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**Meeting Summary Draft • November 27-28, 2007
Providence, RI**

Panelists in attendance: Jay Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Nancy Balcom, CT Sea Grant Extension Program; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Jim Carlton, Williams College - Mystic Seaport; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Christopher Deacutis, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program; Lisa Drake, US Coast Guard Academy; Michael Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Vincent Guida, NOAA Fisheries, Howard Laboratory; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Bill Hyatt, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Susannah King, NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Paul Marangelo, The Nature Conservancy; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Anne Monnelly, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program; Tim Preddice, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jan Smith, MA Bays Program; James Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Peter Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources; Bruce Thorpe, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture.

Others present: Linda Auken, University of NH; Marcel Bernard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune; Cynthia Boettner, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge; Katie DeGoosh, RI Department of Environmental Management; Christine Dudley, RI Department of Environmental Management; Jenn Dykstra, University of NH; David Gregg, RI Natural History Survey; Larry Harris, University of NH; Sue Kiernan, RI Department of Environmental Management; Veronica Masson, RI Department of Environmental Management; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Scott Newsham, Federal ANS Task Force; Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; James Stahlnecker, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Ali Swanson, RI Department of Environmental Management; Michele L. Tremblay, and NEANS Panel ANS Program Manager (nature resource communications); and Wei Ying Wong, Brown University.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ANS updates and Panel business:

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ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- The Panel accepted the May 2007 meeting summary.

- Kevin honored Jim. Jim called for motions from the floor for the freshwater chair. John McPhedran nominated Susy King. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion carried. Susy King is the new Panel co-chair to serve a two-year term.
 - *NEANS Panel Business and May 2008 meeting scheduling – Michele Tremblay.* The May 2008 meeting rotation falls in the State of New York. Michele will secure a location in Providence. Panelists and invasive friends will be asked to provide any possible date conflicts in response to an upcoming email pilling that Michele will distribute via the panel@northeastans.org listserv.
- Action: Michele Tremblay will begin work on finalizing a date and securing a facility for the May 2008 meeting.***
- Invasive Species Advisory Council – No one was present to provide an update.
 - ANS Task Force - Scott Newsham, Executive Secretary, provided an update on the Task Force's (TF) activities. In May, the Task Force met in Erie, PA. In November, they met in the Washington, DC area. The spring meeting will likely continue to be hosted by one of the Regional Panels while the fall meeting will be held in the DC area. The Task Force discussed strategies to reinvigorate its standing committees. The committees would like to be specifically tasked with focus or projects. The TF may contact regional Panels to solicit participation in committees. The Task Force would like to see recommendations from the Panels for consideration at its meetings. For instance, the Western Regional Panel sent a recommendation to the Task Force asking that federal agencies document their decontamination policies for equipment being moved between waterbodies and provide this for state and local ANS managers. As a result, the Task Force discussed the issue and will send a letter to federal agencies encouraging them to comply with this recommendation. Additional recommendations are available at http://anstaskforce.gov/Meetings/2007_Nov/Regional_Panel_Recommendations.pdf. The Task Force agreed to continue the policy to divide state management plan monies evenly among those states that have approved plans. It is anticipated that approximately \$42,000 will go to each of those states in FY-08. At the Western and Mississippi River Basin Regional Panels' request, the TF recognized VHS as an invasive species that could be included in state management plans. Scott announced that this would be his last meeting; he is retiring to focus on local education issues in his community. Michele presented Scott with a book to express her appreciation for his work with the NEANS Panel.
 - State work plan funding for regional efforts – Kevin introduced this issue that Judy Pederson raised during her Panel co-chair tenure. The proposal is to allow states to divert funds to the NEANS Panel so that it can implement activities for one or multiple states. This would support regional and coordinated efforts. In the past, it has been difficult to move funds from state coffers to other organizations such as the Panel. The USFWS has approved the logistics of re-directing money from USFWS to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council (the NEANS Panel's fiscal agent) before it goes to the states, if that is what those states choose. For those states who wish to contribute to regional efforts, this mechanism would remove a significant barrier that they had identified. Maine had allocated \$5,000 for the Panel but their overall grant was smaller so the funds could not be secured for the Panel. The states' requests are due in January each year so they could respond to the USFWS's request letter with NEANS Panel's committees' information from the November meeting. Judy indicated that her intent was to use the funds to get experts to meetings. Scott said that the state funds have to be spent on activities specified in the management plans. This can include coordination on efforts such as the Panel's pilot project on Hydrilla. The States of MA, ME, CT might be willing to pursue this course of action. States may amend their work plans and implementation tables to incorporate this new model.

Action: Scott Newsham will determine if the proposed funding mechanism for states to redirect portions of their management plan monies to the NEANS Panel for local implementation of regional efforts.

- ANS Experts database – Michele offered to assist states by entering in to the database their Tier 1 or primary contacts.

