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Meeting Summary • November 15-16, 2005
The Stoweflake Mountain Resort and Spa, Stowe, VT

Panelists in attendance: Jason Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Nancy Balcom, CT Sea Grant Extension Program; Erik Beck, US Environmental Protection Agency; Stephen Crawford, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Lisa Gould, RI Natural History Museum; Willard Harman, NY State Federation of Lake Associations; Michael Hauser, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; William Hyatt, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Susannah King, NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Wayne Millington, National Park Service; Anne Monnelly, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Chuck O'Neill, NY Sea Grant Extension and National Aquatic Species; Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program; Tim Preddice, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Robert Reid, NOAA Fisheries, Howard Laboratory; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jan Smith, MA Bays National Estuaries Program; James Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Bruce Thorpe, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; Keith Ward, US Coast Guard First District; Scott Weber, New England Aquarium; and Lisa Windhausen, Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Others present: Cynthia Boettner, Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service and NIPGro; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Jennifer Forman Orth, University of MA at Boston; Ginny Garrison, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Paul Gregory, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Tim Hunt, VT Department of Environmental Protection; Susan Jary, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Paul Marangelo, The Nature Conservancy; Sara Mulford, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Michelle Robinson, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Amy Shedrick, VT Department of Conservation; Michaela Stickney, VT Agency of Natural Resources; VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Beth Suedmeyer, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; David Tilton, US Fish and Wildlife Service; and Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager (nature resource communications).

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection and Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program

ANS updates and Panel business:

- *NEANS Panel Business and May 2006 meeting scheduling* – Michele Tremblay. The Panel will host the ANS Task Force May meeting in conjunction with its own May events.
Action item: Michele Tremblay will work with the ANS Task Force and Judy Pederson on scheduling for the week of May 22 for a NEANS Panel meeting, ANS Task Force meeting and field trip, and Panel workshop on Cape Cod, MA. Michele Tremblay will

send to the panel@northeastans.org listserve a “save the date” message as soon as the location is finalized.

- *New NEANS Panel website introduction* – Mike Hauser provided an update on the northeastans.org website revision.
Action item: The following Panel members will complete their province and state website templates by December 1: Nancy Balcom and Bill Hyatt for CT; Andrea Locke and Bruce Thorpe for NB, Kevin Cute and Lisa Gould for RI, Tim Preddice and Chuck O’Neill for NY, Steve Perry and Amy Smagula for NH, and Michele Tremblay will work with her contacts to obtain NS information.
Action item: Panelists’ contact information will be included on the northeastans.org website. Panelists will submit to Michele Tremblay their events to post on the website calendar page.
Action item: Mike Hauser and Michele Tremblay will work together to post the new website by January 1, 2006.
- *Research priorities* – Judy Pederson will work with a small group to form the recommendations. It is important to keep this group small because those that participate will be ineligible for any resulting funding.
Action item: Judy will convene a group that will form and submit the Panel’s research priorities recommendations
- *Panel membership* – John McPhedran provided an update of the new members including Bill Jacobs, The Nature Conservancy and Bob Reid, NOAA. Soliciting industry representatives are still a challenge. There was a suggestion to piggy back onto initiatives to engage industry. The Panel had already decided to engage appropriate industry representatives when there was an initiative or project on which their input was needed. The Panel may wish to contact the Chamber of Shipping to reach the US shipping interests.
Action item: Everyone should send to Michele Tremblay their suggestions for prospective Panelists so that she may forward them to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to issue invitation letters.
- *Invasive Species Advisory Committee update* – Chuck O’Neill provided an update on the Committee’s activities including a request to the Departments of Human Services and Homeland Security to report on their invasive species activities. There is a request in place to create a national extension service. The NISC Management Plan is under revision. A team is working on a new definition for invasive species that satisfies science and other stakeholders. The next meeting will be held in San Juan in April.
- *ANS Task Force update* – Lisa Windhausen provided an update on the October meeting in Virginia. The FY 2006 budget was level funded. The annual report is nearly finalized. The state management plan revision guidelines document is nearly complete. NISC is convening an Early Detection Rapid Response workshop in April. The EPA is releasing a report on its ANS regulations and the socio-economic impacts of ANS. NAISA has not yet passed—there are issues with ballast water and endangered species. John McPhedran participated in the Panel reporting session and meeting and provided an update on other regional panels’ activities. The national database project was discussed and the concern that regional panels would be responsible for maintaining the database. John updated the Panel on the Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements relative to Canadian voting privileges has yet to be determined.
- *Election of NEANS Panel co-chair* – Judy Pederson called for nominations from the floor. Jim Straub was nominated and elected as the freshwater co-chair to service a two-year term with the NEANS Panel. Judy Pederson presented John McPhedran with a framed

certificate of appreciation. Outgoing co-chair McPhedran was thanked by the Panel with a round of applause for his leadership and commitment over the past two years.

Action item: Michele Tremblay will update the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ANSTF, listserves, website, and other media with the new co-chairs' information.

