

Northeast Regional Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) Panel
1st Meeting, November 26th, 27th 2001.

Monday November 26th

Database Meeting

Jay Baker (MA, CZM) led this meeting for those interested in developing the Northeast Regional Marine Invader Database and Webpage. The panel received funding from Sea Grant to develop a database to track the distribution of non-indigenous and cryptogenic species in the Northeast Region. The funding will also support the building of a webpage for the NEANS panel.

The proposed format of both the database and webpage was presented and discussed. Jay (MA, CZM) and student interns will do the work on the database. Other similar database initiatives were discussed and there was a presentation by Les Mehrhoff (University CT) on the Northeast Invasive Plant Atlas (NEIPA). NEIPA served as a template for the database.

Next Steps

Suggestions on format, as well as the location and scope of data sets should be sent to Jay Baker jason.baker@state.ma.us Potential datasets to be included in database should be forwarded to Jay Baker. Data sets should be from state, provincial or academic studies focused on bioinvaders.

- *The Database and Webpage proposal will be sent out on the panel listserv.
- *Jay Baker will summarize all proposed changes and distribute through listserv.
- *The Database and Webpage format can be viewed at
<http://state.ma.us/czm/northeastpanel>

Panel Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Participants:

Jason Baker (MA, CZM), Nancy Balcom (CT Sea Grant), Jim Carlton (Williams College, Mystic Seaport), Kevin Cute (RI, Coastal Resources Management Council), Mike Hauser (VT, DEP), Carol Henderson (NH, DF&G), Carolyn Jenkins (NEIWGCC), John Kahabka (American Public Power Association), George Kelly (NY State Federation of Lake Associations), Sandra Keppner (US F&W), Cynthia Lay (NH Estuaries Project), Anne Legars (Shipping Federation of Canada), Don MacLean (US F&WS), Brian Mardirosian (MA CZM), Laura Marron (GOM), Leslie Mehrhoff (University of CT), Paul Mucha (USCG), Chuck O'Neil (NY Sea Grant), Judy Pederson (MIT Sea Grant), Stephen Perry (NE Association of Fish & Wildlife Resource Agencies), Ron Poltack (NEIWGCC), Olga

Quirin (EPA), Michelle Robinson (MA Department of Environmental Management), Tim Sinnott (NY Department of Environmental Conservation), Amy Smagula (NH Department of Environmental Services), Jan Smith (MA Bays National Estuaries Program), Susan Snow-Cotter (MA CZM), Sally Soule (NH Estuary Project), Jim Straub (MA DEM), Peter Thayer (ME DMR), Donna Turgeon (NOAA), Dean Wilkinson (NOAA).

Panel Staff:

Michele Tremblay (naturesource communications), Lara Gibson (NS, Ecology Action Centre).

Overview of Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC) on the Marine Environment

Laura Marron (GOMC) presented an overview of the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC), as they will act as the host entity for the NEANS panel. The GOMC is an intergovernmental body that works to foster cooperative actions within the Gulf of Maine watershed. They aim to enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine and encourage sustainable resource use for existing and future generations. Supporting the work of the NEANS panel has been incorporated into their current work plan.

For more information on the Gulf of Maine Council see the following link
<http://gulfofmaine.org>

Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Overview

Dean Wilkinson (NOAA) presented an overview of the federal ANS task force.

The ANS task force is a US intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species, and implementing the National Invasive Species Act (NISA). It is Co-chaired by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and consists of seven federal agency representatives and eleven ex officio members. The Task Force coordinates governmental efforts dealing with ANS in the United States with those of the private sector and other North American interests.

For more information on the Federal task force see the following link
www.anstaskforce.gov

There was also discussion around the Invasive Species Council (NISC). This is a US federal intergovernmental body consisting of the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Transportation, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Council is Co-Chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce.

NISC is charged with providing national leadership regarding invasive species. The specific focus of the council is to ensure that Federal agency activities concerning invasive species are coordinated, complementary, cost-efficient, and effective.

The following link will take you to the National Invasive Species Council web page.

<http://www.invasivespecies.gov>

The NISC, established the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which consists of qualified representatives from outside of the Federal government. Their role is to provide stakeholder input to help the NISC achieve the goals and objectives of the Executive Order.

Panel Mission and Goals

Sandy Keppner (US F&W) laid out a framework for the panel mission and goals based on the mission and goal statements of the other regional panels. She proposed that the NEANS panel operates an overall mission statement such as “Working together to protect the resources of the Northeast from aquatic nuisance species”. Work done by the panel would be guided by several goals, which include;

1. Prevent the introduction, establishment and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species in the Northeast.
2. Control the spread of aquatic nuisance species already introduced into the Northeast.
3. Minimize the harmful ecological, economic, social, and public health impacts associated with the introduction, establishment, and spread of aquatic nuisance species in the Northeast.