Highlights from Rhode Island – Kevin summarized the state’s draft management plan. At its November meeting, the ANS Task Force conditionally approved the draft, subject to Governor signature. Katie DeGoosh, RIDEM, provided an update on her work on the state AIS survey. It was determined that 79% of the sites had AIS occurrences. Boat ramp signs are on order and a handout has been distributed. David Grey, RI Natural History Survey, provided an update on the Survey’s role in locating and documenting on rare and endangered as well as invasive species that are documenting in the database, BORIS. Water Chestnut has been found in North Kingstown, the first confirmed sighting in RI. Chris Deacutis, NBEP, University of Rhode Island CI, provided a case study on recent media coverage of the recent Mitten Crab alert.

Status of Marine and Estuarine Invasions of the Northeast – Jim Carlton presented introduced invasions and cryptogens:

Year/status	2000	2003	2007
Introduced	48	86	98
Cryptogenic	28	66	unknown (hundreds)

The large increase in species is not necessarily introductions but documentation of species as the surveys cover more sites. Many of the species are examples of sentinels of vectors (here via transport) and change (viable because of changing conditions such as climate change) are increasing.

Northeast ANS Roundtable

Paul Maragenlo, The Nature Conservancy, works on Lake Champlain issues. He reported that NY State is looking at its plan to coordinate invasive species management. The PRISM infrastructure will include both terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals. The Nature Conservancy is convening partnership meetings and facilitating other parts of the process.

John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection, reported that a bill to improve the sticker program was passed for an additional \$70,000. The bill combines two stickers and generates additional he additional revenue for a total of \$125,000. An herbicide application general permit was approved for rapid response on new infestations. There are three groups that have built diver-assisted suction harvest systems using pontoon boats.

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that they found a small infestation of Water Chestnut during a survey in Mississquoi Bay. The Basin Program hosted a HAACP training session. The Program is working with partners on better prevention for AIS prevention in canals. The pilot was launched for the boat launch stewards program and received great media coverage. The law enforcement hands-on training program was launched. The Program is finishing is draft rapid response plan. The plant section is completed; the animal section is underway. New York introduced its emergency VHS rules; Vermont’s will follow. Alewife populations are increasing in the basin. UNESCO recognized the Basin Program and presented on rapid response at its meeting in South Africa.

Bruce Thorpe, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture, the agency's monitoring program has documented an increase in tunicates from 11 to 21 monitoring sites from last year. Two tunicates are predominate but not yet *Didemnum*. Aquaculture is an important industry in southwest NB. A new pondweed was identified in 2006 and is now widespread in that waterbody. The waterbody was treated and further testing results are anticipated. *Didymo* was found in the northwest part of the province and in the Saint John River watershed.

Bill Hyatt, CT Department of Environmental Protection, seeking funding for approved state management plan. The State's *Didymo* prevention materials have been developed. Zebra mussels are in two northwest corner lakes, despite recent incorrect media coverage that there was a higher incidence. Water Chestnut eradication and prevention efforts are ongoing. The State was charged with developing a Northeast fish health policy for presentation to the leaders of fish and wildlife agencies. The Northeast states would develop baseline policies and conditions so that fish and wildlife chiefs could sign it in April 2008. A two-year work plan from CT invasive plant funding from recent legislation. One ANS Coordinator will be hired with a focus on *Hydrilla*. The States of NY and CT completed an interstate plan for review by the Task Force.

Tim Preddice, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, reported that this was the second year of grants to municipalities and nonprofits. Two million dollars was designated to address local implementation. Out of over 40 applications received, 31 were selected for funding with a majority addressing Eurasian Milfoil, Phragmites, Purple Loosetrife, and Water Chestnut. This year, the legislature signed into law new the Invasive Species Advisory Council to protect natives and prevent invasives. The DEC is working with The Nature Conservancy on the Adirondack PRISM effort and Cornell on a partnership initiative. *Didymo* was found on the Battenkill in the Delaware River basin.

Lisa Drake, US Coast Guard Academy, reported that there is a research and case study and the economic costs of invasive species. One of the case studies involves a strain of cholera in Mobile Bay.

Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey, reported that she has coordinated with University of RI to train their water quality monitoring volunteers to identify AIS and to develop protocols for discoveries. A manual was developed on field protocols for surveys and other documentation. *Hydrilla* has been found in a CT pond near the RI border.

Peter Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources, reported that the Maine Marine Invasives Work Group continues to meet four-to-five times a year and is active with several projects including a revised brochure. Meetings have included guest presentations from other states. The Group will host a discussion at the fishermen's forum. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Vital Signs program includes invasive species identification training. Discussions about bait worm and packaging disposal are ongoing with several Sea Grant offices. The group customized mitten crab information and distributed a joint (with DEP) press release. Beth Owen conducted a teacher curriculum workshop and a diver monitoring training.

