



**Northeast Aquatic
Nuisance Species Panel**
Resource Digest – July 30, 2004
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Please send items and postings for the NEANS Panel Digest to ans@ecologyaction.ca.

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A. News

Alewives Found in Lake Champlain

Alewives have been discovered in Lake Champlain by the VT Fish and Wildlife Department during routine sampling of the lake. Alewives were discovered in Vermont's Lake St. Catherine in 1997, probably introduced via an emptied bait bucket. Alewives eat plankton and the eggs and larvae of native fish. Unfortunately, alewives are less nutritious for piscivores like trout and salmon than are native species like smelt. They have also been implicated in the spread of the fish disease known as early mortality syndrome. Anglers are asked to be on the lookout for the alewife and to let the VT Fish and Wildlife Department know if they catch one or observe one in the guts of other fish. For more details see <http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=2079420>.

Heat Treatment: Great Lakes Crank Up Pressure for Better Ballast Regulation

New US rules on ballast (see "US Publishes Mandatory Ballast Water Treatment Rules," below) are a first step, but they do not go far enough, according to state leaders, scientists, and environmental groups in the Great Lakes region. The attorneys general of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, along with the environmental group, Great Lakes United, have petitioned the US Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency to close the loophole in the current regulations that exempts so-called "NOBOB's" ("No Ballast On Board" - a label applied to ships with residual ballast as well as ships without ballast) from ballast water treatment regulations. The states have also filed a "friend of the court" brief in a case filed on behalf of environmental groups on the West coast requiring the EPA to regulate ballast water under the Clean Waters Act. For the full details, see <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/nation/9245340.htm?1c>, <http://www.portclintonnewsherald.com/news/stories/20040726/opinion/921154.html>, and http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=624&ncid=753&e=10&u=/ap/20040716/ap_on_sc/invasive_species.

Survey Says, "What do you Say?"

A new survey sponsored by the National Park Service Ecosystem Restoration Program is asking local practitioners of invasive species control to describe their techniques so that this information is available in a cohesive manner for land managers. To give your two cents, see

<http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/~jsunderl/> or contact Jennifer Sunderland at jsunderl@nrel.colostate.edu or by phone at (970) 231-9069.

B. Policy and Legislation

US Publishes Mandatory Ballast Water Treatment Rules

The July 28th edition of the US Federal Register announced new rules requiring all ships entering US ports from outside the US Exclusive Economic Zone to perform ballast water exchange 200 nautical miles from shore or to carry out an acceptable alternative ballast water treatment. It is estimated that the rule will prevent roughly 10 new invasions per year.

Penalties for non-compliance with the law will be issued on a case-specific basis, and non-reporting of ballast water treatment forms is subject to a penalty of \$27,500 for every day of non-compliance. The new rule will affect approximately 7,420 vessels and annually require 11,500 exchanges at an estimated cost to industry of \$15.8 million per year. However, if one high-impact invasion, such as the zebra mussel (estimated cost of between 24 million and 91 million per year), Asian clam (one billion per year) or green crab (\$44 million per year), is prevented, the regulation is economically rational. The new rule will come into effect on September 27, 2004. To read the complete details on the regulations, please see <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-17096.pdf> and <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/ans.htm>.

C. Reports, Publications, and Web-based Resources

NAS Alert System launched

The US Geological Survey Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program has created a web-based alert system. The system allows users to register alerts for invasive species and receive e-mails notifying them of new species introductions in the United States. There is already an entry for alewife in Vermont. Check it out at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/>. To register to receive e-mail alerts, go to <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/register.asp>.

How to Enlist Watershed Warriors

Two new reports from the Environmental Protection Agency discuss strategies and goals for effective outreach activities to protect watersheds. These reports provide the tools needed to effectively identify, engage, and involve stakeholders to achieve restoration and conservation goals. For a copy of the reports, go to <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/>.

