

Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Resource Digest – March 1, 2004 Volume 3, Issue 2

At the December meeting of the NEANS Panel, members were pleased to welcome *John McPhedran* of the ME Department of Environmental Protection as their new co-chair. *John* will join *Susan Snow-Cotter* of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management in heading up the Panel. At the same meeting, panelists expressed thanks to out-going co-chair, *Tim Sinnott* of the NY Department Environmental Conservation, for all of his hard work and dedication as NEANS co-chair for the past two years.

Please send items and postings for the NEANS Panel Digest to ans@ecologyaction.ca.

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A. News

Way to Go, IMO!

This February, over 100 countries ratified the International Maritime Organization's *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments*. The Convention, which has been ten years in the making, will require that ships manage ballast water and sediments to prevent the spread of invasive species and establishes standards for ballast water treatment. The Convention also makes allowance for states to create their own ballast water rules to protect their waters. The new regulations will be phased in between 2009 and 2016. For more information, checkout http://www.imo.org/home.asp. News of the Convention, including criticisms and accolades, is available at http://www.mlive.com/news/statewide/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1077579603293980.xml:

http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=4317242; and http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L03449217.htm.

Are you "Roundup® Ready?"

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the US Department of Agriculture is requesting public comments regarding a petition to introduce genetically modified creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*, also known as redgrass) that is resistant to the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup or Rodeo). Creeping bentgrass is used in golf courses, so planting the resistant strain, known as "Roundup Ready®," would make management of weeds of golf

courses easier. The plant is native to Eurasia and, according to Sara Tangren of the Chesapeake Native Nursery; its unmodified form is an aggressive weed in meadowlands. For more information, see http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/03_10401p_fr_pc_pet.pdf. The petition submitted to the APHIS is available at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/03 10401p.pdf.

Please send comments on the petition to regulations@aphis.usda.gov before March 5, 2004. Your name, address, and your comments must be in the body of the email (no attachments!). Your subject line must be "Docket No. 03-101-1." Interested parties may also want to check out the February 16 edition (Volume 18, issue 3) of *The Scientist*, which has a focus section on genetically modified organisms. For more information, see http://www.the-scientist.com/yr2004/feb/index 040216.html.

US Budgeting for Bioinvasions

On February 2, President George Bush proposed the 2005 budget for the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey. The budget included a commitment to focus on invasive species issues, including brown tree snake control efforts, implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, and addressing other invasive species problems. Invasive species will also be a focus of the \$13.1 million Coastal Programs dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and tidal lands. For more information, see http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-02/usgs-tpf020204.php.

Meade Cheers Wildlife Funding

Tom Meade, wildlife columnist to the Providence Journal, applauded a federal funding increase of \$2.6 million for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, increasing total funding of the Service to \$1.3 billion for 2005. In his column of February 8, Meade also describes another interesting federal wildlife protection initiative: a \$82,000 grant given to the Mashantucket Pequot tribe to protect New England cottontails from being out-competed by invasive Eastern cottontails. The federal government's grant was matched with more than \$100,000 of additional funding from the tribe and other sources. According to Meade, this grant is one of among 79 grants totaling nearly \$14 million awarded to 60 tribes to conserve and restore threatened or endangered wildlife on tribal lands. For more information, see http://www.projo.com/fishing/content/projo_20040208_out08x.3174df.html.

COP-ing Up Solutions

Under Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, signatories have committed to reduce the spread of invasive alien species. Efforts to combat invasive species were discussed at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. "Side events" of interest to weedies were:

- Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and the CBD Clearing-House
 Mechanism (http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop-07/press/brief.asp?id=68710);
- The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI): International Response to Research, Capacity Building and Networking (http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop-07/press/brief.asp?id=6869); and
- ISSG/New Zealand Cooperative Initiative on Invasive Alien Species on Islands (http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop-07/press/brief.asp?id=6863)

Details on the negotiations regarding procedures for protection of biodiversity can be found at: http://www.iisd.ca/vol09/enb09283e.html. The meeting received some media attention, including a piece in Reuters that focused on the formidable challenge posed by bioinvasions to achieving the targets of the Convention: http://www.enn.com/news/2004-02-10/s_12943.asp.