Tasks and Action items would be carried out by the subcommittees. Later discussion amongst the subcommittees flushed out the tasks.

Discussion among all meeting participants resulting in the following changes.

Any wording would;

- Specifically include eradication and/ or elimination
- Incorporate “bi-national” into panel definition, to acknowledge and encourage Canadian participation
- Define the NE region in geographical terms and include what watersheds it encompasses

B) Goals and Tasks of the NEANS panel will include;

- To stimulate public, legislator, manager awareness to promote ANS as a serious issue through education
- To have input in the national management plan on eradication and continuing education
- To stimulate each state to develop/ adopt an ANS contingency plan
- To identify the problem in NE region
- Develop NE action plan with commitments
- Panel will review and revise mission, goals and tasks on a regular basis

Next Steps

*Kevin (RI CRMC), Susan (MA, CZM), Tim (NY DEP), Lara (EAC) and Sandy (US F&W) will rework wording and summarize tasks from the subcommittees.

* 2nd draft of mission, goals and tasks will be sent out on panel listserv for review.

Panel Structure

Mike Hauser (VT, DEP) presented a proposed administrative structure for the panel. The proposed structure can be viewed on the website. The suggested format included a split between freshwater and marine participants. Two co-chairs for the panel would be elected from each of these groups. The entire panel membership would be split into three subcommittees (on a self-selecting basis). Each of these committees would be responsible for the work/ action plan of the entire panel. After discussion the participants made the following decisions.

-The panel will not be divided into freshwater and marine interests because of similarities and overlap in the issues.

- The panel will be guided by 2 Co-chairs who will ensure the presence of freshwater and marine representatives on each sub-committee. Interim Co-chairs are Susan Snow-Cotter (MA, CZM) and Tim Sinnott (NY DEP). These chairs are interim chairs as this was the first meeting of the panel and membership on the panel is still being finalized. Interim chairs will be reviewed at the next meeting.

-Temporary working groups for specific interests will be struck as needed.

-There are 3 subcommittees, Communication, Education and Outreach (CEO), Policy and Legislation (PC), and Science and Technology (ST).

-The steering committee is made up of the two panel co-chairs, and 3 subcommittee chairs. Interim chairs are Jim Straub (MA DEM) for the Science and Technology committee, Kevin Cute (RI CRMC) and Jenifer Hunter (NEIWGCC) as Co-chairs for the Policy and Legislation committee, and Chuck O'Neil (NY Sea Grant) and Nancy Balcom (CT Sea Grant) as Co-chairs for the Communication, Education and Outreach committee.

-The panel has 2 part time staff, Michele Tremblay of Naturesource Communications, and Lara Gibson of the Ecology Action Centre.

Next Steps

*The revised management structure will be posted on MA CZM web page.

<http://state.ma.us/czm/northeastpanel>

Report from website and database development team

Please see page 1

Tuesday November 27th

Panel membership gaps and how to fill them

Jim Straub (MA DEM) led a discussion on panel membership gaps and how to fill them. All invited participants and departments were reviewed. Participants will work to contact potential members and solicit interest by the end of the year.

*A list of people invited to participate and participant gaps will be posted on CZM web page. Link will be circulated on listsev when it is established.

*All contact names to be invited should be sent to Michele Trembley (naturesource communications) mtrembla@tds.net

*Panel members will encourage active participation by non-panel members in the sub-committees.

The following membership gaps were identified. These are followed by the name of the participant who said they would track down a contact.

Federal

-**EPA**, would like to have just one representative. Olga (EPA) will contact Susan about Bob Dieterich participation.

-**APHIS**- Mike (VT, DEP) will identify a potential member

-**USGS**- Susan (MA, CZM) will identify a potential member

-**Park Service**- Les (University of CT) will forward contact information to Michelle

-**Invasive Species Council** will be invited to the meeting but not as full panel members.

-**Garden Clubs of America**-Les (University of CT) will forward information on panel to garden clubs, will approach Anne Gibbs of the National Council to participate

State

-**CT DEP**- Nancy (CT Sea Grant) will identify a potential member

Provincial

-**Quebec**- Anne (Shipping Federation of Canada) will identify potential member to be invited.

Canadian Federal

-**Department of Fishery and Oceans**- Lara (EAC) will identify member to be invited

Interstate

-**Atlantic States Fishery Management Council**- Susan (MA, CZM) will identify a potential member

Research

-**Sea Grant**- would like regional participation for sub-committees.

-Other researchers will be asked to participate on the sub-committees.