Judy Pederson, MIT, reported that Sea Grant has a Northeast outreach program with funding to support combined efforts. The seafood project is complete with collateral. IT appears that some ANS might be thrown overboard from cruise ships. A Dungeness crab was found recently with elastics on its claws. The diver program is progressing but the divers are not always returning the data despite the convenience of MIT's online database. A rapid

assessment survey was completed in the summer. *Gradalupia* was found on either side of the Cape Cod Canal and in Boston Harbor. *Didemnum* surveys are underway.

Jan Smith, Massachusetts Bay Program, reported that Salem Sound Coastwatch has deployed settling plates to look at those organisms. Adrienne Pappal has been hired and is developing its citizen monitoring program and expanding rapid response programs.

Anne Monnelly, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, reported that here were new discoveries including *ejuria denza* was in a state park pond, Asian clam discoveries in four new locations, and Dark mussel in Charles River. The Department is increasing zebra mussel prevention. Quabbin Reservoir is being closely watched for its chemistry and other conditions that may be conducive to zebra mussel colonization in the Reservoir. A new staff member has been hired. Hydrilla in Barnstable is being spot treated this year, dependent on funding. The preliminary results of the Tufts University Solar Bee Study indicates that there is no significant difference between pre- and post-deployment.

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, reported on new infestations including two new variables that brings us to 60 with 70 types overall. *Didymo* is now common from the Canada / NH border on the Connecticut River to the Town of Northumberland—some of it bank-to-bank coverage. Each infested waterbody will have a long-term management plan. Twenty plans are in draft form with thirty more to write. New management strategies, including expanding diver capabilities, are being developed. New Hampshire is also working on a diver-assisted suction device. Legislative Milfoil Study Committee is studying the issue and a \$5MM appropriation is under consideration. Lake Host enters its sixth year with a 170 “saves” in 2007. The States of NH and VT are collaborating on a *Didymo* website. The state management plan is in draft form with the implementation table not yet complete. Tom Burack, Commissioner, NHDES, expressed a strong interest in AIS when meeting with his peers and is showing leadership with invasive issues. The Department is working with the New Hampshire Rivers Council on several rock snot initiatives.

Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that the Service has conducted HACCP training that Mark Malchoff helped to teach. The service is working with offices that have plans in place or need to write or implement them. A new workshop in NY is under consideration. A session could be planned in conjunction with the Panel’s May or November 2008 meeting. There are several *Didymo* controls being discussed. The New Zealand mud snail is in Lake Ontario and has been identified in two tributaries to the Lake. Signs have been quickly produced and posted. There is a “Wizard” on the website that helps you write a plan. For further information, visit HACCP.MRM.org.

Vincent Guida, Howard Laboratory, NMFS-NOAA, provided background on the Laboratory’s geographic scope on its research efforts from Canada to South Carolina. The Laboratory’s scope is the effect of invasives on fisheries with a focus on *Didemnum*. There are areas where the coverage is in the hundreds of acres over nearshore and offshore areas in Long Island Sound and New York Bight. There are worms and scallops under the tunicates so fish cannot reach them. Club tunicates have also been found. The laboratory is also working on identifying predators that might feed on the tunicates.

Marcel Bernard, QC MIN, provided a written summary on Ministry’s work on *Didymo*, found in the Matapédia River in 2006 along with six other rivers in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspésie regions. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is

developing a database, associated with the NatureServe network. An early detection network was created in the St. Lawrence River estuary. An eradication campaign was initiated in 2201 in the Rivière du Sud.

Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project, reported that he surveyed professional bass anglers who participate in tournaments on the Lake. One of the winning purses was \$125,000 so there is a lot of competition and the anglers move among many waterbodies across North America. Based on those conversations, Mark has drafted a proposal to reach the tournament organizers and have them reach the angler competitors. Several other states are involved in the effort.

Chris Deacutis, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, urged participants to participate in the NH Estuaries Project's floating device mitten crab outreach project. Freshwater and terrestrial locations should be targeted because they are distinctive in those habitats.

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported on two new infestations. Flake formulation has been developed for control. They are crafting language for development of protocols for use of weevil to control invasive plants. The VT Fish and Wildlife Department issued 120-day temporary rules that restrict bait regulations and eliminate wild bait harvest and requires that live bait be purchased from VHS-free certified bait dealer. There is no evidence of zebra mussels outside of the Champlain basin. The Early Detection Volunteer effort is active with four workshops held over the summer with 80 participants.

Linda Auken, University of NH, spent two months in New Zealand and reported that she worked on several research efforts. *Larry Harris* added that *Didemnum* is doing very well in the cold waters of New Hampshire.

