



Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Resource Digest – September 1, 2003
Volume 2, Issue 6

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

=====

Index

A. News

Second Northeast Rapid Assessment Survey
National Academy of Sciences Urges Caution in Oyster Introduction
New York State Establishes Invasive Species Task Force

B. Laws and Regulations

US Coast Guard Introduces Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program

C. Reports and Publications

Snakehead: A Fish Out of Water
The Beautiful Invader

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
Canada's Oceans: Research, Management, and the Human Dimension
7th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

=====

A. News

Second Northeast Rapid Assessment Survey

In August, the second Northeast Rapid Assessment Survey was completed, sampling the biota of twenty marine sites along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to New York. The research team was coordinated by the MIT Sea Grant College Program and the Massachusetts Bays Program, organized by NEANS Panel members Judith Pederson, Jan Smith, and James Carleton. The purpose of the survey is to generate a baseline inventory describing what species can currently be found in New England waters so that changes in communities, including the introduction or spread of nonnative species, can be identified. The task of identifying all the species is ongoing. A report on the findings will be available in the next NEANS Panel Digest. For more information, visit <http://web.mit.edu/seagrant>.

National Academy of Sciences Urges Caution in Oyster Introduction

Officials in Virginia and Maryland have been investigating the possibility of introducing the Asian oyster, *Crassostrea ariakensis*, to Chesapeake Bay to replace the once abundant populations of a native oyster, *Crassostrea virginica* that have been decimated by harvesting

and disease. The National Academy of Sciences also considered the idea and recently released a report urging officials to conduct more research and to approach the introduction with caution. They recommended the use of sterile oysters in any open-water culture. The states have been planning to introduce the culture of the Asian oyster in the bay, both to replace the economic value of the native oyster industry, and to replace the filtering of the Bay's waters performed by the original oyster populations.

New York State Establishes Invasive Species Task Force

On August 11, New York Governor George Pataki signed legislation to create a New York State Invasive Species Task Force. The task force will be mandated to generate a "statewide approach" to reducing the harm from invasive species and to identify ways that introductions of new species can be stopped. Members of the Task Force will come from various New York State departments and agencies as well as universities and private interest groups including a boating organization. In addition to identifying measures for prevention, the group will encourage rapid response to new species invasions, and encourage research and public education on the issue.

B. Laws and Regulations

US Coast Guard Introduces Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program

The Federal Register for July 30, 2003 (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>) announced the US Coast Guard's new "Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for US Waters." There is currently a voluntary ballast water management program in place and the new regulation will make these provisions mandatory for ships entering US waters. The program will require them to exchange or treat their ballast water in at least 200 meters of water and recognizes that ballast exchange is currently the most widely-used and practical method. However, ships that do not travel more than 200 nautical miles from shore will be exempt from exchange or treatment requirements. This will exempt many of the ships traveling along the Atlantic Coast. Regulations in place in the Great Lakes will not be changed. The Coast Guard is accepting comments on the new regulations until October 28, 2003.

C. Reports and Publications

Dolin, Eric Jay. **Snakehead: A Fish Out of Water**. Smithsonian Books, August 2003.

In this book, Eric Dolin discusses the reactions from managers, the media, and the public to the discovery of reproducing northern snakehead fish in a Maryland lake in 2001. Dolin is particularly interested in the public perception and rhetoric surrounding the discovery and what it can tell us about how we respond to and perceive invasive species.

The Beautiful Invader. Yankee Magazine, September 2003.

This extensive article describes the threat to Connecticut's tidelands posed by *Phragmites australis*, an invasive reed. There is also some discussion about Milfoil invasion in Vermont.

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/meetings.html>.

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 <http://massbay.mit.edu/>.

November 13-15, 2003 Ottawa, Ontario

Canada's Oceans: Research, Management, and the Human Dimension

This is the Ocean Management Research Network's National Conference. The purpose is to provide "a forum for ocean and coastal researchers, managers and policy-makers to share ideas and to discuss the current state of knowledge, research gaps, and national priorities for the use and management of Canada's three oceans." The agenda will include presentations, roundtable discussions, workshops (topics to be announced), and posters. For further information, please visit http://www.omrn.ca/eng_con03.html.

November 3-8, 2003, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

7th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

This conference, entitled "Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems: Linking Science and Management" is aimed at a wide variety of professionals working on invasive plant issues. The goals of the conference are "to enhance dialogue between scientists, managers, and practitioners in order to broaden our understanding of the science, needs, and prospects for efficient management of non-native plant invasions and to foster interdisciplinary cooperation on the science and management of invasive exotic plants." There will be pre- and post-meeting field trips. Visit <http://www.esa.org/ipinams-emapi7/> for further information.