Highlights from Vermont

Mike Hauser, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, introduced Ginny Garrison, VT Department of Environmental Conservation Lakes and Ponds Section Chief. She introduced VT staff involved in ANS activities and provided a summary of those programs. Mike provided an update on the education and outreach activities that he leads. Tim Hunt updated the Panel on the Department's hand-pulling activities. Susan Jary provided information about the Department's permitting. Amy Shedrick reported on the Department's summer enforcement, surveying, pet store, and field activities. Sara Mulford, ANS Sticker Program Coordinator, discussed the program's activities.

Steering Committee

Judy Pederson updated the Panel on the Steering Committee's (SC) two-day retreat-style meeting held this week. The Steering Committee is accepting the revised review and branding policy and procedure document. The SC decided to stop providing lunches at the Panel meetings. The Panel may try at (for the May of November meeting) to have the host jurisdiction provide space, planning, and logistical services to save the Panel's funds for its committee activities. John indicated that the Panel would charge fees for the workshops that it convenes. This will not apply to Panel meetings. John asked the states if they would be willing to divert to the NEANS Panel some of their ANS Management Plan funding. This funding would support the Panel committee work plan products and would have to support the states' management plans. State proposals are due to the USFWS by December 15.

Action: Michele Tremblay will contact Scott Newsham, US Fish and Wildlife Service, to determine if states with management plans, MA, NY, VT, and ME would be willing to divert their management plan funding to the NEANS Panel.

Action: the Steering Committee will be soliciting input on reviewing its mission statement, goals, and objectives.

Invasive Tunicates in Prince Edward Island – Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Andrea presented *Invasive tunicates in Prince Edward Island waters: a progress report on science and management*.

Northeast ANS Roundtable

- Erik Beck reported that EPA is working on LNG permits and receiving comments.
- Susy King will be making a presentation about states in the region's ANS activities to the NEIWPC Executive Committee.
- For MA, Anne Monnelly reported that the drafts of species-specific RR plans that are nearly complete. The boat sticker legislation did not pass. Jay Baker introduced e Suedmeyer who is working on coordinating invasive species monitoring with volunteer groups, data management, and working on purple loosestrife. Jan Smith and Judy Pederson are postponing to 2007 a rapid response workshop. Salem Sound Coastwatch volunteers are monitoring ANS.
- Amy Smagula reported that the NH plan is nearly complete. There are nearly a half-dozen bills in the legislature to better fund ANS projects. The first summer of research grant projects is complete.

- Chuck O'Neill reported that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has revised its current plan. There hasn't been solid funding to implement the plan. A report will be delivered to the governor and legislature to help garner support for implementing the plan. The governor announced the availability of one million dollars for its eradication grant program. The NE water chestnut invader site (waterchestnut.org) is now online. Zebra Mussels are now in headwater lakes in the Susquehanna Basin. Tim provided a handout to the Panel.
- Mark Malchoff distributed handouts on Lake Champlain Sea Grant activities including the barrier project, the Adirondack Park ANS Management Plan, and a water chestnut workshop. Lisa Windhausen highlighted Lake Champlain Basin Management Plan implementation efforts. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is working on rapid response and challenged with jurisdictional issues relative to implementing a response.
- Andrea Locke reported on the alien invasive species strategy document that Environment Canada posted on their website. There is now significant funding available for ANS. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is working on Sea Lamprey control with the bulk of funding supporting monitoring and research. Canada is developing an AIS database. There is an alien species partnership fund that has issued an RFP.
- The Coast Guard (CG) released mandatory ballast water regulations. The CG is receiving about 9,000 reports each month. The Coast Guard is finding about 96% discharge compliance out of the 5% of the inspections that it performs. The CG is supporting research and working with the EPA at the naval yard in North Carolina.
- Bruce Thorpe reported on his Department's work on ANS. He works with the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Group. The 2005-2007 implementation strategy has been accepted and the national aquatic invasive council will be formed. NB working with the PEI and NS task groups.
- MIT is working with CT on an outreach grant with baitworms.
- The Coast Guard Auxiliary drafted a five-year plan in 2003 and has been implementing it for two years. Outreach is a major focus of the plan.
- Rhode Island established the Environmental Monitoring Collaborative. The RI Natural History is coordinating the ANS portion of the work. RI has completed a draft state management plan and should have a final version by next year. Kevin presented to the Union of Concerned Scientists on the importance of NAISA. An invasive species public relations day is planned for RI.
- The New England Invasive Plant Group and the New England Invasive Plant Atlas had 300 attendees at its September conference. The Silvio Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge is working on CT River watershed issues and have been working on water chestnut.
- The Passamaquoddy Tribe worked on surveys with Judy Pederson. A *Didendum* infestation was found in Cobscook Bay and may be a result of species brought to the Bay from the mid-Atlantic. A Japanese species of *Nori* was found in the Bay and in Long Island Sound.
- CT has completed a draft state management plan. Water chestnut and Hydrilla are challenges. Zebra mussels are in two lakes in CT. There are milfoil and fanwort management conflicts in respect to protecting endangered species. Different sturgeon species have been found in pet stores and there is concern over its potential effect on the native species. CT worked with the pet trade to prevent its sale in the state. CT submitted its draft plan for preliminary review. CT is working on a marine educator Sea Grant to expand the content of teacher student resources called "Nab the Aquatic Invader." EPA Long Island Sound office is interested in convening CT and NY to develop a joint management plan for the sound.

