



**Northeast Aquatic  
Nuisance Species Panel**  
Resource Digest – July 1, 2003  
Volume 2, Issue 4

Please send items and postings for the NEANS Panel Digest to [info@northeastans.org](mailto:info@northeastans.org).

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**A. News**

**New technique allows for monitoring of *Codium* invasion off Nova Scotia**

Airborne surveys using hyperspectral photography are being conducted to determine the extent of the invasion of *Codium fragile* off Nova Scotia. This invasive algae has been establishing itself over large areas of the Nova Scotian coast, taking over habitat that traditionally hosted vast kelp beds. Dr. Robert Scheibling of Dalhousie University has been trying to determine the extent and effect of the invasion using divers and video monitoring. With Hyperspectral Data International (HDI), they can now compare hyperspectral photos of the areas to video collected by divers, and be able to determine the composition of benthic communities over larger areas. HDI also used this technique to monitor the *Caulerpa taxifolia* invasion in the Mediterranean. For more information on this program, visit

<http://www.waterobserver.org/backscatter/issues/2002-fall-winter.html>

### **Green Crab Management Plan Available for Public Comment**

The draft Management Plan for the European Green Crab, *Carcinus maenas*, in the US is now available for public review and comment. Comments received will be considered in preparing the final Management Plan. The plan evaluates the feasibility of management options for prevention, eradication, and control of green crabs on both coasts. Much of the plan focuses on the Pacific coast because the invasion is at a much earlier stage on this coast. Comments on the draft should be received by July 31, 2003. A copy of the plan is available at: <http://www.anstaskforce.gov/GreenCrabManagementPlan.pdf>

## **B. Laws and Regulations**

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act passes House Science Committee (U.S.)**

On June 4, the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act (H.R. 1081) passed the House Science Committee. This bill directs several government agencies to establish research programs that support efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species. It authorizes \$25.5 million annually for this research and education effort from 2004-2008. The bill passed the Science Committee by unanimous consent but is currently being examined by several other House Committees.

### **NAISA Reauthorization (U.S.)**

On June 17, 2003, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a legislative hearing to receive testimony on S.525, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act. Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel member Michael Hauser (Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation) spoke as a witness, emphasizing the need to prevent establishment of aquatic invasive species and the importance of regional coordination. His testimony and the other presentations given can be found on the Committee's website, [http://epw.senate.gov/stm1\\_108.htm#06-17-03](http://epw.senate.gov/stm1_108.htm#06-17-03)

## **C. Reports and Publications**

### **Alice Ferguson Foundation. 2003. The Field Guide for Beginners: A Key to Selected Exotic and Native Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Region**

This guidebook, written by Karen Miles and Jodie Standish, is designed for volunteers and staff removing alien invasive plants. It features written descriptions, photos, and drawings to identify 37 invasive plants, and a field key. For ordering information, contact [webmail@fergusonfoundation.org](mailto:webmail@fergusonfoundation.org).

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership. Spring 2003. **Alien Invasions: Introduced Species in the Bay of Fundy and Environs.** This new Fundy Issues Fact Sheet describes the problem of invasive marine species, particularly in the Bay of Fundy. It discusses some possible management solutions and provides references for further information on Bay of Fundy ecosystems and invaders. The fact sheet can be found at [http://www.bofep.org/alien\\_species.htm](http://www.bofep.org/alien_species.htm).

### **IUCN Global Marine Programme. 2003. Ballast Water News**

The IMO and the GloBallast Programme are working with the IUCN's Global Marine Programme to raise awareness on aquatic invasive species and ballast water. They will be co-producing a newsletter, *Ballast Water News*, which describes new invasions and ballast water policy initiatives from around the world. The newsletter can be accessed through their website, [http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/Documentos/Ballast\\_Water\\_News.pdf](http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/Documentos/Ballast_Water_News.pdf).

Pew Oceans Commission. June 2003. **America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change**. This comprehensive review of U.S. ocean policy provides recommendations for restoring and protecting ocean ecosystems, rebuilding fish populations, controlling coastal development, curbing pollution, and improving ocean governance. Introduced species are recognized as a major threat to ocean ecosystems. The full text is available online at [http://www.pewoceans.org/oceans/oceans\\_report.asp](http://www.pewoceans.org/oceans/oceans_report.asp).

#### **D. Upcoming Conferences and Events**

July 20-23, 2003 Portland, Maine

##### **Aquatic Plant Management Society 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**

This meeting includes presentations and discussions covering many areas of aquatic plant management, including control and eradication of invasive species. For further information, visit <http://www.apms.org/2003/2003.htm>.

September 19-20, 2003 Framingham, Massachusetts

##### **New England Invasive Plant Summit**

The conference will highlight research on the biology and management of invasive plant species. In addition, national & regional perspectives will be offered on the following topics: identifying research needs, risk assessment, inventory, early detection/rapid response, biological control, restoration, and green industry involvement. Once planning is complete, a full agenda and registration information will be posted on the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England website, <http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/>.

October 14-16, 2003 Sacramento, California

##### **Accidental and Purposeful Introductions of Animals: Investigating Species Interactions at Different Trophic Levels**

The Symposium will examine purposeful and accidental animal introductions in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems with introduced vertebrate species and their interactions with native animal and plant species as the central theme. This symposium may address ecological, sociological, political, economic, cultural, conservation, and policy perspectives, with views encouraged from areas throughout the world. More information may be found at <http://www.tws-west.org>.

October 27-28, 2003 Halifax, Nova Scotia

##### **Ballast Water Workshop**

The workshop will explore the feasibility of identifying areas along the Northwestern Atlantic that may be suitable for ballast water exchange for vessels traveling along the coast. This workshop is intended for a broad audience, including state and federal agencies, policy makers, the shipping community, port authorities, regulators, and others interested in ballast water management issues. For more information, contact Gayle Sherman at [gsherman@mit.edu](mailto:gsherman@mit.edu) or visit the website: <http://massbay.mit.edu>.

#### **E. Other**

##### **MIT Sea Grant and Mass Bays Rapid Assessment Survey**

The MIT Sea Grant College Program and Massachusetts Bays Program will be conducting a Rapid Assessment Survey of native and nonindigenous species at selected locations with floating docks from Casco Bay, Maine through Peconic, Long Island Sound, New York this summer. A group of ten to twelve taxonomic experts will participate in the survey. In addition local representatives from the National Estuary Programs will provide support and

assistance. The information is used to identify new introductions and provide each state with a listing of typical fouling community invasive species. Over time, these data can assist with studies following dispersal patterns and range extensions of invasive species. For more information about the survey contact Dr. Judith Pederson at [jpederso@mit.edu](mailto:jpederso@mit.edu).