OVERVIEW

The AS-ISK is based on questions in the WRA (Pheloung et al. 1999), which were adapted to create FISK v1 (Copp et al. 2009) and then FISK v2 (Lawson et al. 2013). These were further adapted to create the generic screening module of the ENSARS, which was developed for the EU Regulation on the use of alien species in aquaculture (Copp et al. 2016a). During this developmental process, the AS-ISK's questions and related information-gathering components were revised and structured to create a decision-support tool that complies with the 'minimum standards' (Roy et al. 2018) for the assessment of non-native species for the recent EC Regulation No. 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (European Commission 2014). Notably, the AS-ISK v2.4 is an enhanced version of the AS-ISK v1 (Copp et al. 2016b).

Launching AS-ISK v2.4

AS-ISK v2.4 consists of a Microsoft Excel macro-enabled worksheet (.xlsm). Depending on the default security settings in the local computer's Excel installation, upon launching AS-ISK v2.4 the Assessor might be warned whether they want to 'Enable Editing' and then 'Enable Macros'. These two steps are necessary for AS-ISK v2.4 to open successfully. Upon opening, a preliminary check is done by the program for the Excel version compatibility. In this respect, AS-ISK v2.4 will run without issue under Windows® 10/11 with Microsoft Office 365. However, the AS-ISK will not run under the Mac OS unless a (third-party) Windows virtualisation software is used.

Any workbooks open in the Excel instance in which AS-ISK v2.4 is being launched will be automatically closed upon launching the program. This is an 'enforced' procedure due to the lack of dynamic data exchange (DDE) support since release of Excel 2016, which will also cause other Excel workbooks to not open within the instance of Excel in which AS-ISK v2.4 is running (but which can still be opened in a separate instance of Excel launched from the Windows Start Menu by typing "Excel /x" or "Excel.exe /x").

Following a preliminary compatibility check, the *Start* dialog is opened and the program's Graphical User Interface (GUI) will default to the local *Language* of the Assessor's Office/Excel version (if available), else to the English language. Also, the 'light blue' *Colour scheme* is selected by default.

To ensure that the AS-ISK will open and display properly (cf. GUI and information/error messages) in the user's local language, the following settings are needed:

1. The language of Microsoft Excel (Office) must match the user's local language: *File* → *Options* → *Language* → *Office display language*, then select the desired language and move it up to the top of the list, then press *OK* and restart Excel;
2. The language of the Windows OS (note that this refers to Windows 10/11) must not necessarily match that of the user's local language [but to do so: *Start* → *Settings* → *Time & Language* → *Region* → *Country or region* and scroll to select, then click on *Additional time, date & regional settings* → *(Region) Change date, time or number formats* → in the *Administrative (tab)* click on *Change system locale*, then scroll to select]. However, for most languages other than English, the box reading *Beta: Use Unicode UTF-8 for worldwide language support* must be ticked, then press *OK* and *Restart now* (whilst the System locale can remain in English).