- The National Park Service is working on a two-team approach to help parks identify and manage invasive species. The teams also work on site restorations, primarily in terrestrial environments with some aquatic but (so far) no marine species. Acadia and University of RI groups will be working on marine species. Legislation is pending to be able to fund and provide assistance to groups outside of a park system.
- NOAA has found *Didendum* via its bottom surveys in two areas. It does not appear to be spreading
- The New England Aquarium (NEA) has a new Chief Executive Officer. The Aquarium will increase its research work. The Education Committee is working on a volunteer identification and monitoring program funded by a grant. NEA completed a project on endemic and exotic diseases in ice seals and will expand its work to whales (if NEA's projects are funded).

Other business and public comment period

No public comment was offered.

Committee meetings

Two co-chairs are needed for the Ballast Water Committee. One co-chair is needed for the Science and Technology Committee. John McPhedran provided direction to the committees in forming their work plans on the new Hydrilla focus as well as the likely funds available (\$5,000 per committee). The Panel discussed how it might use indicators to measure its success with Hydrilla. Jan indicated the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) does not have good or significant ANS indicators.

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

Communication, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Committee – Michael Hauser, Chuck O'Neill, and Amy Smagula

Mike, Chuck, and Amy continue to serve as the Committee's tri-chairs.

Policy and Legislation (PL) Committee – Anne Monnelly and Susannah King

Anne and Susy continue to serve as co-chairs. They have a near-final draft of the May workshop proceedings and invited those interested to submit any further comments before the document is printed.

Science and Technology (ST) Committee – Jay Baker and Scott Weber

Scott Weber has stepped forward to succeed Jim Straub as co-chair. Jan Smith will be working with Jay to prepare for when he steps aside. John McPhedran will serve as special advisor to the committee.

Shipping Committee (SH) (the committee formerly known as Ballast Water) – Erik Beck
Prior to this meeting, Erik had tendered his resignation as co-chair but will remain an active member. The committee is now called the Shipping Committee. Kevin Cute has agreed to serve as one of the co-chairs and others considering the other co-chair position including Andrea Locke or Keith Ward, Peter Francisco, or another US Coast Guard First District representative.

Action item: Committees will send to Michele Tremblay their co-chair appointments so that she may update the database, list serves, Steering Committee distribution list, and other media.

Action item: Michele Tremblay will re-send to the committee co-chairs their 2004-2005 work plans so that they can update the documents for 2005-2006. She will include guidance on submitting internal funding proposals.

Action item: Committees will complete their 2005-2006 work plans and internal funding proposals and email them to Michele Tremblay no later than December 15. The Steering Committee will review, discuss, and make decisions during an early 2006 conference call.

Action item: based on the information that the Committees provide, Michele Tremblay will update their listserves and send them standard introductory/opt-out text that the co-chairs can email their subscribers.

Early Detection Rapid Response initiative – Jay Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Susan Park, who has been working on the initiative, is on leave. The methodology was created after researching a number of models and adapting their best features. Jay reported that the framework is nearly complete and that now is a good time to focus on a pilot species. The NEANS Panel website will contain a sightings reporting tool. The taxonomist network is now being developed with agreements for the scientists Priority species criteria or risk assessment process to determine if an early detection-rapid response procedure is merited for each new species. A guide to high-risk species analysis is in process. A case study on Hydrilla and other species such as Snakehead may follow. A links to species webpage list has been developed to show states and provinces how each other is handling invaders. The control technologies webpage is also posted. There is some discomfort on the risk assessment methodology. The initiative approach is to provide resources. Alternatives should be offered in the form of links to the resources. Prioritizing control programs was suggested as a next step. Department of Fisheries and Oceans is forming an office of risk assessment with three full-time staff and will perform their own surveys as well as advise on those performed in other areas.

NEANS Panel Implementing Rapid Response to Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Northeast: Key Components of a Successful Program workshop update – Susannah King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and Anne Monnelly, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Michele Tremblay has completed the proceedings draft. After the final edits are completed, the document will be printed and distributed to workshop participants. The document will be posted on the NEANS Panel website.

Spotlight on Species: Hydrilla

John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection presented, *The Party's Over: Maine Confronts Hydrilla*. Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation provided an overview on Hydrilla prevention and eradication efforts in Massachusetts. Jeff Schardt, FL Department of Environmental Protection presented *Florida's Aquatic Plant Management Program* with a focus on the state's early detection-rapid response and risk assessment experiences with prevention and control technologies.

Public comment period and other business

No public comment was offered.

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