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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2025)

The Commission acknowledges that widely spread invasive alien species (IAS) often have significant cost implications and socio-economic consequences in Member States. The Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) and the American crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) are both listed as IAS of Union concern under the IAS Regulation[1]. As such, they are subject to all restrictions under Article 7 of the IAS Regulation.

Article 19 of the IAS Regulation – rather than Article 9 – deals with the management of IAS that are widely spread in a Member State's territory. While this Article imposes a management obligation, it is up to the Member State to select the measures appropriate to the local conditions among the several options listed in Article 19, on the basis of an analysis of costs and benefits.

As regards the potential commercialisation of these species, Article 19(2) states that 'The commercial use of already established invasive alien species may be temporarily allowed as part of the management measures aimed at their eradication, population control or containment, under strict justification and provided that all appropriate controls are in place to avoid any further spread'. If Member States introduce a specific management programme for widely spread IAS that are suitable for human consumption, export to other Member States of dead animals would be allowed provided all the conditions in Article 19(2) are met.

[1] Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35–55.