Cynthia Boettner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that the Service is continuing Water Chestnut controls in the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge. The MA Department of Environmental Conservation's collaboration was very helpful. The MA Invasive Plant Advisory Group has classified plants and produced an 85-page booklet on which agencies and others can participate in a bulk order for a second printing.

Committee updates (committees will be preparing and submitting detailed work plans and funding proposals)

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

Karen and Leslie reported on CEO activities to date including the planned survey to determine the Panel's audience, awareness of the Panel's existing products, and what products are required. They will work with Michele to craft and place online an electronic survey. They will then convene a conference call with the Science and Technology Committee to determine where they can collaborate on outreach and technology solutions. Michele will provide to the Committee a link to the Panel's web statistics reports to help them with their analysis.

Action: Leslie and Karen will contact Michele to setup survey and committee joint conference call.

Policy and Legislation (PL) Committee - Susannah King and Anne Monnelly, Co-chairs

Anne and Susy reported on the Governor and Premier proclamation progress. The focus started with Hydrilla but now it is broadened to cover all invasive species. Kevin will draft a

cover letter from the NEANS Panel co-chairs. Each province and state has designated a contact to get his/her Governor or Premier to sign it. The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEGECP) to have the proclamation placed in their May agenda.

CT: Bill Hyatt

NH: Amy Smagula

PE: Neil McNair

MA: Anne Monnelly

NL: Sean Robinson

QC: TBD

ME: John McPhedran

NS: Andrea Locke

RI: Kevin Cute

NB: Bruce Thorpe

NY: Steve Sanford

VT: Ann Bove

Anne and Susy have agreed to continue as co-chairs until an individual from The Nature Conservancy can be secured for one of the co-chair positions.

Kevin provided an outline of a process by which agencies and other organizations can write letters to provide to Congressional delegations information on the importance of funding of state management plans. The NEANS Council can write letters and representatives can make Hill visits. The Panel may wish to produce materials that states and others can include in their Hill visit portfolios. The Policy and Legislation Committee may wish to lead this process. This will allow the Panel to help coastal programs, Sea Grant, and others who make Hill visits focus their invasive species message.

Action: The Policy and Legislation Committee will speak with ECGECP to determine if they can add this proclamation to their agenda for signature at its May meeting. The Committee will also work with New York on obtaining its Governor's signature at another venue.

Action: Anne and Susy will send to Michele a list of email addresses to create a special listserve for those involved with the proclamation signing.

Action: Paul Marangelo will work with The Nature Conservancy staff to identify a Policy and Legislation co-chair.

Action: Kevin will DRAFT fact sheet and letter for the ECGECP.

Shipping Committee (SH) – Jim Stahlnecker, member, reported on committee activities. The SH is recommending that the Panel adopt a ballast water policy. Jen Mehaffey was contracted to draft the policy paper, which is under Committee review. A second draft will be prepared for Panel review and comment. The SH will also draft a NEANS Panel webpage with resources on ballast water tools and policy. Jim Stahlnecker may be serving as the committee co-chair.

Action: Policy and Legislation Committee will review and comment on a ballast water policy and present a draft to the Panel for adoption.

Science and Technology (ST) Committee - Jan Smith, sole Co-chair

Jan discussed the Committee's plans for the year including two workshops; one in February for volunteer monitors and the other in conjunction with the May 2008 Panel meeting, to gather states and provinces to compare methods and possibly standardize for boat inspections, public outreach, and volunteer outreach. The new geographic and identification resources NEANS Panel webpages are under review. The Hydrilla profile NEANS Panel webpage has been drafted with links to global maps with populations, economic impacts, summary chart of each state's pre- and post-invasion preparedness, and the Panel's community based social marketing workshop proceedings along with other information including an interactive database of Hydrilla references. The Hydrilla pilot plan is under review and there is a possibility that funding might be available through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Multi-state Conservation Grant Program. The ST discussed developing, with CEO, outreach materials for Mitten Crab, Didemnum, and gradalupia. The ST can build on NEANS Panel agencies and other Panels' work such as fact sheets, which they might have produced. A distribution strategy is key to effective spending on these

materials. The Panel preference is to produce electronic media that can be customized and printed on demand by a variety of audiences, including NEANS Panel audiences. The CEO envisions creating an online guide. The Western Panel may have already created a similar tool in collaboration with other Regional Panels. Michele has worked with a good software and web engineer who has created similar tools. John McPhedran indicated that he might be willing to be the freshwater Science and Technology Co-chair.

Action: Science and Technology Committee will work with Communication, Outreach, and Education Committee on developing fact sheets for Mitten Crab, Didemnum, and gradalupia and determine audience as well as existing documents and resources with NEANS Panel agencies and other Panels' work.

Action: All committees will submit their completed work plans and project proposals for funding to Michele no later than January 18, 2008.

Other business and public comment period

There were no comments from the public.

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