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**Meeting Summary Draft • May 3-4, 2010
Holiday Inn by the Bay • Portland, ME**

Panelists present: Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Gary Croot, US Coast Guard; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Larry Harris, University of NH; Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Wayne Millington, National Park Service; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Isabelle Simard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, and Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Others present: Anne Marie Eich, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sea Grant Fellow; Sarah Kirn, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Nick Mandrak, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Susan Mangin, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Jeremy Miller, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone; Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel ANS Program Manager (naturesource communications).

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the next two days.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- The Panel accepted the November 2009 meeting summary with minor corrections.
- *NEANS Panel Business and November 2010 meeting scheduling* – Jan indicated that the May 2010 meeting rotation falls in the State of Connecticut. Michele indicated that Nancy Balcom and Bill Hyatt offered their assistance in selecting a venue. The week of November 15 is the best time for the Panelists to meet.

Action: Michele Tremblay will begin work coordinating with the executive secretary of the ANSTF and secure a facility for the November 2010 meeting.

- ANS Task Force (ANSTF) report – Meg provided an update on the Tuesday field trip to Songo River in Naples with pontoon boats to view variable milfoil and Port Harbor Marine in South Portland where unfortunately, tunicates are already developing healthy populations. Meg provided an overview of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) meeting and rapid response workshop and Michele outlined the reception at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council – Nancy Balcom was not able to be at this meeting. This item will be revisited.

Highlights from Maine – Karen Hahnel and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection and Sarah Kirn, Gulf of Maine Research Institute moderated the session that included activities from the Maine Departments of Environmental Protection and Marine Resources, MIMIC, as well as non-government organizations including the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Great Waters Initiative.

Northeast ANS Roundtable

Vermont

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, San Diego CA in August. There are eight boat launch stewards hired. Regional collaboration with the Lake George group and other partners include the VT Department of Environmental Conservation and NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Lake Champlain Action Plan was completed last year with the Task Force response good so far. The State Management Plan funding will be primarily dedicated to water chestnut eradication. The Lake Champlain Basin Program is awaiting word on Zebra/Quagga funding for additional steward for a boat launch on the northeast side of the lake with a car wash under consideration. New York State is moving forward on aquatic species transport law. There are no further updates on Asian Clams in the basin. Spiny water fleas have not yet been found in the Glens Falls feeder or Champlain Basin. There is some funding to address the species prevention including a barrier. Alewives are dominating smelt and other species in some areas. Round Gobi are closer to Lake Champlain. This may be an appropriate species for the next Spotlight at the Connecticut Panel meeting.

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported that July 1, 2010 will mark notable changes to how aquatic invasive species are managed in Vermont. Vermont's twenty-two year-old law relating to the transport of aquatic invasive species will soon change. No longer will only the transport of the non-native invasive plants *Myriophyllum spicatum* and *Trapa natans* be illegal. By July 1, the transport of all aquatic plants or aquatic plant parts on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, trailer, or other equipment will be illegal. The law change means both the public and enforcement officers will not have to know how to distinguish one type of aquatic plant from another. Vermont's transport law also currently prohibits the transport of two animal species: zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and Quagga mussels (*D. bugensis*). On July 1, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources will be able to add additional species via rulemaking. The Vermont aquatic invasive species transport law is a "ticketable" offense. Fines of up to \$1,000 per violation are possible. The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources or his/her agent will have authority to enter upon lands, with permission from the landowner or lessee, to prevent the introduction and spread of new aquatic invasive species. "New" refers to a species not known to occur in a Vermont surface water or in a segment of Lake Champlain (the lake has five) as of January 1, 2007. Without permission, a warrant or subpoena must be obtained prior to entrance. The Secretary will also have new emergency permitting authority aimed at initiating a rapid response to a new invasive species invasion. An emergency rapid response general permit is under development with a completion deadline of July 1, when the authority is codified. Only the Commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish and Wildlife will have the ability to apply for coverage under this general permit. Controls applicable under the permit will include biological controls, pesticides and other

control techniques. The staff of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail contacted the Department for AIS spread prevention collaboration. The “trail” extends thru parts of NY, VT, NH, QC, and ME and trail users could be vectors for AIS spread. Trail staff will develop and implement spread messages and are considering cleaning stations or kits. This is a potential collaborative effort for the Panel.

Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported that her Department was contacted by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail about how users can implement invasive species prevention. A Zebra mussel was found in a Northeast Kingdom classroom from students’ contributions of pond water for a lesson activity. The Department determined that the sample came from Lake Champlain but this event underscores a need for more classroom outreach.

Massachusetts

Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, reported that this year, there will continue to be Marine Invader Monitoring Information Collaborative (MIMIC) sites in ME, RI, and MA. The rapid assessment survey will be conducted in July from Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island to Casco Bay in Maine. The Mitten and Dungeness Crabs poster is complete. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment invited Adrienne to produce a concept paper on invasive species for the State of the Gulf of Maine report that will be released in June 2010.

Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, reported on the third international tunicates conference in Woods Hole, MA. It was well attended by Eastern Canada and US professionals. A mitten crab was reportedly found in Boston Harbor. The tunicate *Clavelina spp.* was found in MA waters.

Québec

Isabelle Simard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, reported that the ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MRNF) will start a monitoring project this summer to establish the distribution of Asian clam in the St. Lawrence River following its discovery in fall 2009. A giant snakehead (*Channa micropeltes*) was found dead in April 2010 in the Saint-Charles River, in Québec City. It was likely an aquarium release. MRNF is promoting an educational message on how to dispose adequately of aquarium fish and plants. The ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks (MDDEP) will develop and test an aquatic plant monitoring protocol for the Lake Voluntary Monitoring Network during the summer of 2010. The GLU/Union Saint-Laurent Grands Lacs with the collaboration of MDDEP and Environment Canada has lunched the Réseau de detection des plantes exotiques envahissantes. The network is monitoring the distribution of 14 invasive plants (aquatic and terrestrial). The network Website will be translated in English during the spring of 2010

(<http://www.rspee.glu.org/autres/index.php>). The MDDEP has developed a code of best practices to stop the spread of invasive species. The ministry’s employees will be asked to implement the guidelines starting in summer 2010. On another note, the white-nose syndrome was found in certain bat populations in Québec. WNS has been formally identified in the Outaouais region, but reports of abnormal behaviour by suspect bats have also been made in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region in recent weeks. The MRNF is monitoring the situation with assistance from the Centre Québécois sur la santé des animaux sauvages and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.

Rhode Island

Kevin Cute, Coastal Resources Management Council, reported that the state management plan has funded several projects including education and outreach products in Narragansett Bay. MIMIC activities will continue in RI. There are policies and regulations being developed that focus on Early Detection Rapid Response network as a tool. The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is expanding freshwater monitoring systems with a focus on waterbodies that have no ANS reported. The DEM is developing regulations for transport and sales. Regulatory gaps will be identified and a season employee hired to catalogue current policies. RI Natural History Survey is updating its guide and will release it this year and conducting training.

New Hampshire

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, reported the interagency review on the draft state management plan is proceeding. There are 74 infested waterbodies. The Department is gearing up for control activities on 18-20 waterbodies for chemical treatment but focusing on divers where possible. The Department is expanding EDRR through Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs. The Didymo on the northern Connecticut River (NH border with VT) biomass is approaching what has been seen in New Zealand.

Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, reported that he is involved with a Great Lakes proposal for funds to work with anglers on invasive species introduction prevention. NY Invasive Species Council has created a process to address importation of invasive species including a list of prohibited species and how to prevent them including assessment tools. The draft has been released and the public comment period is open. The NY Chapter of the BASS has been surveyed and Mark presented the results. The response rate is about 10% with electronic and hard copy surveys distributed. Spiny water flea is in the Sacandaga reservoir. The hydroelectric facilities will be surveyed for the organism.

