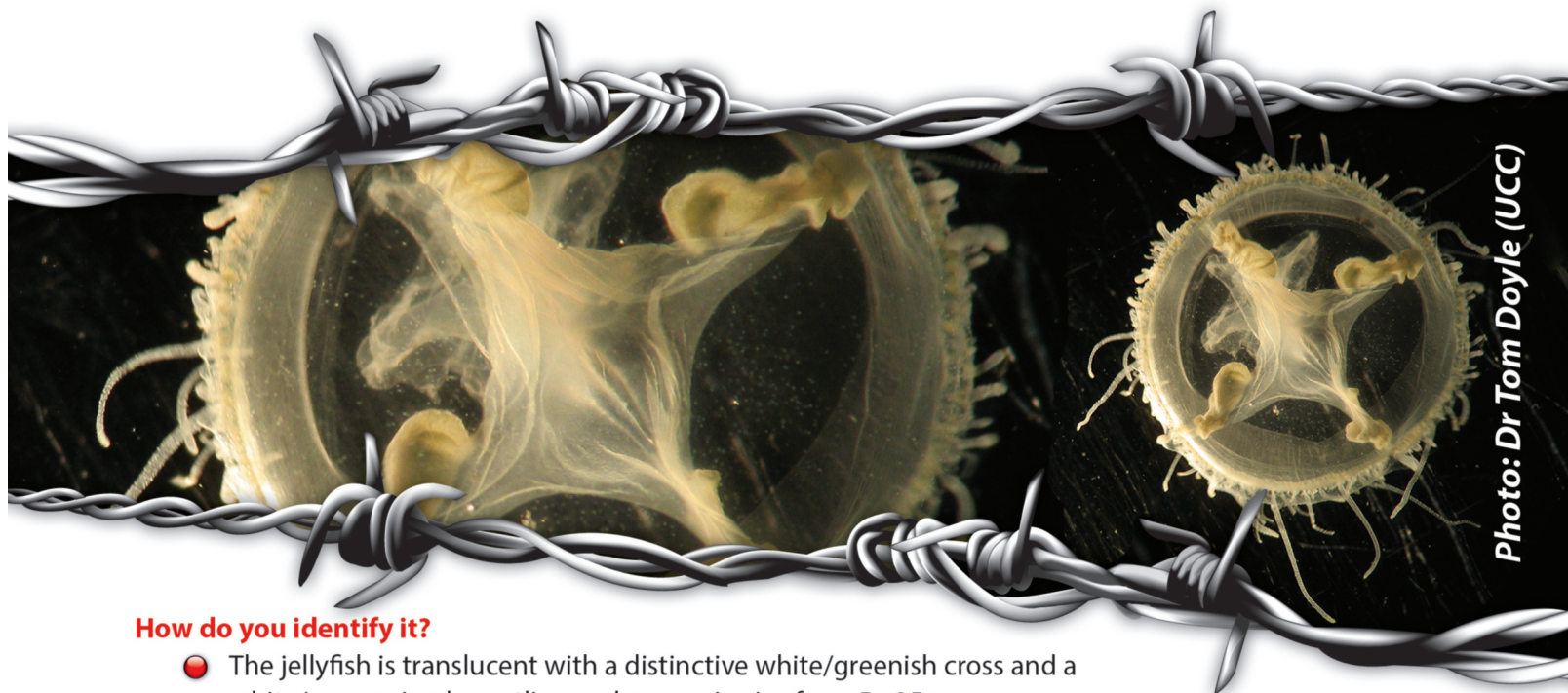


Photo: Dr Tom Doyle (UCC)

How do you identify it?

- The jellyfish is translucent with a distinctive white/greenish cross and a white/cream circular outline and ranges in size from 5 - 25 mm.
- It possesses in the region of 50 - 500 tentacles of varying length, the majority of which are relatively small.
- There are two distinct life stages; one is a tiny attached polyp and the second is the medusa stage (free-swimming jellyfish). The inconspicuous polyp buds off medusa under warm water conditions ($\geq 25^{\circ}\text{C}$).

Why are we concerned?

This species is newly recorded in Ireland (Lough Derg and Lough Erne) but as of yet has not been recorded in other Irish freshwaters. Experience in other countries suggests that blooms of these jellyfish occur only sporadically and that they last, in any one year, for only a few weeks. Although it is uncertain what impacts the freshwater jellyfish will have on our native aquatic species, they do not appear to have any significant effect on the biology or ecology of the waters that they have colonised in other countries. This is probably due to their sporadic occurrence and the short duration of their blooms. The freshwater jellyfish is not harmful to humans.

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, engines, trailers and other equipment before and after use.

Please report sighting to Inland Fisheries Ireland at info@fisheriesireland.ie
www.jellyfish.ie or www.nbdc.ie or call 1890 FISH 24 / 1890 34 74 24 (24 hrs)



STOP! The spread of invasive species