



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Resource Digest – December 30, 2004
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Please send items and postings for the *NEANS Panel Resource Digest* to Susan.Park@state.ma.us

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A. News from the Northeast

Sightings

Sea squirts put squeeze on 40 square miles (11/24/04)

The tunicate *Didemnum* sp. appears to be continuing its spread on the Georges Bank. They were first found on the Georges Bank seabed a year ago, when they covered an area of only approximately 6 square miles. Scientists from the USGS returned to the site a year later, where they say that the species now covers at least 40 square miles. For the full story, go to: <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/state/041124squirts.shtml>

Maine last of 48 states to detect invasive species (12/2/04)

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has confirmed an infestation of Eurasian Water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in a privately owned gravel quarry in Scarborough. DEP estimates this infestation to be at least five years old and has determined that it is well established throughout the quarry. The state plans an aggressive response to combat the its first confirmed detection of this species. For the full story, go to: <http://news.maintoday.com/apwire/D86NLHRC0-336.shtml>. For more information, contact Paul Gregory at 207.287.6961 or paul.gregory@maine.gov

Invasive crabs worry biologists in Quebec (12/3/04)

A single Chinese mitten crab, one of the most invasive species in the world, was found in the St. Lawrence River near Quebec City. The female crab was caught in early September by Bernard Côté, who was sampling for the Quebec City aquarium. For the full story, go to: <http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2004/12/03/crab-invasive041203.html>

Other headlines from around the region

Maine Association hopes to receive state funds for watershed activities (12/14/04)

The Spruce Creek Association of Maine would use the funds to conduct an inventory of potential restoration projects in the Spruce Creek watershed, including projects related to invasive species. Full story at <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/12142004/maine/53704.htm>

Planned restoration of Saugus River basin (12/12/04)

The National Park Service is proposing a \$3 million project at the Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site. The project would excavate the silt and invasive plants that clog the Saugus River basin in Massachusetts. Full story at

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/12/12/river_restoration_plan_forged/

Maine's brook trout at risk from invasives? (11/18/04)

The brook trout, a prized Maine sport fish, is in trouble in New England because of development, pollution, and invasive species, according to a new report from Trout Unlimited. Full story at

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/state/041118trout.shtml>

Massachusetts resident sentenced for smuggling exotic fish (11/18/04)

A Massachusetts resident was given probation and fined a thousand dollars in federal court in Vermont for illegally smuggling exotic Asian fish into the United States. Read the full story at:

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=2581459>

Marine invasives become priority of Salem seacoast (11/14/04)

Salem Sound Coastwatch announced its top 5 priorities, including a task to “detect and quantify marine invasive species in local waters.” Full story at

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/11/14/seacoast_priorities_targeted/

Maine to honor woman for keeping water milfoil out of Great Pond (11/5/04)

A Waterville woman who stopped Eurasian water milfoil from entering Great Pond won a newly created Governor's Award for her efforts. Full story at

<http://morningsentinel.maintoday.com/news/local/1115107.shtml>

Market sought for green crabs (10/28/04)

A researcher at the University of Maine Machias is looking at the feasibility of a commercial fishery for the invasive European green crab. Full story at

http://www.ellsworthamerican.com/archive/2004/10-28-04/ea_news7_10-28-04.html

Vermont senator seeks barrier for Lake Champlain (10/18/04)

A move to keep carp out of the Great Lakes could help efforts to control invasive species in Lake Champlain. Senator Jeffords of Vermont is looking for federal support to create a barrier to Lake Champlain at the Champlain Canal. Full story at

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=2428448>

B. Coming Soon to a Watershed Near You

Louisiana releases draft AIS management plan

The Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force has completed the draft State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species in Louisiana. Public comment on the draft is being solicited. Comments are due on or before January 21, 2005. The press release and a link to the plan can be found at

<http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=13&id=1103141197>

Aquatic Bioinvasion Research and Policy Institute

Portland State University and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center have joined forces to form the Aquatic Bioinvasion Research and Policy Institute. The institute will take a multi-disciplinary approach to the problem of aquatic invasive species throughout the United States. The institute was formally established on October 26, 2004. A press release and more information can be found at

http://www.serc.si.edu/for_media/releases_2004/10_27_invasions.jsp

Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program

The US Coast Guard announces the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that evaluated the potential environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program (STEP). The purpose of STEP is to facilitate the development of effective ballast water treatment technologies to protect U.S. waters against unintentional introduction of nonindigenous species via ballast water discharges. More information on STEP can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/step.htm>

