



Spring 2002 NEANS Panel meeting. May 7& 8, 2002, Brattleboro, VT.

Panel Co-Chairs: Susan Snow Cotter (MA, Coastal Zone Management) and Tim Sinnott (NY, Department of Environmental Conservation)

Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:

Policy and Legislation: Kevin Cute (RI, Coastal Resources Management Council) and Jennifer Hunter (NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission)

Communication, Education and Outreach: Nancy Balcom (CT, Sea Grant) and Chuck O'Neil (NY Sea Grant) (Not present)

Science and Technology: Jim Straub (MA, Department of Environmental Management) and Judith Pederson (MIT Sea Grant)

Panel Staff: Michele Tremblay (naturesource communications) (mlt@naturesource.net) and Lara Gibson (Ecology Action Centre) (eac_ans@istar.ca)

Participants:

Panel Members:

Mike Balaban (Transport Canada Marine Safety), Olga Guza (US EPA), Willard Harman (NY State Federation of Lakes Associations), Michael Hauser (VT, DEP), Sandra Keppner (USFW), Lisa Kline (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), Donald MacLean (USFW), John McPhedran (ME, DEP), Wayne Millington (National Park Service), Heather Potter (The Nature Conservancy), Michelle Robinson (MA, Department of Environmental Management), Amy Smagula (NH Department of Environmental Services), Jan Smith (MA Bays National Estuaries Program),

Interested Parties:

Jason Baker (MA, CZM), Jennifer Ford (Ecology Action Centre), Anne Monnelly (MA, DEP), Shannon Weigle (MA Bays National Estuary Program)

May 7th, 2002

1. Welcome, Susan Snow-Cotter, Tim Sinnott

The participants were welcomed to the meeting by the co-chairs. The group is growing and evolving and a lot has already been done to address aquatic nuisance species (ANS) issues in the Northeast. Tim presented a cartoon movie of a watermilfoil invasion. This is an initiative developed by New York for a future "ANS Impacts" web site. It illustrates the impact of an invasion and they are hoping that it will be an effective educational tool.

The Panel hosted a workshop at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April. It was attended by about twenty to thirty people including five state fisheries chiefs. The workshop gave participants a good overview of Aquatic Nuisance Species issues in the Northeast as well as information about the Northeast ANS Panel.

There was one major change to the agenda, no Canadian Federal update was given due to a last minute cancellation.

2. US Federal Update, Don MacLean

2a) Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Update

The new strategic plan has been approved and a new structure has been put into place. The strategic plan will be put out for public review soon. The plan currently is focused on prevention, monitoring and control and will now put a greater emphasis on preventions and add research and education.

The ANS Task Force is debating if they need to meet as frequently, the next meeting is currently scheduled for July, but it may be moved to the fall.

Changes to the Task Force structure were undertaken because there is currently a bottleneck and action items are not getting done in a timely fashion. To address this the Task Force have added a layer of working groups between the committees and the Task Force executive. The working groups will act as a filter and will allow the Task Force to ensure action items are completed.

2b) State ANS Management Plan Program

This is a program which gives funding to states with ANS management plans. In 2002 ten states and one tribal organization participated on seven plans. It is hoped that as more states complete management plans funding for the program will increase.

2c) National Invasive Species Act (NISA) Reauthorization

Currently NISA only covers unintentional introductions and does not cover intentional introductions. This has been identified as an area to be addressed during the reauthorization.

Allegra Cangelosi is coordinating efforts between state and federal agencies and stakeholders. She will prepare a draft of items presented by stakeholders. A sponsor for the bill has been found and she is working on finding a co-sponsor. Only a few new England representatives have signed onto the bill.

*Any suggestions on NISA reauthorization should be sent to Allegra Cangelosi
acangelo@nemw.org

2d) Invasive Species Council (ISC) Update

This is a multi agency group that addresses all invasive species issues (the ANS Task Force is the aquatic arm of the council). The council has elected new members and has been reconstituted. Members have been broken up into task teams and are working to address action items in the plan. All federal agencies have been consulted about their progress on the action items. To address a question from the floor it was suggested that regional panels have not interacted directly with the council in the past but there is no reason why this could not happen.