A Good New Year for GISP

A new Secretariat was established at a meeting of the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) in Cape Town on January 22. The purpose of the four-person secretariat will act as an information hub for the second phase of GISP's implementation plan. During this phase, GISP intends to become the international authority and clearinghouse for invasive species information. Check it out and the "What's' New" link of the GISP website: http://www.gisp.org/. In addition, the World Bank has decided to chip in to GISP, to the tune of 1.5 million dollars over the next three years. For more information see http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s1039880.htm.

You Are Here ... Or Are You??

The Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) needs your help in adding to their interactive map for global resources and information on invasive species. If your program isn't on the GISP map (click on "Regional resources" link at http://www.gisp.org/) please send information to mcocks@uwc.ac.za.

Developers Must Foil Phragmites

Public review sessions on the impact of wastewater and storm water runoff from a proposed residential development called Madison Landing, located near Griswold Airport, Connecticut, were heard this February. Scott Warren of Woodard & Curran Consultants and Connecticut College voiced concern that wastewater and storm runoff from the development would fertilize invasive phragmites in a nearby tidal creek. Margaret Welch, senior coastal planner in the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, recommended that the developer submit a comprehensive plan on how they would control phragmites in the area. For more information, see

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10955450&BRD=1630&PAG=461&dept_id=7736&rfi=6.

Maine Carping On About Clean Boats

Senator John Martin of Eagle Lake is sponsoring a bill that will require boat inspections for 14 lakes in Maine. It is hoped that the bill will prevent the spread of milfoil, hydrilla, and other aquatic weeds. Maine has just turned down a proposal to introduce non-native grass carp to control waterweeds and is obviously looking at ways to prevent the spread of the nasty invaders. The Bill has met with opposition from sport fishers, who feel it will limit public access, but is supported by some lakes associations, such as the Little Sebago Lake Association, who spent \$8,000 last fall on a professional survey to identify the extent of the lake's milfoil problem. For more information on clean boats and grass carp, see http://espn.go.com/outdoors/conservation/news/2004/0202/1725592.html; http://www.pressherald.com/news/statehouse/040206milfoil; and http://www.wmtw.com/Global/story.asp?S=1633357.

Sorry Asian Carp, You Can't Make it There

In January, New York State established emergency regulations banning the import of Asian carp and 28 species of snakehead fish. Violators of the ban face up to 15 days in jail, a \$250 fine, or both for importing the fish that are described as "vacuum cleaners," out-competing smaller fish for nutrients and depriving larger fish of their prey. With the ban, New York has become the last Great Lakes state to formally adopt a no carp policy. Bighead carp sold in New York City and Westchester County were excluded from the ban for economic reasons and because state scientists say it has a low probability of becoming invasive. All bighead carp

must be killed upon being sold. For more information, see http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw92426 20040205.htm.

Seed Money to Combat Weeds

The Centre for Invasive Plant Management has issued a call for proposals from communities, individuals, and government agencies to combat invasive weeds. Programs offered by the CIPM include: Seed-Money Grants, Innovations in Early Detection Awards, Information Synthesis and Assessment Awards, and Cooperative Weed Management Areas. For more information, see http://www.weedcenter.org/grants/overview.html.

Weedwatchers Unite!

There are a couple of new opportunities for volunteers to contribute to on-the-ground monitoring for invasive species. The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) is looking for volunteers from New England states to become knowledgeable about 40 invasive plants present in the region and to keep tabs on their distribution. Five-hour training sessions are being held at various locations from February 28 until April 25. For more information, contact Chris Mattrick at 508.877.7630 x3203 or cmattrick@newfs.org. For more information about the IPANE database, please see http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/index.html. The Massachusetts Weed Watcher Program is also looking to recruit volunteers to participate in monitoring, control, and outreach. Teams of volunteers would patrol the lakes at regular intervals and compile a yearly summary of monitoring results. For more information, contact Michelle Robinson at michelle.robinson@state.ma.us or 617.626.1382.

Wanted: Info on Unwanted Fish

The Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA) has posted a \$5000 reward for information regarding the illegal introduction of smallmouth bass to Lake Ainslie. Lake Ainslie, located on Cape Breton Island, is part of the Margaree River system. The Margaree is Nova Scotia's most productive wild salmon river and home to a sport fishery valued at one million dollars annually. The NSSA, along with the Margaree Salmon Association, decided to offer the reward to raise awareness about the impacts of non-native bass and chain pickerel on the province's trout and salmon populations. Illegal stocking can result in a fine of \$100,000 under the Fisheries Act, but, so far, there have been no fines issued in Nova Scotia. For more information, see

http://www.novascotiasalmon.ns.ca/newsandissues/dsp_displayDetails.asp?tmpId=171.