World's 100 Most Destructive Species named

Scientists from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) have identified the world's 100 deadliest invasive species. These species are responsible for the extinction of hundreds of other species and are causing havoc to ecosystems and the other organisms that inhabit them. The "killer algae" *Caulerpa taxifolia* and the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) are 2 aquatic species that made the top 10. To see a full list, go to

<http://www.iucn.org/biodiversityday/100booklet.pdf>

Forest Service announces national plan for managing invasive species

The US Department of Agriculture Forest Service has published its National Management and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management. This comprehensive plan encompasses all Forest Service programs and landscapes, including aquatic ecosystems. There is an emphasis on collaboration, with mention of the regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel. To read the report, go to

http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/publications/Invasive_Species.pdf

Unnatural abundance (11/25/04)

Charles Mann offers a historical perspective on invasive species in North America in this opinion piece in the *New York Times*.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/25/opinion/25mann.html?ex=1104314281&ei=1&en=2c4f423d33be059c>

C. Policy and Legislation

President Bush responds to the Ocean Commission report (12/17/04)

President Bush has released a U.S. Ocean Action Plan and has issued an Executive Order to create a Cabinet-Level Committee on Ocean Policy in response to recommendations put forth by the US Commission on Ocean Policy in September. Preventing the spread of invasive species is highlighted in the Action Plan. Both the Action Plan and the Executive order can be found at <http://ocean.ceq.gov/>

APHIS receives comments on listing of *Caulerpa* as a noxious weed (10/26/04)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is considering two petitions requesting the addition of either the whole genus *Caulerpa* or the entire species *Caulerpa taxifolia* to the APHIS list of noxious weeds. A group of invasive species scientists and resource managers submitted these two petitions to APHIS in April 2003. The comment period closed December 27, 2004. For more information, go to: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/caulerpa/index.html>

Brown Tree Snake legislation passed (10/30/04)

The president has signed the Brown Tree Snake Eradication and Control Act of 2004. It expands control and restoration efforts in Guam and rapid response work in Hawaii and US territories in the Pacific.

Noxious weed legislation passed (10/30/04)

The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004 (S.144) was passed on 10/30/04. This act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide assistance to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private land.

Funding the barrier to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes (10/7/04)

Federal and state lawmakers worked together to make up a shortfall of \$1.8 million to fully fund the construction of a permanent electric dispersal barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to keep several species of Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River. The Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Illinois began work on a permanent barrier earlier this year, but the construction costs rose beyond the authorized \$5 million for federal expenditures. In order for construction to continue uninterrupted, Congress needed to approve the additional funds this year. The Senate authorized the additional \$1,825,000 in federal funds for the dispersal barrier project to the spending bill for the District of Columbia.

D. Reports, Publications, and Web-based Resources

Reports

ELI releases two new reports on invasive species

The Environmental Law Institute has released 2 new documents regarding invasive species legislation:

Harmful Invasive Species: Legal Responses

http://www.elistore.org/books_detail.asp?ID=10930

Invasive Species Control: A Comprehensive Model State Law

http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=10992

Select publications

Bruno, J.F., C.W. Kennedy, T.A. Rand, and M.B. Grant MB. 2004. Landscape-scale patterns of biological invasions in shoreline plant communities. *Oikos*. 107(3): 531-540

Holway, D.A. 2005. Edge effects of an invasive species across a natural ecological boundary. *Biological Conservation*. 121: 561-567

Mills, M.D., R.B. Rader, and M.C. Belk. 2004. Complex interactions between native and invasive fish: the simultaneous effects of multiple negative interactions. *Oecologia*. 141(4): 713-721

Paunovic, M., P. Cakic, A. Hegedis, J. Kolarevic, and M. Lenhardt. 2004. A report of *Eriocheir sinensis* (H. Milne Edwards, 1854) [Crustacea : Brachyura : Grapsidae] from the Serbian part of the Danube River. *Hydrobiologia*. 529(1): 275-277

Web-based Resources

Managing invasive species in the National Park system

The current (Fall 2004) issue of the on-line publication *Park Science* is a special issue on invasive species. There are many articles highlighting current management strategies and future challenges to invasive species management in the National Park Service. *Park Science* can be found on-line at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/parksci/>

Looking for a new calendar for 2005?