Industry

- Aquaculture**-Susan (MA, CZM) will identify a potential member
- Aquarium Trade**- Sandy (US F&W) will identify a potential member
- Shipping**- Susan (MA, CZM) and Judy (MIT Sea Grant) will follow up with US shipping, Anne (Shipping Federation of Canada) will forward contact for shipping agents
- Water Companies**- Jan (MA Bays National Estuaries Program) will follow up with Ray Raposa (Water, Tourism and Recreation)
- BASS**- Amy (NH DES) will send contact
- Marine Association**- Tim (NY DEM) will forward a contact
- SOBA**- Tim (NY DEM) will contact a potential member
- Bait Industry**-No individual association has been identified. Michael's Wholesale Bait was suggested as a contact as they deal with multiple states. Susan (MA CZM) will contact.
- Nursery Trade**- Olga (EPA) and Amy (NH DES) will forward contacts. Kevin (RI CRMC) will ask Lisa Gould

Other

- Tribal**- Chuck (NY Sea Grant) will work on identifying a potential member
- Tourism**- Carol (NE DF&G) will identify a potential member
- US NGO**
 - The Nature Conservancy was suggested, Tim (NY DEC) and Nancy (CT Sea Grant) will forward contacts
 - Save the Bay was also suggested- Kevin (RI CRMC) will contact
- Lake associations**- Jim(MA DEM) will identify a potential member
- Recreational boaters**- Tim (NY DEC) will identify a potential member
- NY State Canal Authority**- Tim (NY DEC) will contact but may not be interested
- Department of Agriculture and Markets**-Tim (NY DEC) will identify a potential member
- CEC**- should be included on panel, Susan (MC CZM) will contact

Next Steps

- *To help encourage membership panel will consider a brochure or hard copy report on ANS issues
- *Lara (EAC) will follow up with all participants who agreed to contact potential members

Budget

Susan (MA CZM) presented the overview of the panel finances.

- The NEANS panel has \$50,000 for first year (US Fish and Wildlife Funds)
- Half of funds will go to hosting semi-annual meetings and staff costs
- The panel currently has \$25,000 for discretionary funding
- MA CZM received a separate grant of \$20,000 for database and webpage development

The panel members suggest that;

- The money be used to do a few things well
- Members encourage funding for panel from state government ANS workplans

Panel Workplan

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the first year work plan for the panel. This session started with brain storming by all the participants, followed by a general discussion.

The national ANS task force expects regional panels to incorporate the following into their workplans; input into reauthorization of act, provide input on research priorities, aid in education and outreach, development of rapid response contingency plan, input on the five year strategic plan.

The second five year plan of the national ANS task force will soon be completed. The plan will be sent out on NEANS panel listserv and sub-committees will be expected to respond.

The brainstorming session resulted in the following tasks for the first year workplan. Brackets after the tasks indicate sub-committee in charge. ST is the science and technology committee, CEO is communication, education and outreach committee, PC is policy and legislation committee. Tasks do not appear in any order.

- The development of a NEANS web page (CEO and ST)
- Development of database (ST)
- Input into reauthorization (PC)
- Input into 5 yr. Plan (PC)
- Development of rapid response and contingency plans (ST and PC)
- Aid in education and outreach (CEO)
- Input onto research initiatives (ST)
- Determine the status of ANS in region (CEO)
- Develop priorities for the NE Region (Whole Panel)
- Development of logo (CEO)
- Refinement of membership (ST)

Break out into Fresh Water and Marine Groups

After brainstorming as a group, participants split into freshwater and marine groups. In these sessions discussion focused on issues of concern for the region. Topics were assigned to subcommittees for further consideration. At the end of the session, all participants voted on the 3 (marine)- 5 (freshwater) topics of most concern. Out of this a short list of priorities was established.

Marine group (Susan Snow Cotter (MA CZM) was elected interim Co-chair)

Issues the marine group would like to address include;

- Completing a rapid assessment summary (ST)
- Identifying all resources, and contacts in region (ST)
- Encourage an early response network
- Vector management
 - Judy (MIT Sea Grant) is planning to hold a workshop for the area defined by the gulf of Maine to Long Island Sound on Ballast water management. Workshop will aim to develop policy and guidelines for NE region.
- Risk assessment (ST)
- Encourage congressional support (PC)
- Workshop with NE governors and Canadian premiers (PC)
- Export Moral/ Ethic
- Data Management
- List of good organisms that can be used in lieu of non-indigenous species
 - come up with list of replacement species for aquaculture. Help stimulate demand for replacement species
- Identify Research gaps (to be done in a longer time frame of 2-5 years).
 - Eradication in marine environment (ST, PC)
- Best Management practices (ST, PC, and CEO)

Top priorities:

- *ID research, contacts and resources
- *Prepare a code of best practices
- *Data Management initiatives
- *Encourage Rapid Assessments
- *Risk Assessments
- *Economic Study

Freshwater (Tim Sinnott (NY DEC) was elected interim co-chair)