B. Reports, Publications, and Web-based Resources Doing the Math on Ballast

In the December issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, John Drake and David Lodge described intriguing results of their statistical analysis and network modeling of global ship traffic. Through their analysis, hotpots for invasive species were identified, as were key ports that are centers for the exchange of invasive species. Surprisingly, they also found that areas that are commonly thought to be invasions hotspots, such as the Great Lakes and San Francisco Bay, may not be the most highly impacted by aquatic bioinvaders. The researchers go on to analyze the best methods of stopping the spread of invasive species via ship traffic, demonstrating that shipboard ballast water treatment is a better solution than shore-based treatment facilities located at key ports.

Drake, J.M. and D.M. Lodge. 2004. Global hot spots of biological invasions: evaluating options for ballast-water management. *Proc. R. Soc. Lond.* B. 271:575-580.

Invasion Hotspot Puts Aquarium Trade in Hot Seat

A study in the January issue of Marine Ecology Progress Series analyzed an area with high numbers of sightings of non-native fish off of Florida to determine the probable source of fish introductions. All of the sixteen species sighted were commonly imported by the aquarium trade and the frequency of sightings corresponded to an index of the number of fish imported via this trade. Shipping was ruled out as a possible vector because the fish came from two oceanic areas that constituted only 9.4% of shipping trade.

Semmens, B.X., E.R. Buhle, A.K. Salomon, and C.V. Pattengill-Semmens. 2004. A hotspot of non-native marine fishes: evidence for the aquarium trade as an invasion pathway. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 266: 239-244.

Control Conflict - Debating Biological Control

February's edition of *Conservation Biology* contains a Forum on the subject of biological control. Authors explore issues surrounding this controversial restoration tool, with a focus on the costs and benefits of biological control. Subjects touched on include the need for better policies to regulate biological control efforts, possible expansion of biological control to the marine realm, review of biological control case studies, and the theories behind biological control. Critics of biological control voice concerns about unpredictable and indirect effects of introducing species, whereas proponents of this method state that, with a background of sound science, biological control is an effective pest management tool. *Conservation Biology.* 18:38 – 64.

Knapweed's Dirty Little Secret

An article in the February 19 issue of the journal *Nature* reveals that microbes in soil can play a role in the growth of invasive weeds. Researchers at the University of Montana performed a simple experiment in which they sterilized the soil in which spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) plants were grown. For soil taken from the plant's native range in Europe, sterilization resulted in a 166% increase in growth, whereas sterilizing North American soils only resulted in a 24% increase in growth. These results and others reported in the paper imply that microbes in the soil are influencing plant growth, and that microbes in native soils are inhibiting plant growth to a greater extent than microbes in non-native soils. The intriguing study was featured in the "Daily News" section of *The Scientist* magazine at http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040220/01/ and in an editorial by David Suzuki in the Environmental News Network at http://www.enn.com/news/2004-02-25/s_13448.asp. Callaway, R. M., G.C. Thelen, A. R. Rodriguez, and W. E. Holben. 2004. Soil biota and exotic plant invasion. *Nature*. 427:731-733.

Get the Juice on GISP

Cheers to GISP for publishing the first edition of its monthly newsletter, entitled GISPnews. This inaugural issue includes description of GISP's goals and organizational structure, messages from GISP's Chair, Guy Preston, and GISP's Chief Executive Officer, Greg Sherley, as well as updates on invasive species in the news and activities of GISP staff. For a copy of the newsletter, click on the "The GISP newsletter" link at http://www.gisp.org.

Measuring Up: Heinz Conservation Index

The Heinz Center has developed useful indices for measuring the health of the environment, as reported in the their report entitled *State of the Nation's Ecosystems*. Unfortunately, their efforts reveal that much work needs to be done to provide adequate information on the extent and impacts of biological invasions. The authors state that there is a need for nation-wide monitoring programs, agreement on how to define non-native and invasive species, and consistent methods for integrating information on species and distribution before it will be

possible to measure progress in this area. There was more information available for freshwater systems, and in particular for freshwater fish, than for coastal and marine ecosystems. In the case of freshwater fish, only five of 350 watersheds in the US had no non-native fish. For more information on the report, see http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/report.html. The first issue of the Heinz Center newsletter also highlighted the issue of invasive species: http://www.heinzctr.org/crossroads/vol 1 issue 01.pdf.