The Alien Plant Working Group has a printable and an on-line calendar available for 2005. These calendars feature photos and information on “least-wanted” invasive plants. The on-line version is constantly updated with invasive plant events.

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm#print>

E. Upcoming Conferences and Events

July 12-14, 2005 – Portland, ME, USA

River and Lake Restoration: Changing Landscapes

Hosted by the Universities Council on Water Resources and the National Institutes for Water Resources. One planned topic is the control and management of invasive species.

<http://ucowr.siu.edu/05CoP.pdf>

February 7-10, 2005 – Honolulu, HI, USA

Weed Science 2005

The annual meeting of the Weed Science Society of America.

<http://www.wssa.net/society/05mtngbrochure.pdf>

February 25-26, 2005 – Truro, NS, Canada

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Annual Conference 2005

<http://www.fsrns.ca/events/ac2005.html>

February 27-March 4, 2005 – Washington, DC, USA

Sixth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW VI)

Sponsored by the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition.

http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

April 19-20, 2005 – Reno, NV, USA

Invasive Species: Their Ecological Impacts and Alternatives for Control

This symposium is sponsored by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International. <http://www.astm.org/cgi->

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April 21-22, 2005 – Woods Hole, MA, USA

International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference (IISSC)

A conference on the biology, biogeography, and ecology of invasive ascidians (Subphylum Tunicata (Urochordata), Class Ascidiacea.) Sponsored WHOI Ocean Life Institute, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, MIT Sea Grant, WHOI Sea Grant, and the Northeast

Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel. For more information, contact Mary Carman at (508) 289-2987 or mcarman@whoi.edu.

May 5-6, 2005 – Florence, Italy

Biological Invasions in Inland Waters

Hosted by the University of Florence.

http://www.dbag.unifi.it/INWAT_FirstCircular.pdf

Spring 2006 – Florida, USA

14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

Watch <http://www.icaais.org/index.html> for more information.

F. Other

Funding opportunities

BoatU.S. Foundation Clean Water Grants Program

Each year, the BoatU.S. Foundation awards local nonprofit volunteer organizations up to \$4,000 for the promotion of clean boating education. The focus topic for the 2005 grant program is Aquatic Nuisance Species. Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by midnight February 1, 2005. To find more information on this program or to download an application, please visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Cleanwater/grants>.

Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP)

SERDP funds environmental research and development through a competitive process. SERDP will entertain proposals in habitat enhancement, particularly through control of exotic pests and promotion of natural species, to minimize disturbance of natural landscapes and increase vegetative cover, thereby controlling a growing threat to environmental security while improving training conditions. Pre-proposals for the non-federal sector are due January 6, 2005. Proposals for the federal sector are due March 10, 2005. Information on this RFP can be found at

http://www.serdp.org/funding/fy2006/CSSEED_0601.pdf

Lake Champlain Basin Program Education and Outreach Grants

This grant program provides financial support to eligible groups for their efforts to inform students and/or adults about key Lake Champlain issues. One of the priority action items is to control the introduction, spread, and impact of nonnative nuisance species in order to preserve the integrity of the Lake Champlain ecosystem. Proposals must be submitted by Wednesday, January 5, 2005. The RFP can be found at

<http://www.lcbp.org/PDFS/eorfp04.pdf>

Student opportunities

Opportunity for volunteer monitoring of invasive crab species

Researchers at McGill University are looking for volunteers (students, NGO groups, etc...) to help in monitoring two invasive crab species (the Asian shore crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* and the European green crab *Carcinus maenas*) along the east coast of North America. The researchers will teach the volunteers all necessary skills for collecting the data. In return, the volunteers will have the opportunity to learn important scientific skills and to contribute to valuable research. For more information, please contact David Delaney at david.delaney@elf.mcgill.ca or (514) 398-5419.

Marine policy research assistantship for ballast water project

A research assistantship is available from the Marine Policy Program in the Graduate College of Marine Studies at (CMS) the University of Delaware for a qualified student-applicant interested in policy-focused research related to the reduction of invasive species introductions from marine transportation ballast water. Two Marine Policy faculty members direct the project: James Corbett and Jeremy Firestone. For more information, please contact James Corbett at (302) 831-0768 or jcorbett@udel.edu. Application information can be found at <http://www.ocean.udel.edu/graduate/admissions.html>