

NEANS Resource Digest

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This is a monthly forum whereby news and information relating to ANS issues will be presented. If you have any items you think would be appropriate for the digest please send them to Lara Gibson at eac_ans@istar.ca. Feedback on the content and layout would be appreciated. Thank you.

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News

1. The Massachusetts Bays Program is now accepting registrations for "Eyes on the Estuaries: the Northeast Marine Invasive Species Conference." The conference will be

held at the New England Aquarium on November 14 - 15, 2002. Space is limited so please sign up soon. For more information, go to <http://www.state.ma.us/massbays/whatsnewwithconferenceinfo.html>

2. The NEANS panel two-page fact sheet has arrived. Nancy Balcom of the Communications, Education and Outreach sub-committee has started to distribute copies to state and provincial members. If you would like copies, please contact her at nancy.balcom@uconn.edu

3. The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! has added an online partner database that can be accessed from their website <http://www.protectyourwaters.net>. The website also contains a news page where the latest campaign news can be found. There are two ways to become a formal Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! partner. The first is to go to the Resources section of the web site, download the campaign participation form and send it to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The second way is to submit your contact information via the database. They will contact you after they have reviewed your submission.

4. The Atlantic Region Sub-Committee on Ballast Water Management has recently raised concerns about North-South shipping traffic and is interested in monitoring ballast water from ships traveling between New England (or possibly further south like Chesapeake Bay) and Saint John/Placentia Bay. The concerns resulted from the observation that:

“In the past few years a number of areas in the Atlantic Region have been invaded by a variety of harmful species, most likely resulting from ballast water discharges. As an example, DFO recently issued a "Notice to Fishers" relating to an infestation of the "Clubbed Tunicate" in western PEI waters, which could have significant impacts on local mussel and oyster industries; and

Studies undertaken by the regional sub-committee indicate that over 60 per cent of vessels entering eastern Canadian waters discharge their ballast water in the harbour where they are taking on cargo.”

5. Recent invaders in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence such as clubbed tunicates, the oyster thief and the green crab have become serious pests. This problem affects everyone - recreational boaters, cottage owners, commercial harvesters, aquaculturists and others. Getting rid of these invaders is next to impossible. Keeping them out in the first place is the best approach. For information, access <http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci-sci/inva-enva/index-e.html>.

6. The summary report of the January, 2002 Asilomar California workshop on monitoring invasive species is now available at: <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/nerr/resource.html>.

The document can be accessed as a pdf file from the technical reports section.

7. The International Joint Commission (IJC), the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) hopes to raise

awareness on the issue of alien invasive species in the Great Lakes through a reception on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ont. Canada. The reception is to take place on October 1st and is open to parliamentarians, staff and press gallery members. For more information, visit <http://www.newswire.ca/releases/September2002/27/c5583.html>.

Articles

1. Live mitten crabs have been caught in Brooklyn, NY. This invasive species was originally found in San Francisco Bay and has spread along the Northern California Coast, causing extensive damage. Biologists fear the crab could thrive in East coast waters. A seafood importer has been charged. Full story at:

http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/08/08012002/ap_48020.asp

2. Virginia has imposed a temporary ban on importing “seed” clams from Florida or South Carolina. The ban is the result of concern over an introduced parasite, quahog protozoan unknown (QPX), which is similar to a parasite that devastated the Chesapeake Bay clam industry a decade ago. This story, by Lawrence Latane III, is from the Richmond Time-Dispatch, and can be found on their web site

<http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/vametro/MGBVP1JZJ6D.html>.

3. The invader which captured everyone’s attention this year was the snakehead fish. Originally found in a Maryland pond, drastic measures were taken to eradicate them. The following are links to two related stories.

From CNN, an article, describing the eradication efforts and the scope of the problem. The article also presents a small discussion on the effectiveness and need for such programs. It is pointed out that invasive species cost the United States \$10 billion a year. The article can be found at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/TECH/science/09/24/critters.maryland.snakehead/index.html>.

The second story is by Anita Huslin of the Washington Post. It describes a second species of snakehead fish that was found in the Baltimore harbour. This species is typically sold in the aquarium trade. The story can be found at

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A48645-2002Sep6¬Found=true>.

4. Zebra mussels have been found in a Virginia quarry, increasing the number of spots it has been found in the Chesapeake watershed to three. There is some suspicion it was deliberately brought in by recreational divers to “clear” the water. Story by Lawrence Latane III Times-Dispatch,

<http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/more/MGBVVKLV55D.html>.

5. The September issue of the Bay Journal contained a good background article on invasive species by Kathryn Reshetiloff. It also talked about the ways we unwittingly

encourage the spread of introduced organisms. The article can be found at <http://www.bayjournal.com/02-09/.htm>.