An Embarrassment of Riches

A study in the latest edition of *Ecological Letters* challenges the hypothesis that species rich ecosystems are less likely to be invaded. Forty-two years of data collected from old fields revealed that invasion success depends on a multitude of specific factors and that invasives and natives did not interact in fundamentally different ways. The authors contend that the relationship between species richness and invasion success may be complex and not easily predicted by ecological theory.

S. J. Meiners, M. L. Cadenasso, and S. T. A. Pickett. 2004. Beyond biodiversity: individualistic controls of invasion in a self-assembled community. *Ecological Letters*. 7: 121-126.

C. Upcoming Conferences and Events

February 23 – 27, 2004, Washington, DC

5th National Weed Awareness Week

The Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition is hosting this week of education and information on invasive species. Local events will be happening across the US to mark the occasion. To become involved, please see http://ficmnew.fws.gov/iwac/niwaw v/index.html.

March 2 - 3, 2004, Honolulu, Hawaii

Meeting of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) will be meeting to discuss how to implement the National Invasive Species Management Plan. The role of ISAC is to provide advice to the National Invasive Species Council on how best to control invasive species and minimize their impacts. Chuck O'Neill of New York Sea Grant will be in attendance and will update us on developments at the May meeting of the NEANS Panel. For more details, contact Kelsey Brantley, 202.513.7243 or Kelsey_Brantley@ios.doi.gov and see http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-3098.htm.

March 13, 2004, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland

100th Anniversary Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System

The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will be honoring 100 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System on its 4th Annual Eagle Festival, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 13. Many public and children's' events are planned, including a puppet show in which a Canada goose family learns about invasive species (1:30 p.m.). To find out more, call 410.228.2677 and see http://www.newszap.com/articles/2004/02/20/cambridge/news02.txt.

March 15 – 20, 2004, Spokane, Washington

69th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Working Group Meeting

The conference serves as a forum for interdisciplinary discussions on how to manage and conserve wildlife. This year's meeting will include a session on invasive species scheduled for the morning of March 16th. Online registration ended February 24, but it is possible to register

once you arrive. For more information on the draft agenda, see http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/main.html.

March 16 – 18, 2004, Washington, District of Columbia

55th Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) - "Invasive Species: The Search for Solutions"

This year's meeting of AIBS will focus on invasive species. Topics will range from ecology to policy to public health to economic issues. Some great speakers, including David Simberloff and David Lodge, are scheduled to give plenary talks. For more information, see http://www.aibs.org/annual-meeting-2004/.

March 17, 2004, Oneonta, New York

Meeting of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Elm Park Methodist Church, 404 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. The meeting will include the presentation of a program on invasive species, presented by Allen White. For more information, see http://www.adk.org/html/adk susquehanna chapter.htm.

March 25 - 26, 2004, New York, New York

Expanding the Ark: The Emerging Science and Practice of Invertebrate Conservation
The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation's Ninth Annual Spring Symposium will be
exploring the vital importance of invertebrate diversity. Topics to be discussed include the
need to identify, manage, and conserve invertebrates, with a focus on improving conservation
planning, management, and policy. It is hoped that concrete strategies for conserving
invertebrate diversity will emerge from this meeting. Amongst other eminent speakers, Jeremy
Jackson will speak on the status of marine invertebrate diversity. For more information, see
http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/symposia/expandingthearc.

April 6 - 8, 2004, Baltimore, Maryland

Experts Meeting on the Implementation of a Global Invasive Species Information Network In order to foster worldwide collaboration on invasive species, technical experts on invasive species data-sharing are invited to attend a meeting in Maryland this spring. Desired outcomes of the meeting will be creation of an electronic information network, agreement on common data sharing methods, a proposal funding toolkit, a list of online invasive species databases, and proceedings, including a summary of regional invasive species information. Pre-meeting details are being discussed this February, for those who wish to become involved. For more information, see http://gisin.infointl.com. Even if you cannot attend the meeting, you can become a part of this invasive species information community via the National Biological Information Infrastructure portal at http://my.nbii.gov.