2e) Ballast Water

The US Coast Guard (USCG) has released a report on ballast water research priorities that is available from Mary Pat McKeown (mmckeown@comdt.uscg.mil). The Seaway Convention listed ballast water exchange as an interim measure and it requires any treatment technologies to be as good or better than ballast water exchange. However, no standard has been set for what is as good as ballast water exchange. USCG is trying to establish this standard. Comments on report should be address to Rich Everett (202) 267-0214 by no later than June 3, 2002.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) and Maritime Administration (MARAD) have put out a call for proposals on research into ballast water technologies. They have 2.1 million in funds to look at projects in the Chesapeake Bay area and Great Lakes, other areas may also be eligible if the technology could benefit or apply to the Chesapeake Bay area. MARAD has offered use of their ships for experiments and may designate one ship to be exclusively used for testing ballast water experiments. More information on this call for proposals can be found at <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/research.nonindigenous/>

Judith Pederson pointed out that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is also dealing with ballast water issues and have a code of practices.

*She will send this document out on the NEANS Panel listserv.

3. Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers outreach campaign, Sharon Ruston

Sharon Ruston gave an overview of this campaign which was initiated and funded by USFW. It is a fairly new campaign; they have been working since the fall to develop the logo and slogan to be used. The campaign is focused on and will be marketed to specific recreational users, boaters both motorized and not motorized, scuba divers, and swimmers. The logo is a stop sign with the outline of a boat carrying ANS, being pulled out of the water, in either red and white or black and white. Listed underneath this logo are four actions to be taken to prevent the transfer and spread of ANS. It is intended that the logo and text will always be placed together on educational material. Campaign organizers are hoping that people will partner in and use the campaign. There is no cost to using the campaign material (logo and text) but the sponsoring agency will produce signs/ banners/ stickers. There is also a place for the sponsoring agency to add their logo.

The campaign is linked to a website- <http://www.protectyourwaters.net> The web site consists of five pages and profiles forty species. The profiles will state what the species are and what impacts they have. The site has an interactive component including a game based on the TV game show “Who wants to be a millionaire” titled “Who wants to be a fish biologist”. Participants will be challenged with 15 questions related to aquatic nuisance species.

The five pages on the website are:

The Homepage: This page is designed to catch visitors attentions through illustrations and text. Consideration has been made to ensure that the page does not take too long to download.

Prevention: This page will list the four general action items and then go into specifics by user groups.

Resources: This will list and link to other ANS websites, currently most of the web sites are technical.

News and Activities: Will post on site events that relate to recreational users. Including regional club activities (e.g. hitchhiker watch weekend, how to clean boats, how to add ANS issue to club display), and

FAQ's

To participate in the campaign states agencies/ groups need to fill out an application form. These are available from Joe Starinchak (joe_starinchak@fws.gov). Once the application has been completed and reviewed the group will be sent a CD with the graphics that can be placed on signs, banners, stickers, etc..

To measure the effectiveness of the campaign USFW will be working with a single state to do a model project. They then hope to strengthen the campaign by working with local partners (clubs and marinas, etc.) and broaden the initiative to be a national campaign. They are currently developing a general PSA that can be used to forward ANS issues while also increasing the campaign presence.

NY and Vermont have already started to adopt the campaign. Vermont is in the process of rebuilding some of the rest areas and will place Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers signage on permanent display. Panel members felt that the message will be more effective if it is universal.

*Any comments or ideas on the campaign should be sent to Joe Starinchak. (joe_starinchak@fws.gov).

^The CEO committee will be the formal link between the NEANS Panel and the campaign.

*The Panel will also encourage each state to have its own material.

4. **Boater Survey Results**, Mike Hauser

In early 2000 five states participated in a boater survey to measure the effectiveness of ANS education and the risk of recreational boaters as a vector. The survey found that 12.7 million boaters move frequently between US waters. Recreational boaters can have an impact through several vectors including hull fouling, epiphytic transfer, and water in boat and bait buckets. The survey looked at a variety of educational efforts (penalties, road checks, inspection programs, billboards, educational packages, info with fishing/ boating regulations, PSA's (free and paid for), free media coverage, conferences and workshops, fact sheets/ brochures) and measured their effectiveness.

