

NEANS Panel Meeting
March 14, 2013

2012 Aquatic Invasive Species Highlights from Rhode Island

Department of Environmental Management
Freshwater AIS Monitoring

Surprises of the 2012 field season:

- Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) at Spectacle Pond in Cranston
- Water hyacinth on the Pawcatuck River (which may be small enough to hand harvest, but is in a rather inaccessible location)
- 147 lakes surveyed between 2007-2012
- 88 lakes have at least one invasive plant (60% of lakes surveyed)
- 65% with invasive plants include variable milfoil (others likely)
- 55% with invasive plants include fanwort (others likely)

**Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Coastal Training Program**

Marine Invasive Species Workshops

- Educational Aspects
 - General Background: Definition, Vectors, Government Response
 - Current Status: New Introductions and Spread of Known Species
 - Impacts: Environmental, Economic, Human Health

- Training Aspects
 - Lecture and Species ID
 - Field Trips

- Target Audiences
 - SCUBA Divers
 - Aquaculturists
 - General Public
 - Coast Guard Auxiliary

Coastal Resources Management Council

Marine AIS Monitoring

- Floating Dock Monitoring
 - Fourth year of monitoring at five sampling sites
- Larval Settlement Plate Monitoring
 - First year of monitoring at thirteen sampling sites
 - Five plates per site
 - Three plates sampled monthly & replaced
 - Two plates remain in the water March – October
 - Recruiting RWU student to conduct Independent Study
- Pilot Projects
 - AUV Sampling at eelgrass beds
 - Environmental PCR ballast water monitoring

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AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES
MONITORING PROJECT

CRMC
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