April 20 – 23, 2004, Chicago, Illinois

$17^{\rm th}$ Annual National Conference Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs: Monitoring Lakes and Reservoirs

The annual conference to improve lake management will be held at the Congress Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Topics on the agenda include monitoring, managing urban watersheds, galvanizing lake organizations, and improving outreach techniques. There will also be meetings of North American Lake Management Society chapters. Contact Bob Kirschner, Chicago Botanic Garden, bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org for more information. For more information, see http://www.nalms.org/symposia/chicago/index.htm.

April 30 – May 2, 2004, Hamilton, New York

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. 21st Annual Meeting and Conference Few details are available online so far, but please contact Nancy Mueller for further details at 800.796.3652 or fola@nysfola.org. You may also want to keep an eye on the New York State Federation of Lake Associations website: www.nysfola.org.

May 3 – 7, 2004, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Aquatic Weed Control, Short Course 2004

This workshop will focus on weed control efforts specific to southern states, but the program includes sessions on plant identification, pesticide use, and weed control techniques that might be useful to managers in the Northeast. For more information, see http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/.

May 17 – 18, 2004, Newport, Rhode Island

Northeast ANS Panel Meeting

Spring meeting of the NEANS Panel. Please keep an eye out for further developments at http://www.northeastans.org/meetings.htm.

June 8 - 11, 2004, Beijing, China

Beijing International Symposium on Biological Invasions - Species Exchanges between Eastern Asia and North America: Threats to Environment and Economy

The goals of the symposium are to share expertise and knowledge of invasive species, assess our capacity to predict bioinvasions, contrast the ecology of species in their invaded habitats with that of their native range, and to create a forum to discuss management, research, and policy goals. Contact for North America is Dr. Shili Miao of the South Florida Water Management District, email: smiao@sino-eco.org. For more information, see http://bisobi.sino-eco.org or http://www.ibcas.ac.cn (the second site is under construction).

June 20 – 24, Durban, South Africa

4th International Weed Science Congress

This year's conference will include talks on aquatic weed management, biological control, proactive management of invasive species, and many other topics. The deadline for early registration is March 21 and regular registration ends May 31. For more information, see http://www.iwsc2004.org.za.

June 27 – 30, 2004, St. John's, Newfoundland

Coastal Zone Canada 2004 Meeting

The theme of this year's meeting is "All Within One Ocean: Co-operation in Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Management." Sub-themes include Challenges, Strategies, Tools, and Managing Shared Waters. The meeting will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland. Deadline for abstract submission was January 16, 2004. For more information, see http://www.czca-azcc.org/index2.htm.

July 11 - 14, 2004, Tampa, Florida

44th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society

This year's meeting will include discussion of aquatic plant management and research. Deadline for abstract submission for posters and presentations is April 15, 2004. For more information, see http://www.apms.org/2004/2004.htm.

August 26 - 29, 2004, Yokohama, Japan

International Conference on Assessment and Control of Biological Invasion Risks

This conference will have special sessions on, amongst other things, marine and freshwater invasions, legislative design and liability assumption, and the advantages and disadvantages of various management techniques. Deadline for abstract submission is April 30, 2004. For more information, see

http://bio-eco.eis.ynu.ac.jp/jpn/top/topic_sheet/symposium20040827/eng.html.

August 31 - September 2, 2004, Dijon, France

XIIth International Conference on Weed Biology

The XIIth International Conference on Weed Biology will be held Aug 31 - September 2, 2004 in Dijon, France. Proposals for paper and poster presentations are due December 15, 2003. Information on the conference can be found at http://www.dijon.inra.fr/malherbo/AccueilF1.htm.

September 12 – 15, 2004, Seattle Washington

2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

The goals of this year's conference are to expand our ability to restore habitat, build the restoration industry, and catalyze multi-sector collaboration. The schedule includes all-day workshops and field sessions. Poster and presentations will be accepted that fit the following themes: people, practice, science, strategy, policy and funding, evaluation, and a few additional selected topics. The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2004. For more information, see http://www.estuaries.org/2ndnationalconference.php.

September 19 - 23, 2004, Ennis, Ireland

13th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species

The 2004 International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species will be hosted by Institute of Technology, Sligo, in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. The conference will cover subjects ranging from policy to invasion ecology to education. Deadline for abstract submission was December 31, 2003. For more information, visit http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org.