PEI Gets on Board with Bioinvader Brochure

The provincial government of Prince Edward Island (PEI) has created a new brochure to inform the public about the impacts of clubbed tunicate, green crab, and *Codium*. The brochure is directed toward recreational boaters, asking them to clean their boats and gear to reduce the spread of invasive species. Members of the public are also asked to report sightings of invaders to the PEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Forestry. A downloadable copy of the brochure can be found at http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/afaf_invasive.pdf.

Two New Books From Island Press

Invasive Alien Species, edited by some of the world's top invasive species experts, includes information from over 30 countries on invasive species issues and is an up-to-date summary of the latest information on biological invasions. The book represents a compendium of information gleaned during the first phase of the Global Invasive Species Programme. For more information, check out <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/4038.htm>.

The Evolutionary Ecology of Exotic Plants, Animals, Microbes, and Interacting Native Species by George Cox explores the fascinating subject of how non-native species undergo rapid evolutionary change in their introduced environment as well as how native species evolve in response to biological invasions. For more details see <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/4033.htm>.

Who Will Lead the Battle for Biodiversity?

Those who deal with biological invasions often decry the lack of investment in basic taxonomic research and biological monitoring. An editorial in the July 22 edition of the journal *Nature* illustrates that this frustration is not unfounded. While the editors laud the efforts of scientist like Peter Ng, who dedicate their lives to identifying new species and exploring the impacts of biodiversity loss, they also claim that those studying diversity and taxonomy need to lead the charge in the fray to defend biodiversity. Though scientists rallied to stop global climate change through the influential Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the editor points out that there has been no similar initiative to promote taxonomic and diversity research and conservation. Ignorance is not bliss. *Nature*. 430: 385.

Forces Behind Ecological Blanding

Ecological homogenization through the spread of invasive species is an alarming global trend. Olden and Poff examine the mechanisms and scales at which this process is occurring, using freshwater fish species in the United States as their test case. They go on to test their model using different taxonomic groups. By teasing out the mechanisms behind homogenization, their model will allow researchers to predict the outcome of future invasions.

Olden, J. and N. L. Poff. 2004. Ecological processes driving biotic homogenization: testing a mechanistic model using fish faunas. *Ecology*. 85: 1867–187.

What a Release!?

It is commonly suggested that invasive species are prolific and/or able to out-compete native species in their introduced environments because they have escaped from predators or disease-causing agents present in their home ranges. In a review published in *Ecology Letters*, Colautti and colleagues test this hypothesis by reviewing 25 studies that have tested the so-called “enemy release hypothesis.” They show that, in many cases, there are other explanations for the perceived competitive superiority of invasive species aside from the enemy release hypothesis. This finding has implications for the use of biological control agents to control invaders since, if a lack of predators or disease does not explain invader success, introducing predators or disease agents to control populations of invaders may not be effective. The researchers call for further research to test the enemy release hypothesis at a variety of scales and taxa.

Colautti, R., A. Ricciardi, I.A. Grigorovich, and H.J. MacIsaac. 2004. Is invasion success explained by the enemy release hypothesis? *Ecology Letters*. 7: 721-733.

Clocking Invasion Rates

Estimating invasion rates is difficult because the rate of discovery of exotics may not accurately reflect the timing of introductions. Using a statistical model that accounts for introduction and discovery processes, researchers have found a way to accurately determine invasion rates. This method was tested for data from San Francisco Bay estuary, where the method calculated invasion rates have increased from 0.3 introductions in 1850 to 2.3 introductions in 1995.

Solow, A.R. and C. J. Costello. 2004. Estimating the rate of species introductions from the discovery record. *Ecology*. 85: 1822–1825.

Get 'em While They're Young: How Brookies Out-Compete Cutthroats

In a test of the impact of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) on cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) in mountain streams in the western US, the presence of brook trout at mid-elevations (2,500–2,700 m) caused a decline in age-0 and age-1 cutthroat trout. There was little impact of brook trout on cutthroat trout at or above age-2 or at higher elevations. The authors suggest that complete eradication of brook trout is necessary to stop all impacts on cutthroats, and a selective removal of a high percentage of the brook trout population over three years would be necessary to allow both species to co-exist.