6. Rick Montgomery of the Kansas City Star presented a discussion of recent biological invaders and touches on the philosophical debate of whether extensive efforts should be put in place to control the spread of biological species.

Quote from the article

“West Nile virus hits the Midwest. Northern snakehead fish, natives of China, eat their way through a Maryland pond. Foreign weeds fuel Western fires. Sparrows raid your bird feeder. They're all connected, scientists say: The effects of "alien species," new and old, are everywhere this summer.

The new ones, such as snakeheads, grab headlines. The old ones - sparrows, house mice, cows and kitty cats, for example - Americans can hardly imagine living without.

‘The whole science of invasive species has become very hot,’ said Leonard Krishtalka, director of the University of Kansas' Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center. ‘What we're seeing are wake-up calls to the dangers of introducing non-native species to finely tuned ecosystems.’”

The story can be found at <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/4116627.htm>.

Regulations

1. The NAISA bill was introduced September 18th, 2002. The bill can be accessed at http://www.nemw.org/nisa_summary.htm

The bill reauthorizes and strengthens the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. NAISA requires introduction of new regulations requiring ships to meet interim and final standards for invasive species management. It also directs the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Coast Guard, to develop a clear environmental-soundness standard and certification protocol for ballast water treatment technologies. The bill also requires the final standard for ballast water treatment will incorporate the best available technology approach.

2. The state of Maine has developed an action plan to help prevent the introduction of ANS. The plan emphasizes public education while also expanding the state's watercraft inspection program and calls for new legislation to extend invasive species management efforts to tidal waters. The draft plan can be accessed on the state's web site at <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/comment.htm>. The full story by Joe Rankin of Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc. can be found online at: <http://www.centralmaine.com/news/stories/020806invasive.shtml>.

What's New on our Webpage

1. A list of plant and animal Aquatic Nuisance species' images has been added to our web site. The links are accompanied by a brief description of what you will find on the

linked site. The resources page of our website can be accessed from <http://www.NEANS.org>.

Other

1. Panel members may be interested in an informative newsletter from the International Maritime Organization. It can be accessed on their website <http://globallast.imo.org>

2. Deoxygenating ballast water may be a win-win situation for preventing the spread of bio-invasers through shipping. The process involves adding nitrogen to ballast water tanks and can be effective at killing foreign organisms within three days. The treatment may also confer some anti-corrosion benefit to the tanks which should encourage the shipping industry to re-consider the costly treatment.
From *The Scientist* 16(3):20. Feb 4, 2002.

3. For immediate release: September 12, 2002

The New ELI publication finds that most states lack comprehensive invasive species laws and regulations.

Non-native species like the voracious snakehead fish, the tenacious glossy buckthorn tree, and the damaging zebra mussel, threaten the ecological integrity and biological diversity of our nation's natural systems. They displace native plants and animals, disrupt ecological processes, upset the stability of our ecosystems, and can permanently change our natural landscapes, costing state and local governments millions of dollars to remedy the damaging effects. Though few federal regulations address invasive species, a wide variety of state laws may be used to effectively address the problem, according to a new report by ELI's State Biodiversity Program.

Halting the Invasion: State Tools for Invasive Species Management analyzes the current legal tools available at the state level to combat invasive species. From defining which species will be considered "invasive" to outlining ways to ensure early detection of and rapid response to widespread infestation, state laws offer effective means by which to protect the nation's agriculture and sustain biodiversity of our natural environment.

"Although states have many tools available to address the menacing problem of invasive species, no single state has all of the necessary tools in place," said Jessica Wilkinson, Director of the State Biodiversity Program. "This report will provide state activists and agency personnel with the ability to evaluate the tools they have at their disposal and determine where they need to improve upon the laws and policies they currently have on the books."

The report identifies 17 state tools to effectively prevent, regulate, control, and manage invasive species as well as enforce and implement existing laws. It also offers three examples of model state programs and provides specific recommendations on improvements states could make to their existing invasive species tools with the hope that all states will strive to achieve the outlined gold standard. Finally, the report includes a CD-ROM that has detailed information on each states' laws and regulations related to

invasive species. The state-specific summaries can be accessed through ELI's website at <http://www2.eli.org/research/invasives/index.cfm>.

Halting the Invasion: State Tools for Invasive Species Management may be ordered from ELI for \$20.00 plus shipping by calling (800) 433-5120, via email to Pressrequest@eli.org or online at <http://www.eli.org>. For more information about ELI's State Biodiversity Program or the Environmental Law Institute, please contact Jessica Wilkinson at (609) 818-0518.

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