New York

Leslie Suprenant and Dave Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation via email, reported that the Office of Invasive Species Coordination participated in the development, and legal defense, of the State's 401 certification of EPA's Vessel General Permit to manage ballast water. By 2012 vessels operating in NY waters need to comply with a discharge standard approximately 100X IMO and new vessels launched beginning in 2013 need to comply with a standard 1000X IMO. The Department provided testimony, detailed comments and coordinated a multi-state letter to the US Coast Guard on their proposed national ballast water discharge standard. Staff recently submitted written comments on the EPA EVT Protocol for Ballast Treatment Technology. New York State is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Great Ships Initiative and a member of the Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative. 1. NYS completed a final report, *A Regulatory System for Non-native Species*, resulting from nearly two years of working with stakeholders and experts, which is distributed for public comment (comment period closes May 14, 2010). The NY Invasive Species Council (NYISC) will present the report to the legislature and will be seeking legislative authority to regulate non-native plants and animals at the agency level. The NY Invasive Species Advisory Committee AIS work group (Meg Modley was on the

team) produced a white paper on transport of aquatic invasive species by boats and presented it to the NYISC for further consideration and action (likely supporting legislation on boat transport). The shipping industry challenged New York's ballast water standard imposed under the federal clean water act (401 Certification issued on December 2008). The standard has been upheld two times in the NY State court—most recently on February 4, 2010 at the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court (second level court in NYS—shipping has filed to challenge a 3rd time at the NYS Court of Appeals (highest court in the state). The court of appeals may opt not to hear the case.

Federal, nonprofit, and academia

Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution, reported that NEIWPC, on behalf of its states, send to US EPA a comment letter regarding freshwater ammonia criteria. Invasive species, such as New Zealand mud snails, were used to develop these criteria.

Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported on Region 5 and 3. Great Lakes restoration has been proceeding. There is \$10.5 SMP funding for this effort with funding in Illinois, focused on Asian Carp, in place and projects proceeding. There is a competitive grant program for ballast water and prevention and control. There is internal FWS funding is targeted to early detection for Asian Carp and risk assessment (Mike Hoff, Coordinator, Region 3) will provide species specific training) for projects such as habitat restoration. A new version of DISRAP, based on the core HACCP training, will debut in June. The new training will focus on risk assessment. This could be a day added to the November NEANS Panel meeting.

Gary Croot, US Coast Guard, reported that the BW comment period closed at the end of November with a total of about 3,000 comments. The interagency process is not yet complete. There is no definite date for interim or final rules.

Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported that MIT Sea Grant Program has created the “10 ways you can help prevent introduction of aquatic species” outreach card. MITSG is focusing on *Didemnum* in George's Bank, including developing a sensor device that can better detect it. There is a “hab cam” with over a million pictures of underwater photography. The Sea Grants are eligible to apply for funds that will support plans including research and outreach for the New York Bight and the Gulf of Maine. The MIT wants marine introduced species information for Marine Invader Tracking and Identification System (MITIS). There are several portals to reach it including the hitchhikers and rapid assessment surveys. Maps are publicly accessible on the MITIS website.

NEANS Panel Online Guide presentation and tutorial

Leslie Matthews and Karen Hahnel introduced the Panel to the guide and provided a tutorial on generated a custom identification key. There is a page on standards for spread prevention. Refinements for the guide will be addressed in the next contract with Yellahoose, LLC. These include a cover page will be created for the guide and a tool that allows the NEANS Panel logo and that of the organization creating its own guide. Information for a back page, including links to the USGS distribution maps, creating mechanism to gather information on how the guide is being used and by whom (and to be able to ask for feedback), adding a sort feature to the guide (currently, guides are created with species in alphabetical order), and the ability to print the guide in formats other than 8 ½ x 11 such as a half page booklet or tri-fold. Are there other

resources for prevention and other information or approaches to which the guide may link vs. creating a page on NortheastANS.org. Another approach is to create a page of links on NortheastANS.org vs. listing numerous links that will appear on the back page of a printed guide. Can users be asked to enter their marine information on the MITIS site? Other citizen science opportunities should be listed on the Panel's website. Should a reporting telephone hotline or website be included on the site or in the guide and a call to action for reporting? A reorganization and packaging of information on the website is scoped in a contract for Yellahoose LLC.

Action: Karen Hahnel and Leslie Matthews will solicit information and proceed to work with Michele Tremblay on a contract with Yellahoose, LLC for online guide enhancements and a website revision.

Hydrilla Initiative Project

John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection presented the history and status of the NEANS Panel's Hydrilla Initiative Project (HIP). Some states/provinces were not comfortable with the proclamation drafted for signature by the New England governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. Some states have been able to get their governors to sign proclamation. It may be useful to distribute the matrix again and ask for Panelists and ANS friends to add their information to it. A train the trainers approach may make the most sense given travel constraints. Is it a lack of information for professionals or is lack of funding or policy the issue. It may be that the "out of sight and out of mind" mindset is the issue. Economic arguments may be the best tool to spur action.