Douglas P. Peterson, D.P., K. D. Fausch, and G. C. White. Population ecology of an invasion: effects of brook trout on native cutthroat trout. *Ecological Applications*. 14: 754–772.

As the Flea Flies

By testing the hypothesis that invasion of lakes can be predicted through estimations of propagule pressure, researchers were able to show that Ontario lakes where the Eurasian waterflea has been introduced receive greater vector inflow in the form of things like contaminated fishing or boat anchor lines. The model was able to predict the invasion status of 74% of 171 lakes, and showed that the timing of invasion was related to the propagule pressure and geographical location relative to invaded lakes. The model was also used to predict the future distribution of the waterflea. These results stress the importance of reducing vector pressure in limiting the transfer of invasive species to discrete systems like lakes.

Hugh J. MacIsaac, H. J., J. V. M. Borbely, J. R. Muirhead, and P. A. Graniero. 2004. Backcasting and forecasting biological invasions of inland lakes. *Ecological Applications*. 14: 773–783.

Wetland Weeds Wimpy

In a study that compared the effect of non-native versus native wetland plants, scientists found little evidence that non-native species had a disproportionate effect on natives or on species richness. In fact, they found that exotic and native species richness were positively correlated and that non-natives were not more likely to be dominant than natives. The results call into question the use of biological control agents for wetland weeds like purple loosestrife. Rather, the researchers recommend efforts to reduce dominance of native and non-native species, wherever this occurs, in order to protect rare species.

Houlahann, J.E. and C.S. Findlay. 2004. Effect of invasive plant species on temperate wetland plant diversity. *Conservation Biology*. 18: 1132–1138.

D. Upcoming Conferences and Events

July 30 - August 2, 2004, New York, NY

18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology

The theme of this year's meeting, hosted by Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at the University of Columbia, is *Conservation in an Urbanizing World*. The agenda includes sessions on alien and invasive species, the homogenization of urban space (including effects of invasives on native fish species), and data management and monitoring. For further details, see <http://cerc.columbia.edu/scb2004>.

August 1 – 6, 2004, Portland, OR

89th Meeting of the Ecological Society of America

The theme of this year's meeting is *Lessons of Lewis & Clark: Ecological Exploration of Inhabited Landscapes*. There are several invasion-related events, including sessions entitled: "Natural Enemy Escape as a Mode of Exotic Species Invasions: Theory, Evidence, and

Implications” and “Biological Invasions: Species Exchanges Between Eastern Asia and North America.” For more details, see <http://www.esa.org/portland/proposal.html>.

August 15 – 19, 2004, Grand Island, NY

National Plant Board 2004 Annual Meeting

National Plant Board members work cooperatively with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), Forest Service (USFS), and Agriculture Research Service (ARS) to prevent the entry of new pests and diseases into the US. Much of the Board’s mandate concerns coordination of plant and pest quarantine and inspection services. For more details, see <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb>.

August 22 – 26, 2004, Madison, WI

134th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Association

The theme of this year’s meeting, held at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace, is *The Gathering: Leopold’s Legacy for Fisheries*. The theme honors the origin of the word Wisconsin (which means “gathering of waters”) and Aldo Leopold’s concept of encouraging others to see earth as “all interlocking in one humming community of cooperations and competitions, one biota.” The meeting will include a session on introduced fishes, which already has a proposed talk posted on bighead and silver carp in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes, to be given by Phil Moy of Sea Grant. For more details, see <http://www.afs2004madison.org/index.shtml>.

August 26 - 29, 2004, Yokohama, Japan

International Conference on Assessment and Control of Biological Invasion Risks

This conference will have special sessions on marine and freshwater invasions, legislative design and liability, and the advantages and disadvantages of various management techniques. For more information see http://bio-eco.eis.ynu.ac.jp/jpn/top/topic_sheet/symposium20040827/eng.html.