Each state asked the same general questions but the species changed for each state. Vermont included Hydrilla which is not yet a problem in the state and for which there has been little in state educational efforts. This allowed them to have a sense of the level of baseline information on ANS. The response rate to the survey was 53%.

The survey found that the best ways to reach the public were newspapers, signs at the boat launch and information included with licenses. However, there are many interests that would like to include information with the licenses and groups need legislative support to make DMV include information. Most boaters were motivated by a desire to keep invasives out of 'my lake', personal responsibility, and signs at the access areas. Laws, regulations, fines, enforcement and websites were low motivators. 40% of boaters complied with preventative measures and most said they would like to be part of the solution and would take precautionary measures in the future. Reasons for not complying were not knowing what to do, did not boat on an infested waters, no boat washing facilities, exotics not a problem, it would not help and didn't have time (listed in decreasing percentage).

Any future management measures should show why prevention is important, tap into the desire to keep invasives out of 'my' lake, reinforce compliance with laws, be simple and consistent, and use universal guidelines.

Minnesota had a good response to ANS education because they threw a lot of different resources at it including media coverage, PSAs, brochures, watch cards, stickers, posters, inspection decals, billboards, and windshield flyers.

The survey cost \$7,500/ state and Michigan bore additional administrative costs. As more states participate, the cost per state will decrease.

5. Panel Business

5a) Membership.

The steering committee and staff have spent a lot of time on this and have made some progress. The Panel is still weak in industry involvement and Canadian participation.

Since not all panel meetings will be of direct relevance interesting to all potential industry representatives, it was suggested that a list of representatives be maintained. These individuals will be kept in the loop and we will ensure their presence when an issue that affects their industry is addressed.

^This proposal was accepted by The Panel.

There has been much follow up with suggested Canadian members. It was suggested that the Canadian Coast Guard should also be invited to sit on The Panel, as they are responsible for recreational boats. In order to promote participation The Panel will consider more strategic meeting locations (including the possibility of a spring meeting in Canada).

*Canadian Coast Guard will be invited to participate in The Panel.

* Staff will continue to try and contact appropriate individuals and have them sit on The Panel and have those that have expressed interest to sign onto the listserv.

*The Panel will promote itself at Coastal Zone Canada, the International Joint Commission meeting and the Canadian chapter of the Lakes Association.

*Amy Smagula will contact the Canadian chapter of the Lakes Association.

5b) Leadership

At the first Panel meeting in November interim leaders were elected to co-chair The Panel and to head up the sub-committees. A call for nominations was given on the first day and as no expression of interest had been voiced on the second day, the current leadership was acclaimed. It was decided that there would be no terms set at this time, until The Panel was up and running. The leadership is as follows;

Panel Co-Chairs Susan Snow- Cotter and Tim Sinnott

Policy and Legislation- Kevin Cute and Jennifer Hunter

Communication, Education and Outreach- Chuck O'Neil and Nancy Balcom

Science and Technology- Jim Straub and Judy Pederson

6. Subcommittee Meetings

In the afternoon the subcommittees broke up into working groups. Each group was charged with following tasks; an update on committee progress/ priorities, brainstorm/ revise workplans, designate leads/ staff for each project, rough out strategies/ fundraising needs, identify committee gaps and discuss committee internal communications.

May 8th, 2002

7. Sub-committee updates

7a) CEO

i. 2 page fact sheet, Nancy Balcom lead

The target audience for the fact sheet is legislators, congress and agencies. The aim is to have it printed by June 2002. Committee members made revision suggestions that will be incorporated before the printing.

*All jurisdictions are asked to supply a bullet ASAP on impacts or fact about their state or province.

ii. Brochure, Nancy Balcom lead

The sub-committee would like to produce an eight page brochure based upon the 'Threats to the West' model. This would be a good tool for educators and staff. The brochure will focus on the NE and NE organisms, especially potential invaders and will have a strong focus on prevention.

*Any candidate species you would like profiled should be sent to Nancy Balcom (nancy.balcom@uconn.edu).