September 30 - October 1, 2004, Bern, Switzerland

3rd International Conference on Biological Invasions NEOBIOTA - From Ecology to Control
The topics covered at the upcoming meeting of NEOBIOTA are the ecology of invasive
species, impact and risk assessment, and prevention as control. NEOBIOTA is a
multidisciplinary group that links researchers with policy makers and conservation groups on
issues pertaining to the introduction of alien species. Its focus is mostly on invasive species
issues in Central Europe. For more details on the conference, see
http://www.neobiota.unibe.ch.

November 3 - 5, 2004, Victoria, British Columbia

24th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society

The theme of this symposium is "Lakes - habitat for fish, habitat for people." The meeting will have sessions on introduced aquatic species, lake restoration, and managing aquatic plant problems. Deadline for abstract submission is May 31, 2004. Other dates to remember are: September 17, 2004, early bird registration ends, and October 15, 2004, the last day to register. For more information, see http://www.nalms.org/symposia/victoria/index.htm.

November 15 - 19, 2004, Cape Town, South Africa

XIth International Conference on Harmful Algae

This year's conference will focus on the topics of taxonomy and biogeography, population dynamics, physiology and biochemistry, and monitoring and management of harmful algal blooms. Deadline for abstract submission is May 31, 2004.

For more details, please see: http://www.botany.uwc.ac.za/pssa/hab2004.

D. Other - Updates on State Invasive Species Management Plans

Connecticut - William Hyatt, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection The Connecticut ANS plan is not yet developed. A workshop was held from February 19 - 20 to initiate this effort. The CT Institute of Water Resources has been contracted to write the plan using materials developed by three working groups. CT Sea-Grant and CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are overseeing this process. Nancy Balcom (Sea-Grant), Bill Hyatt (DEP) and Nancy Murray (DEP) are key contacts.

Maine – John McPhedran, Maine Department of Environmental Protection Maine's Action Plan for Managing Invasive Aquatic Species (http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/invplan.htm) was approved by the Federal ANS Task Force in 2002. Tasks in the Action Plan are organized under five objectives: 1. leadership, coordination, and program monitoring, 2. education and outreach, 3. introduction and transport, 4. early detection, rapid response, and management, and 5. inventory, research, and information management. State agencies and cooperating organizations will continue implementation of Action Plan tasks in 2004 and beyond. One key component of Maine's current program is development of rapid response capability and, thanks to funding from the Federal ANS Task Force in 2003 and early in 2004, that work is underway. Contact John McPhedran (john.mcphedran@maine.gov) or Paul Gregory (paul.gregory@maine.gov) for more information on Maine's program.

Massachusetts – Jay Baker, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Massachusetts is now in its second year of implementing the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. The Massachusetts Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group has outlined 12 priority action items in the 2004 work plan, including the development of marine invasive species identification materials, the production of educational resources for conservation commissions, and the support of invasive species control efforts. Funds have also been allocated for the creation of a half time Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator position. Program highlights from year one include the completion of an online marine invasive species database and web page (www.MarineID.org) and the development of a Lake and Pond Weed-Watcher Program

(http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/lakepond/invasive_1.htm). For more information on the Massachusetts Aquatic Invasive Species Program, please contact Jay Baker (jason.baker@state.ma.us).

New Hampshire – Amy Smagula, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services New Hampshire is in the process of gathering the appropriate agencies and interest groups that will need to be involved in developing a state ANS Management Plan. The Department of Environmental Services will take the lead in coordinating the development of such a plan, and hopes to have a draft completed sometime next fall (2004). For more information, please contact Amy Smagula at asmagula@des.state.nh.us.

New York - *Tim Sinnott*, New York Department of Environmental Conservation In August 2003, the state of New York created an Invasive Species Task Force to formulate recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding invasive species. The Task Force is made up of seventeen members and eight at-large members drawn from government agencies, research centers, non-governmental organizations, and industry. The Task Force has until

Nov. 30, 2005 to complete a report on how to tackle invasive species in the state.

Vermont - *Michael Hauser*, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation The Lake Champlain Basin ANS Management Plan, developed by Vermont and New York with input from Quebec, was approved by the ANS Task Force in May 2000. Funding has been allocated for the creation of a full time ANS Coordinator position, outreach activities, water chestnut management, rapid response plan development, and ANS law enforcement. The plan is currently under revision. For more information, please contact Michael Hauser at mike.hauser@anr.state.vt.us or Lisa Windhausen at lwindhausen@lcbp.org.