August 18, 2004, Halifax, NS

Second Atlantic Information Session on the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy

Environment Canada is holding information sessions on Canada’s *Draft Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Strategy*. Please attend and invite others to participate in this important process which will determine Canada’s approach to dealing with invasive species. Documents pertaining to the strategy are available for consultation on the websites of the Biodiversity Convention Office (<http://www.bco.ec.gc.ca/en/default.cfm>), the Canadian Wildlife Service (http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/cnwds/index_e.cfm) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/environmental-environnement/environmental_e.htm). To confirm your attendance, please contact with Farah Milord at Farah.Milord@ec.gc.ca or 819-997-1523. If you are unable to attend, please send your comments to Beth MacNeil at: Beth.MacNeil@ec.gc.ca or by mail at Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.

August 22 - 24, 2004, Savannah, GA

2004 Department of Defense Conservation Conference

This conference’s theme is *Integrating Natural & Cultural Resources with Readiness* and will feature a session on invasive species. For more details, see https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/savannah_conference.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. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.dijon.inra.fr/malherbo/AccueilF1.htm>.

September 8 – 10, 2004, Bremen, Germany

Ballast Water and Waste Water Treatment Aboard Ships and in Ports

This conference is aimed at bringing together industry, ship owners, academia, governments, maritime and harbour authorities, and shipyard owners to discuss changes in ballast and wastewater technologies and policies. There will also be an opportunity for industry to showcase new treatment technologies. For more information, see http://www.euleandpartners.com/Next_Conference/next_conference.html.

September 12 – 15, 2004, Seattle, WA

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. 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. The preliminary program has been posted, and topics to be discussed range from shipping to zebra mussels to education and outreach. Looks like many of bioinvasions' brightest will be there, including the NEANS Panel's own Judith Pederson, Charles O'Neill, and Donna Turgeon along with Shippen Bright, MaryAnn McGarry, Daniel Molloy, and Michelle Harmon. For more information visit <http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org>.

September 20 – 24, 2004, Denver, CO

Monitoring Science and Technology Symposium

This interdisciplinary symposium will bring together policy makers, managers, and scientists to tackle the topic of the monitoring for sustainable economic development. The theme of the meeting is *Unifying Knowledge for Sustainability in the Western Hemisphere*, with an object of identifying the most important information that should be communicated for sustainable development. For more details see <http://www.monitoringsymposium.com/index.cfm>.

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>.

October 7, 2004, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

The Silent Invaders: Identification & Management of Invasive Plants

This symposium, hosted by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG), will focus on identification of invasive plants and control techniques. Deadline for registration is August 31, 2004. For more details, see www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg.

October 18 to 22, 2004, Vancouver, BC

North American Plant Protection Organization Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will feature a plenary talk by Nobel Laureate Kary Banks Mullis on tools in pest detection. There is a day devoted to industry – government meetings, discussion of the nursery trade, quarantine and certification systems, and invasive species issues. For more details, see <http://www.nappo.org/>.

October 19 - 20, 2004, Fort Collins, CO

2nd International Rodent Summit

The United States Department of Agriculture / Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service / Wildlife Services is hosting the second international conference on invasive rodents. Sessions on the agenda include: island rodent eradications, rodenticide risk assessment, and nutria damage and management. For more information, see <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/symposia/rodents/index.html>.

October 22 - 23, 2004, New Orleans, LA

Eighth International Wildlife Law Conference

The theme of this year's conference is *Protecting Species in the World's Coastal and Marine Regions: The Role of Law, Science and Management*. Proposals are sought for a variety of ecological policy issues, including invasive species. For further details, see <http://www.internationalwildlifelaw.org/index.shtml>. Proposals and questions should be submitted to: Wil Burns, conference coordinator at jiwlp@internationalwildlifelaw.org or phone: 650.281.9126. Presenters will have their presentations recorded in *the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*.