Action: The Hydrilla Initiative Project leads will distribute to the Panel the framework with a request for updated information and to fill gaps in existing information.

Spotlight on Species: Canadian Risk Assessment

Nick Mandrak, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provided an overview on the Canadian Risk Assessment in Canada. Twenty Rapid Assessments have been completed to date on Asian Carps, Chinese Mitten Crabs, Green Crabs, *Hemimysis anomala*, New Zealand Mudsail Northern Snakeheads, Tunicates, and six species of Freshwater fishes. Ongoing risk Assessments including Swamp Eel and pathways such as live food, aquaria, water gardens, baitfish, biological supply, ballast water, and recreational boating.

Panel discussion and decision on projects and an annual work plan

Communication, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Committee - Karen Hahnel and Leslie Matthews, Co-chairs

Karen and Leslie reported on its current work plan activities including the

- Enhancements to the online guide. The contract scope of services will be finalized after any additional input is received. Leads: Karen Hahnel and Leslie Matthews. Marine experts are encouraged to join the work group. Funding is secured for the contract with Yellahoose, LLC.
- The website revision will be completed through a contract with Yellahoose, LLC. Leads: Karen Hahnel and Leslie Matthews. Marine experts are encouraged to join the work group. Funding is secured for the contract with Yellahoose.

Science and Technology (ST) Committee – Adrienne Pappal and Meg Modley, Co-chairs

Next Spotlight of Species on *Grateloupia* or *Clavelina spp.* for freshwater round goby or spiny water flea. The Mitten crab and Dungeness crab poster is complete and 150# has been distributed to all states except for New Hampshire. Michele will try to work with her marine contact in NH to provide them with posters and perhaps recruit them for the Panel. Proposed projects include

- Collect infested lakes data and individual states and provinces boat stewards programs and compile this information and maintain it on the NEANS website that is tied to a mapping tool. This could be colored coded on a map for lakes with infestations and where there are steward programs. This program could be piloted on lakes first. Later, for rivers, GPS coordinates will need to be employed to pinpoint areas vs. entire reaches. The mapping element of this project could be included in the Yellahoose contract currently being drafted or a future one. Meg volunteered to begin compiling the data. Funding will be needed for the contracted website work. Adrienne, Jan, and Leslie.
- Compile information such as included in the HIP framework spreadsheet and identify gaps and post information on NortheastANS.org. Ideally, this HIP model would be completed before it is adapted for freshwater species. Current ANS Program Manager contractor can post a spreadsheet and create a page with agency links. Funding would be needed to create web tools for this framework spreadsheet. Ann Bove, John McPhedran, and Kevin Cute will act as leads.
- Compile current province, state, and federal decontamination protocols including taxa specific information and equipment. The Panel could draft universal protocols for multiple species. Funding is needed for data and research to begin forming a matrix of species, methods, and equipment.
- Sea Grant train-the-trainers climate change workshop where the NEANS Panel could act as the host and/or convener for its constituency or others; and
- A possible display at the Boston flower show.

As the NEANS Panel work plan project plans are developed, there are areas where the policy and legislation expertise will be useful and those experts should work with the work groups. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission could act as a conduit for the NEANS Panel's information needs and for its resources to be transmitted to the water program directors. The waters that are designated impaired by virtue of invasive species on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list but that hasn't translated into prioritizing or funding for this impairment. Could this process translate into a contingency fund for a regional rapid response? The NEANS Panel may wish to contribute with its message that can be included in the media release that is distributed publicizing the annual marine rapid response survey including state contacts and a quote from the Panel leadership. Jan, Judy, and Michele are leads.

Action: The Steering Committee will continue to compile proposals (with a request distributed to the Panel's listserve) and other input so that it may finalize the draft work plan, provide a draft via the Panel's listserve, and present it to the Panel for its approval at the November 2010 meeting. The work plan would mirror the Panel's fiscal year.

Action: Jan, Meg, and Michele will work together on a "piggy back message" (including information and quotes from Panel leadership) to include with the marine rapid response survey media release.

Other business and public comment period

Susan Mangin, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force thanked the NEANS Panel for its work. There were no further comments from the public.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager, NEANS Panel