*Panel members felt that a mailing list should be developed and maintained.

iii. Website, Jay Baker lead

The website is now up and running. The main address is <http://www.northeastans.org> but it can also be accessed at <http://www.neans.org> and <http://www.neanspanel.org>. The later two addresses point to the main address. The web site consists of;

The Home Page- has general information on The Panel,

About The Panel- contains the mission statement, goals, and geographic scope of panel,

What Are Invaders- taken from back page of fact sheet,

Calendar- lists meetings, minutes, and events,

What's new- used to highlight important information,

Resources- any information specific to the region, brochures that can be downloaded.

The monthly digest of interesting information and events will be placed here as well.

Jay Baker will continue to flesh out the website and then will turn over maintenance and upkeep to Panel staff. He has prepared an upkeep and maintenance document which he will send out to The Panel via the listserv. Subcommittees should submit updates, to Jay (jason.baker@state.ma.us), once a month and any updates for overlapping committees will be dealt with by the steering committee. All authors submitting material to the webpage should ensure that there is no copyrighted material contained in their submission.

*Jay Baker will send out the upkeep and maintenance document to The Panel

^There was some discussion by Panel participants on the posting of PowerPoint presentations. This matter was turned over to the website committee.

*It was also requested that statistics on website traffic be collected. Spider hosting should be capable of tracking how many hits, the entry and exit page of visitors and their Internet host. The web committee will look into compiling these statistics and will present a report on an annual basis.

*All calendar items should go to Lara Gibson, eac_ans@istar.ca. These should include the name of the event, the name of the contact person, date and location of the event and web page.

*All other items for the webpage should go to Jay Baker (jason.baker@state.ma.us).

* The website committee will look at the issue of reciprocal links. Jennifer Hunter will work with Jay to get the NEANS webpage linked to other pages.

*It was suggested that the CEO committee develop a media page for the website.

iiia) Internal communications

A discussion was raised on how Panel members were to keep in contact. The website is good for completed action items, the listserv for updates on progress of action items, but cannot handle large attachments and if you have an issue that has to be dealt with quickly, phone calls. Michele reminded people not to be afraid to subscribe to The Panel's listerv. Messages on the list are moderated so there will not be any spam. To subscribe to the lists send an e-mail to: neanspanel-subscribe@topica.com (general Panel information)

neansceo-subscribe@topica.com (Communication, Education and Outreach committee)

neanspc-subscribe@topica.com (Policy and Legislation committee)

neansst-subscribe@topica.com (Science and Technology committee)

neanswebsite-subscribe@topica.com (Website subcommittee)

neansdatabase-subscribe@topica.com (Database subcommittee).

Members have to use the system to make it work. If problems with subscription linger, the steering committee will deal with it.

iiiv. Identify databases of existing resources, Sandy Keppner lead

The committee had compiled a list of existing educational resources as part of their action items. The Invasive Species Council (ISC) is also doing this, so Sandy Keppner will contact them and see if they can collaborate. This list will allow the committee to pursue adoption of any material that could be used in this region.

*Sandy Keppner will contact ISC

v. Boost Congressional support for reauthorization, co-chairs will take lead

The committee would like to work with Allegra Cangelosi and the policy and legislation (PL) committee to boost congressional support. The Communication, Education and Outreach (CEO) committee would like to have a plan on how to get more signatures in the next few months. They may use the fact sheet and briefings to promote ANS issues. They aim to have identified 1 person/ state to coordinate efforts.

vi. Work with Joe Starinchak to promote use of national campaign material/ travelling displays.

*Mike Hauser to liaise with Joe Starinchak.

vii. Develop (email) media contact list

These lists may have already have been developed. The following people have agreed to send their media lists to Michele Tremblay (mlt@naturesource.net)

*NY- Tim Sinnott

*VT- Mike Hauser

*NE- John McPhedron,

*Canadian Provinces- Susan Snow Cotter

*MA- Susan Snow Cotter

*NH- Michele Tremblay

*CT- Nancy Balcom

*RI- Kevin Cute

viii. ANS Video, Mike Hauser lead

The committee will review the video “Stop Aquatic Invaders” for applicability to NE. The subcommittee expressed some concerns over how useful videos are.

ix. Consider new education targets/ Mechanism/ Grant opportunity, to be taken on by all e.g. the Fish and wildlife water garden fact sheet

Gaps: The committee identified the nursery trade, bait industry, sportsmen groups (anglers, tournaments, regattas), and boating industry as membership gaps in their committee.