October 26 - 29, 2004, St. Andrews, NB

The Gulf of Maine Summit: Committing to Change

The agenda of the Summit includes setting priorities for the Gulf of Maine Council's 2006-2011 Action Plan, developing tools to help communities act to protect and restore the Gulf of Maine watershed, improving reporting mechanisms and indicators, setting priorities for research, integrating environmental monitoring via the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System, and improvements to state, provincial, and federal regulatory and planning programs. For more information, see <http://www.gulfofmainesummit.org/about.html>.

November 3 - 5, 2004, Victoria, BC

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. 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 8 - 10, 2004, San Francisco, CA

Third International Conference on Invasive *Spartina*

This conference will focus on the latest research and complex management issues surrounding the intertidal interloper. There will be aerial and ground tours of wetlands, as well as discussion of the hybrid form of *Spartina* that threatens San Francisco's estuary. For more information, please see www.spartina.org.

November 9 – 10, 2004, Saratoga Springs, NY

Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel Meeting

The agenda of this meeting is still being finalized. Please look for updated information at <http://www.neans.org/meetings.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, 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>.

November 17 - 30, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress

World Conservation Union (IUCN) meeting has "invasive species of the world's waters" as one of the major themes for the marine section. For more details see <http://www.iucn.org/congress/index.cfm>.

November 29, 2004, Winnipeg, MB

Canadian Weed Science Society Meeting

For more details, contact Gary Turnbull, Dow AgroSciences Canada, Inc., 39 Scurfield Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3Y 1G4, Tel: (204) 488-5757, Fax: (204) 488-5788. The website of the Canadian Weed Science Society is <http://www.cwss-scm.ca/>.

December 6 - 10, 2004, Orlando FL

First National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER)

The first conference on ecological restoration will bring together people dealing with all aspects of ecosystem restoration. Focus topics include: Science Synthesis and Scaling, Detecting Change Across Scales, Planning Restoration, Adaptive Management, Effective Science Communication Within and Beyond Restoration Programs, and National Priorities for Ecosystem Restoration. For more information, see <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ecosystem>.

February 7 – 10, 2005, Honolulu, HI

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

Few details are available yet, but for more information, contact Rhonda Green at rgreen@allenpress.com. The Weed Science Society of America's website is <http://www.wssa.net/society.html>.

April 4 – 6, 2006, St. Louis, MO

Fifth National Integrated Pest Management Symposium

Fifth National Integrated Pest Management Symposium, *Delivering on a Promise*, will explore the latest methods in controlling pests in a variety of settings. For up-to-date information on the symposium, visit the website: <http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium>. To receive

future notices about the symposium, send your e-mail address to ipmsymposium@ad.uiuc.edu.

April 19 - 20, 2005, Reno, NV

Invasive Species: Their Ecological Impacts and Alternatives for Control

The focus of this meeting is the monitoring and assessment of invasive species. Topics covered will include prevention of the introduction and spread of invasives, identification of standards to meet technical and regulatory requirements, and identifying invasive species research needs. For more details see <http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/index.shtml?L+mystore+cxpl5647>.

E. Other – Funding Opportunities

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s “Pulling Together Initiative”

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced its 2005 Request for Proposals in its “Pulling Together Initiative (PTI).” Grants will be given to support the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. Pre-proposals are due October 29, 2004. For more information about application deadlines, program priorities, and detailed instructions regarding application procedures, visit the NFWF PTI website at <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.htm>.

Funding for Outreach on Aquatic Invasive Species in Coastal and Marine Environments

The National Sea Grant College Program will be funding outreach projects addressing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. Pre-proposals due August 27, 2004 and proposals are due Nov 16, 2004. Eligible parties include individuals, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments, foreign governments, and international organizations. More information can be found at <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOC/NOAA/GMC/11417Invasive071404/listing.html>.