



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Resource Digest – August 1, 2003
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Please send items and postings for the NEANS Panel Digest to info@northeastans.org.

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Index

A. News

New NOAA Center for Research on Aquatic Invasives
Coverage of the 12th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species Online

B. Reports and Publications

Natural enemies – metaphor or misconception?
The Quiet Invasion: Legal and Policy Responses to Aquatic Invasive Species in North America
Biological invasions drive size increases in marine and estuarine invertebrates

D. Upcoming Conferences and Events

New England Invasive Plant Summit
Accidental and Purposeful Introductions of Animals: Investigating Species Interactions at
Different Trophic Levels
Ballast Water Workshop

E. Other

Weedmanager for forums

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A. News

New NOAA Center for Research on Aquatic Invasives

This month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that it is establishing a new National Center for Research on Aquatic Invasive Species in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The center will be located at the agency's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, where researchers have been studying invasive species in the Great Lakes for fourteen years. The research group, based in Ann Arbor, will also establish NOAA regional coordinators in six major aquatic coastal regions around the United States who will coordinate aquatic invasive species research nationally.

Coverage of the 12th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species Online

Two websites offer some coverage of the keynote speeches and other presentations given at the 12th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species held in Windsor, Ontario in June. The conference's homepage, <http://www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org> also includes summaries of presentations ranging from control options to international management obligations to ecological impacts.

CDQ Journal for the Marine Environment Industry's website also features coverage of many of the ballast-water related presentations. These include "Shipping as a Vector for New

Species Introductions” and several ballast water management presentations. They can be found at http://www.cqdjournal.com/Hot_Events/Inv_Species_6-03/inv_species_6-03.htm. Similar coverage of the 2nd International Ballast Water Treatment Research & Development Symposium held by the International Maritime Organization in London, England from July 21 through 23, 2003, should be available on the CDQ site soon.

B. Reports and Publications

Chew, M.K. and M. D. Laubichler. **Natural enemies – metaphor or misconception?** Science, 4 July 2003.

In this essay, Chew and Laubichler are concerned about the use and potential abuse of metaphors in ecological literature and discourse. They begin by discussing the language used to describe the highly-publicized discovery of reproducing Snakehead fish in a pond in Maryland. They criticize the use of terms like “Frankenfish” to describe the species. This may be a thought-provoking article for those of us who write about invasive species, especially for a public audience.

Doelle, M. **The Quiet Invasion: Legal and Policy Responses to Aquatic Invasive Species in North America.** International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law. 18(2), 2003.

This article provides an overview of efforts to prevent, eradicate, and control aquatic invasive species in North America. Mainly, it is a survey of the legal tools available to address aquatic invasive species

Grosholz, E.D. and G.M. Ruiz. **Biological invasions drive size increases in marine and estuarine invertebrates.** Ecology Letters, August 2003.

In this study, an unusual pattern of size change is associated with the invasion of nineteen species of marine and estuarine invertebrates. The results show that the majority of species are significantly larger in the introduced range compared with the native range with little evidence for any decrease in size following invasion. This invasion-driven increase in body size sharply contrasts with the pattern observed in many other taxa including plants, mammals, and lizards, where invaders frequently exhibit post-invasion decreases and increases in size. Although several mechanisms may explain the results none, have been demonstrated.

D. Upcoming Conferences and Events

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 and 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 at <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 or visit the website: <http://massbay.mit.edu>.

E. Other

Weedmanager for fora

Weedmanager.net, an online resource for park and reserve managers, also hosts discussion fora related to weeds and other nuisance or invasive species. If you are a member of an organization that would like to set up a (free) forum on one of these topics, contact forum@weedmanager.net. The website also includes a photo gallery, and extensive weed eradication information.