Issues the freshwater group would like to address include;

- Identify and describe individual state freshwater ANS programs and issues
 - include resources actually being invested
 - include all ANS activities, NGOs, ect.
- Inventory education and outreach materials
- Inventory existing state legislation, determine what works

- What are the pressing freshwater ANS issues in the NE
 - Defining the problem to boaters, nursery trade, bait dealers, aquaria trade
 - convince state agencies about need for ANS management and legislation
 - Identify specific species of concern, vectors, potential for problems
 - Identify prevention strategies- focus on vectors
- Develop a “road show” to take ANS message to
 - legislators, contingency groups, agencies, commissioners, NGOs
- Develop a “How To” plan for groups to influence legislators
- Managing intentional introduction
 - botanicals, uniformed introductions
 - Stocking by private individuals
- Unintentional introductions
 - transport issues, boats, sampling gear, releases from ponds
- How do we address web trade
 - Identify problems associated with ANS species sold on the web
- Legislation/ Regulation/ Prohibiting ANS species. List prohibit species
- “Thou Shalts” identify lists of favored species to replace undesirable ANS species
- Identify regional distributors- How can we get at interstate commerce. Need research from specialists
- Audobon “fish cards”- Develop something similar for aquatic plants.
- Transport/ Interstate shipping is a big issue on a regional/ national scale
- Intraregional discussion on control- technology transfer

Top priorities:

- *Look at what each state and NGO’s are doing to address ANS
- *Prepare an inventory of educational and other materials that exist
- *Examine how legislation interlinks, convince agencies that ANS is priority
- *Identify what species and vectors are of concern
- *Prepare an ANS road show and makes presentations, to get a consistent message out
- *Examine what kind of legislation regulates the transport of organisms.
- *Encourage Intra-regional discussion on control

Break out into Subcommittee Groups

All meeting participants self selected a subcommittee to work on. Subcommittees worked to fine tune the tasks from the first year workplan as well as initiatives from marine and freshwater groups. The following lists are summaries of the top priorities of each group.

Science and Technology

Jim Straub (MA DEM) is interim chair

- Prepare a good/ bad list verified with scientific data
- Prepare a list of research in the field, identified by taxa
- Data Management
- Best Management Practices
 - For vectors;
- Judy (MIT Sea Grant) will work on Ballast water (with upcoming workshop)
- Pete (ME DMR) will work on Bait industry
- Pete (ME DMR) and Lara (EAC) will work on aquaculture
- Lara (EAC) will forward Canadian paper on intentional transfers to subcommittee
- Les (University of CT) will look at nursery trade
- Judy (MIT Sea Grant) and Jan (MA Bays National Estuaries Program) will look at aquarium trade
- Rapid Assessment survey

Communication, Education and Outreach

Chuck O'Neil (NY Sea Grant) and Nancy Balcom (CT Sea Grant), are interim co-chairs

- Develop visual identity for website, stationery, brochures, and other outreach materials
 - Chuck (NY Sea Grant) will work with a designer
- Communication on all vectors: disseminate recommended Best Management Practices [existing and from Science and Technology Committee]
- Compile a list of research and ANS experts, for [web-based?] public “Hotline” to report sightings and answer questions.
- [As adjunct or component of website “Hotline”] develop FAQ page on website [inventory existing lists of questions and answers] that is printout compatible
- Designate state/provincial NEANS contact list
- Inventory and analyze current, existing, and available education and outreach materials [Recent Share Fair held for New England has resources, contact Cynthia Boettner at Sylvio Conté reserve]
- Inventory of state/provincial legislation and provide links to jurisdictional websites
- Develop regional black list with [where appropriate] substitutes [a “plant native list”]
- Identity brochure to be used in soliciting membership, raising awareness of the identity of the Panel, and developing support

Policy and Legislation

Kevin Cute (RI CRMC) and Jennifer Hunter (NEIWPC) are interim co-chairs

- Design a presentation to raise awareness of ANS issues in region. EPA presentation will be reworked to include state concerns. Presentation will be given to;
 - The meeting of NE governors and Eastern Canadian premiers in the next year
 - at the upcoming freshwater management meeting in Maine Re: NE state plan development
 - US Congress delegation with regards to reauthorization
 - to the water program commissioners for the New England states and NY at the NEIWPC Commission Meeting
 - To the NEANS panel in May
- Prepare a comprehensive list of vectors
 - ask ST to list them in importance
 - develop at best management practices for each vector
- List US and Canadian Federal, State and Provincial regulations. Framework and inventory of regulations and how to fill in gaps.

Next Steps

- There will be a conference call for the Steering Committee on January 18th at 1pm. All are welcome to participate. Call in number will be sent out on the panel listserv
- Next panel meeting will be in early May in Southern Vermont.