Funding Requirements: The subcommittee would like funds to hire a graphic designer and for printing costs. The initial run should be about 10,000 copies.

7b) Policy and Legislation

I. Power Point Presentation

Kevin presented the power point presentation he had developed for the NEANS Panel and asked for comments from the group.

*Any additional comments should be sent to k_cute@crmc.state.ri.us

*Jennifer Ford (EAC) will send a copy of Tony Ricciardi paper on the potential extinction of a freshwater clam because of a zebra mussel invasion to Kevin

ii. List of regulations

Shannon Weigle has compiled a list of ANS regulations by state. The majority of the information was obtained from the Environmental Law Institute. The spreadsheets are still in rough shape and data for some states and Canadian provinces is still missing. The group would like the list to be comprehensive and used as a tool. Aim to post on the resources page of the website in about a month.

*Any additional information should be sent to Shannon.Weigle@state.ma.us within the next month.

From this the group would like to develop a 'how to' guide for states to put together management plans.

iii. Beefing up Canadian participation. Kevin and Mike B will take lead

The committee would like to identify a few Canadian presenters to promote NEANS in Canada.

iii. Focus on NISA, Susan Snow-Cotter lead

*Susan will arrange a conference call with Allegra. Will also work to identify key staff for current signatories.

iv. Items to be elevated to Task Force

There are three issues that should be elevated to the national Task Force. a) the issue of ballast water exchange on the eastern seaboard. b) Internet trade and c) a reworking of the ANS species definition.

Funding Requirements: The committee would like limited travel funds.

7c) **Science and Technology**

This committee had a slow start and found that the action items they outlined in November were broader than what they could handle. In the FY03's work plan a total of six tasks were developed.

i. Prepare a list of ANS species

The group will compile a list of ANS species from various sources for fresh and salt water, along with the criteria used to develop these lists. The subcommittee will then review the criteria used in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) list for ANS list. This will help them develop a "Watch List" along with the criteria needed to place a species on this list. They plan on completing Macrophytes in the first year and animals in the second year.

As this list progresses they will maintain a list of ANS contacts in the various States and Provinces to be used as information sources.

The final list can be placed on the resources page of the web site and given to the CEO committee for use in educational endeavors.

ii. Data Base

The Science & Technology Panel will act as a technical review body for the database that is being developed currently by MA CZM's Jay Baker. Construction of the database is being contracted out. The contractor will develop the structure of the database, ensure it is compatible with Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre (SERC) and the US Geologic Survey (USGS) and begin to populate the database.

The foundation data sets for the database will be from the RI and MA rapid assessment. Information in the database will be linked to GIS, spatial mapping. The database will be placed in the large CZM ocean resources database and be linked to the NEANS web site which will allow it to be queried. The database currently has a marine focus but the intention is to broaden its scope to the regional scale and to incorporate freshwater datasets.

* Copies of scope of work document can be obtained from Jay Baker, and comment on the database should be addressed to Jay as well.

*If you know of any additional coastal species database, please forward their location to Jay Baker (jason.baker@state.ma.us)

*Jay will ensure the database can be modified to encompass freshwater ANS

iii. Identify Research/ Pertinent topic issues

The committee will solicit input to identify questions about new technology, research areas, etc. Along with this they will compile list of "experts" to address the questions identified.

iv. Ballast Water

A workshop on Ballast water will be held in September, Judith Pederson is the contact person for this. The workshop will present the results of a survey of industry on technological solutions for ballast water. The workshop will allow a dialogue with industry.

*Any shipping contacts should be sent to Judith Pederson (jpederso@mit.edu)

The committee will also monitor new technology and keep The Panel informed of advances through the listserv.

v. Rapid Response

The committee will begin compiling Rapid Response Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) programs from other organizations and determine if there are teams in place for rapid response. Will then design a basic outline for a Regional Rapid Response and distribute these guidelines to the region and assist each organization with modifying these basic guidelines to their programs.

vi. Review Vector and Best Management Practices (BMP) list

Science and Technology committee members have begun to review the vector BMP list prepared by Jennifer Hunter for scientific merit. Vector will be ranked for priority to address. Individuals have agreed to research vectors and BMP and make

additions / changes where needed. Upon completion the BMP document will be given to the CEO committee.

Funding Requirements: ST would like funds to hire two interns.

8. Panel Business

8a) By-laws

The Panel is in need of a by-laws document or SOP's. A document will be drafted and in place by next year.

*Tim and Amy will draft a document for review by the steering committee.

*Models or examples of by-laws should be sent to Tim (txsinnot@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

8b) Panel Budget

Travel funds have been identified by the subcommittees as desirable. Co-chairs had been resisting setting up travel allowances; however, a small discretionary fund could be established and used if request meets a 'need' criteria.

*The steering committee will determine the criteria for travel.

Subcommittees have also requested funds for interns. Each subcommittee will be given \$5,000 to hire an intern.

* Each committee needs to work out a scope of work and present it to the steering committee by June 7th. The position will then be advertised through the Gulf of Maine Association.

The Science and Technology committee would like to establish a small fellowship to help with equipment costs.

*Judith Pederson will draft wording for fellowship and give it to Tim to place in the SOP document.

8c) Meetings

To help reduce Panel costs we would like to ask each Panel member to host meeting and absorb costs for meeting space and food. The Panel will maintain a reserve fund to ensure adequate meeting facilities, etc. MA will host the fall meeting in conjunction with a workshop on bioinvasions to be held at the New England Aquarium. Some Panel members felt this system may create more administration hassles. Panel members agreed to try this system and can re-evaluate if it becomes cumbersome.

^Will work with Canadian agencies to try to host spring meeting in Canada.

9. Vector Study, Shannon Weigle

This study looked at the risk associated with vectors other than ballast water, for all non-indigenous species in marine systems. The study started by identifying all high-risk traits within a pathway that might lead to an invasion. It was found that pathways within vectors were complex. The seafood industry had the most opportunity for direct releases, however all industries were using species of concern. Shannon suggest that there is a need for pathway specific approaches to risk management.

For the pet industry the focus should be on educating owners. Shannon suggested that a brochure be handed out to pet owners advising them of the risks when a species of concern is bought. The brochure could highlight risks and list disposal methods, perhaps in conjunction with a program to bring back unwanted species of concern?

10. Roundtable Discussions

This was a forum in which Panel members could highlight activities that the agency/ group is undertaking.

10a) MA Bays National Estuaries Program, Jan Smith (jan.smith@state.ma.us)

Several National Estuary Programs (NEP) in New England were funded by the EPA to undertake a RAP of intertidal sediments. The NEP will also be hosting a regional workshop on bioinvaders on November 14 & 15 at the NE Aquarium. The finalized agenda will be out by July. The tentative program consists of presenting regional science and research needs on the first day and management issues on the second day.

10b) Transport Canada, Mike Balaban, (balaban@tc.gc.ca)

Transport Canada has a mandate to regulate all commercial ships. This includes inspecting and approving ship design plans and regulating ballast water. In 1990 the guidelines for the Great Lakes were updated and extended to other Canadian waters. Out of this a committee of Transport Canada (TC), Canadian Coast Guard (CG), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and all other stakeholder including shipping industry, port authorities, oil handling and NGO's was set up on the east coast. The committee meets twice a year in person and on conference calls throughout the year. The primary objective of the committee was to identify and list exchange zones. The Laurentian channel was already listed as an alternate exchange zone for the Great Lakes that could be used in emergencies. Transport Canada funded studies on vessel traffic and shipping patterns (this found most traffic came from the Eastern seaboard of US), physical oceanography and ballast water sampling (This identified that the Bras D'Or lakes are vulnerable to ANS and could foster an invasion).

The majority of the Atlantic Canada Sub-Committee on Ballast Water are opposed to using the Laurentian Channel as an exchange zone. From the mandatory reporting forms they found that most ships that are using the Laurentian Channel are coming from Eastern seaboard. Only 12 ships reported using the area due to safety or weather concerns. As well, ship are currently told not to exchange their ballast in American coastal areas but to use the Canadian alternative exchange zone (the Laurientian Channel). This is a displacement of risk from American to Canadian waters.

Reporting forms are being input into a database that can be used by scientists and policy makers. From this it was found that most ships were compiling with reporting requirements, those that were not were engaged in the north-south traffic.

There is recognition that this problem transcends natural boundaries and needs to be addressed at the international level. Transport Canada is hoping to re-start the dialogue with the US Counterparts and will also encourage other stakeholders to be involved with the NEANS Panel.

Canadian ballast water regulations are being drafted and will be brought into line with US regulations. At the international level, the IMO is drafting the ballast water convention and should have the drafting process completed in the next few years.

Environment Canada is responsible for the Canadian national guideline for other vectors, and hopefully a presentation on this can be made at the next meeting.

10c) Ecology Action Centre, Lara Gibson (eac_ans@istar.ca)

The Committee On Marine Bioinvaders at the ecology action center is fairly active and mainly run by volunteers. The proceedings from the workshop they held last May are now out. If you are interested in a copy please contact Lara Gibson (eac_ans@istar.ca).

They have submitted a proposal to set up harbour monitoring based upon the SERC example of settling plates, hull inspections and ballast tank sampling. As well they are undertaking outreach activities, they have produced a brochure on ballast water to be handed out to ships and would like to develop a traveling display in the form of a 'bioinvader bus'.

10d) NOAA, Michelle Harman (michelle.Harman@noaa.gov)

NOAA is leading a project on aquatic invasive species of common concern with the CEC (Commission for Environmental Cooperation). An initial international workshop was held a year ago in which five priorities were identified by representatives from all sectors within Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. The first priority to be addressed will be for the three countries to identify their priority pathways of introduction. Based on the pathways identified, criteria will be developed to assist in the identification of invasive species of common concern to all three countries. A workshop to finalize the species and pathways lists will be held by the end of the year. The entire project is scheduled for six to seven years.

10e) Maine, John McPhedron (John.McPhedron@state.me.us)

The invasive species program in the state is new and to help with fundraising, they developed a lake and river protection inspection sticker. The sticker will cost a surcharge of \$10 for in state licenses holders and \$20 for out of state. The sticker only applies to motorized boats. Lots of people were upset about the program, and John will report back on the initiative.

Maine has had a Task Force to guide development of its ANS plan. The plan focuses on control and prevention. Maine is now working on developing resources and would like a strong educational component of program including brochures, PSA's,

postcard to boat owners and out of state license owners. They might participate in some control projects including hand pulling and bottom barriers.

10f) MIT Sea Grant, Judith Pederson (jpederso@mit.edu)

The 3rd MBI Conference will be held March 17-19 2003, in San Diego. Call for abstract will be put out soon.

She is organizing a workshop on ballast water, will talk to Mike B about collaboration (see note in Science and Technology update).

The hitchhikers guide to aquatic species almost ready. It is currently being peer reviewed, before going to press. Publication will include a self-postage postcard to encourage people to submit specimens. Participants will be asked to send in the card and a specimen, either a herbarium page, or preserved in alcohol. They have a researcher lined up to go through specimens.

10g) New Hampshire, Amy Smagula (asmagula@des.state.nh.us)

They have put out their 3-year annual report which has a summary of program activities. If you would like a copy e-mail Amy

10h) The Nature Conservancy, Heather Potter (hpotter@tnc.org)

The Nature Conservancy has been engaged in a effort to identify the full set of places that, if protected, would capture the full range of our biological diversity. This has expanded the organization's focus to include not only rare and endangered species, but also common and representative species, the full range of natural communities and ecological systems that sustain these species and natural communities. This process is known as ecoregional planning, and is being conducted throughout the US and in countries where the Conservancy works. In addition to identifying important places for conservation, ecoregional planning also identifies threats to the species, natural communities and ecological systems that are targeted. The threat of invasive species has emerged as a critical threat, and is second only to habitat loss and fragmentation from a range of development pressures. This has resulted in the Conservancy making a commitment to address the threat of invasives at multiple scales: organization wide (nationally and internationally), at regional levels (at the Conservancy's Divisional level), at state levels, and also at the local level. Ann Bartuska has been hired as the executive director of the Conservancy's Invasives Initiative and will spearhead work at the national and international level. At the Northeast regional level, staff leads have not yet been determined, though the issue of invasives has been identified as a high priority. Until relatively recently, the bulk of the organization's work to abate threats from invasive species have been locally focused on control of species - and most often on control of terrestrial plants. This is changing as the Conservancy also seeks to identify and implement strategies for prevention, early detection and removal, and better coordination of efforts, resources and policy needs. The Conservancy's web site has many good resources about invasive species management that have been developed through the work of John Randall and others working on this issue.

10i) Michele Trembley (mlt@naturesource.net)

The New England Invasive Plant Group (NIPGro) would like to start relationship with the NEANS Panel. We are invited to be on their mailing list and can include a short blurb on the NEANS Panel in their first newsletter. This will be released shortly and so we need to act quickly.

*Michele will take lead.

In addition they maintain a slide library (both to borrow or lease right to), but it is restricted to plant species.

* It was suggested that NEANS may want to undertake the equivalent for animal species.

In the next year will be having a share fair. This is held every 2-3 year and is a gathering of educational materials that groups can share and swap. Examples of educational materials are also held at the headquarters in Turners Falls, for people to look at.

The digital plant atlas project is continuing, the plan is for the northeast invasive plant database to be searchable by individual states. Project should also give a better idea of spread of exotics. Have volunteers that will survey every quadrat in study area.

11. Summary of Action Items

*Comments for NISA reauthorization should be sent to Allegra Cangelosi (acangelo@nemw.org).

*Judith Pederson will submit the ICES code of practices for ballast water to The Panel listserv.

*Any comment on the 'Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers' campaign should be submitted to Joe Starinchak (joe_starinchak@fws.gov).

*Mike Hauser of the CEO committee will liaise with Joe Starinchak on the 'Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers' campaign and will order the production materials.

*The Panel will maintain a list of industry representatives to be invited to meeting when appropriate.

*The Canadian Coast Guard will be invited to sit on The Panel.

*Staff will continue to try and contact appropriate individuals to sit on The Panel, and will encourage all those who have expressed interest to be on the listserv.

*The Panel will promote itself at Coastal Zone Canada, and the International Joint Commission meeting.

*Amy Smagula will contact the Canadian chapter of lakes association.

*All jurisdictions are asked to submit a bullet ASAP on impact or facts about their state or province to Nancy Balcom (nancy.balcom@uconn.edu).

*Any candidate species you would like profiled in the 8 page brochure should be sent to Nancy Balcom (nancy.ba.com@uconn.edu).

*A mailing list to distribute educational materials should be developed and maintained (no lead or subcommittee have been identify for this).

*Jay Baker will send out the maintenance and upkeep document to The Panel via listserv.

*The website committee will address the posting of power point presentations to the resources page, the collection of visitor traffic statistics and reciprocal links.

- *All subcommittee updates and items for the webpage should be sent to Jay Baker (Jason.baker@state.ma.us).
- *All calendar items, including name, date, location of event, contact name and webpage should be sent to Lara Gibson (eac_ans@istar.ca).
- *Jennifer Hunter will work with Jay Baker to promote the linkage of the NEANS webpage to other pages.
- *It was suggested that the CEO committee develop a media page for the website.
- *Sandy Keppner will contact ISC about collaboration in the collection of educational materials.
- *Any additional comments on the NEANS power point presentation should be sent to (k_cute@crmc.state.ri.us).
- *Jennifer Ford will send a copy of a paper on the potential extinction of a freshwater mussel to Kevin Cute.
- *Any additional information on ANS regulation should be sent to Shannon Weigle (Shannon.Weigle@state.ma.us) by mid June.
- *The location of any coastal species databases should be sent to Jay Baker (Jason.baker@state.ma.us).
- *Jay Baker will ensure that the database can be modified to include freshwater species.
- *Any shipping contacts should be sent to Judith Pederson (jpederso@mit.edu).
- *Jim Straub will post a summary of the ST tasks on The Panel listserv.
- *Tim Sinnott and Amy Smagula will draft an SOP document within the next year, model or examples of by-laws should be sent to Tim (txsinnot@gw.dec.state.ny.us).
- *Judith Pederson will draft wording for fellowship to be placed in the SOP document.
- *Staff and steering committee will work with the Canadian agencies to attempt to host the spring meeting in Canada.
- *The NEANS Panel should build a slide library for invasive animal species (No lead identified).

12. Meeting ending

The next meeting will be held November 13th in conjunction with the regional bioinvaders workshop in Boston.