



PO Box 3019  
Boscawen, NH 03303  
603.796.2615 • [info@northeastans.org](mailto:info@northeastans.org)  
[www.northeastans.org](http://www.northeastans.org)

**Meeting Summary *Draft* • November 16-17, 2006**  
**Sheraton South Portland, South Portland, ME**

**Panelists in attendance:** Nancy Balcom, CT Sea Grant Extension Program; Ralph Bathelt, US Coast Guard Auxiliary; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Bill Harman, NY State Federation of Lake Associations; Charles Hernick for Jason Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Susannah King, NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Extension; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Les Mehrhoff, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England 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; Robert Reid, NOAA Fisheries, Howard Laboratory; Michelle Robinson, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; James Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Peter Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources; Bruce Thorpe, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture; and Scott Weber, New England Aquarium.

**Others present:** Cynthia Boettner, New England Invasive Plant Group; David Delaney, McGill University; Jenn Dykstra, University of NH; Susan Farady, The Ocean Conservancy; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Larry Harris, University of NH; Diane Gould, EPA; Charles Hernick, Sarah Kirn, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; NOAA Fellow at MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Leslie Matthews, Tonie Rocke, US Geological Survey; VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sarah Morriveau, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Beth Owen, ME Sea Grant College Program; Roxanna Smolowicz, Marine Biological Laboratory; James Stahlnecker, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Elizabeth Stephenson, ME Coastal Program; and Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager (naturesource communications).

**Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs** – Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program and Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ANS updates and Panel business:**

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- *NEANS Panel Business and May 2007 meeting scheduling* – Michele Tremblay. The May 2007 meeting rotation falls in the State of Connecticut. Michele will contact Nancy Balcom and Bill Hyatt to discuss meeting venues. Panelists and invasive friends will be asked to provide any possible date conflicts in response to an upcoming email polling that Michele will distribute via the [panel@northeastans.org](mailto:panel@northeastans.org) listserv.

**Action: Michele Tremblay will send a polling message to the NEANS Panel listserv asking for May 2007 meeting conflicts.**

**Action: Michele Tremblay will begin work on finalizing a date and securing a facility for the May 2007 meeting.**

- *ANS Task Force* – No one was present to provide an update. Judy and Michele participated in a regional panels meeting in Virginia earlier this month in. DETAIL. The NEANS Panel may wish to pursue other policy approaches vs. depending the ANSTF.  
The next ANSTF meeting will be held the week of May 7 in the Great Lakes Region.
- *Invasive Species Advisory Council* – No one was present to provide an update. The Panel posted the bulletin announcing that new members were recently appointed to the Council.
- *Election of Panel co-chair (marine interest)* – Jim asked for nominations for a marine interest who is willing to serve as NEANS Panel co-chair. Kevin Cute was nominated and duly elected. Kevin was congratulated and will serve until November 2008. Judy was honored for her work as a committed and hard-working co-chair for the past two years and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

**Action: Michele will update the listserves, website, and the ANS Task Force with the new Panel co-chair contact information.**

**Highlights from Maine** – John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), provided an update on freshwater programs. There were over 40,000 courtesy inspections conducted at boat ramps with several catches. A new infestation of variable milfoil, the first in two years, was documented just over the Maine border in New Hampshire in Great East Lake. No variable milfoil has since been detected there. The Hydrilla infestation in Limerick (first detected in 2002), has not been eradicated but is contained. A new system for diver assisted suction collection system has been developed. Mounted on a pontoon boat, the system collects plants in “onion bags.” A crew picks up fragments created during the suction process. A new mold has been created in Bath, Maine for the system. Groups are requesting additional resources for ANS control. There is a bill in the ME legislature to combine the ANS sticker program with the boater registration process. This would reduce administrative costs but there would no longer be a separate ANS sticker except for out-of-state boaters.

Pete Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) provided an update on marine initiatives including the Maine Marine Invasives Workshop. This partnership is looking at a number of risk issues including food distribution. Shannon Weigle is working as a contractor to analyze risks relative to non-shipping vectors. The volunteer diver-monitoring program is piloting dives in Maine with ME Department of Marine Resources and University of Maine. Beth Owen provided further detail including an outreach initiative and annual surveys. Because divers must be certified as university science divers, certification classes are being explored. Tunicates are among the target species. ME Department of Transportation divers are involved. Jim Stahlnecker, ME DEP has been working on ballast water and hull fouling. His agency is involved in permitting and has been working on a Best Management Practices (except for hull washing) document for marinas called *Brightwork*. Hull washing will be addressed through the permitting process. ME Sea Grant is reprinting its flyer. Elizabeth Stephenson reported on research and monitoring projects such as those for Asian Crab are being conducted including occurrence and abundance. The MEDMR online reporting system has not recently received many reports.

**Update on November 2006 social marketing workshop** – Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services and Michelle Robinson, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, co-chairs, Communication, Education, and Outreach Committee  
Amy and Michelle reported that Aceti Associates, Inc. facilitated the workshop yesterday. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment through their Internal Grants Program funded the workshop. The workshop participants broke into two groups, one focused on boaters and one on the pet trade. Each group worked to identify barriers to behavior change

and strategies and programs to overcome them. The grant closes December 15 at which time a final report and proceedings or other summary document and invoices will be completed and submitted to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

**Action: *The Communication, Education, and Outreach Committee will complete the workshop final documents and work with Michele so that the Panel can close the grant and be reimbursed for expenses.***

**Vital Signs** – Sarah Morrisseau, Vital Signs Program coordinator and Sarah L. Kirn, Vital Signs Program Manager, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Sarah Kirn provided an overview of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and its Vital Signs program. Vital Signs works with teachers and students in Maine. They are supplied with handheld computers on which they enter and upload data. This program can provide valuable early detection information.

### **Northeast ANS Roundtable**

Tim Preddice announced that New York State has provided grants and two-year contracts to eradicate invasive species. The NY legislature has provided \$1 million to fund invasive species programs. The multi-agency Invasives Species Task force has created a plan for monitoring, outreach and education, and management. A management coordinator will be selected this week. There are plans for an invasive species research center.

Nancy Balcom reported that the CT state plan is on the CTDEP Commissioner's desk. The EPA Long Island Sound Study awarded a grant to CT Sea Grant for several initiatives including invasive species. The objective of the initiative is to work with NYS on a Long Island Sound management Plan.

Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, reported that they held an Impacts of Alewife workshop earlier this year. He has copies of a CD-ROM report on *Lake Champlain Fisheries Habitat: A Primer for Lake Champlain Stakeholders* and *Aquatic Nuisance Species: A Primer for Lake Champlain Stakeholders*. Both files are available on the Lake Champlain Sea Grant website. A federal order was released in October limited the inter-basin movement of species in the Great Lakes region because of the spread of hemorrhagic septicaemia. Species from outside of the region can still be imported into the basin.

Les Mehrhoff reported that the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE ) continues together both terrestrial and aquatic information and update its database. Les distributed copies of IPANE's current invasive plant species list and solicited comments.

Charles Hernick provided an update on MA Office of Coastal Zone Management's (MACZM) early detection / rapid response efforts. MACZM has a new website for ANS including identification resources and links to MITIS and other tools. The Marine Invader Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC) has trained six groups in using a single protocol for monitoring.

Cynthia Boettner has been leading an effort to control water chestnut. They are monitoring and hand pulling the plant at 41 sites.

Ralph Bathelt reported that Coast Guard resources have been realigned so that the Auxiliary is working more on invasive species. There are grants supporting the production of materials and have been using Sea Grant resources.

Bill Harman reported that NYS Federation of Lake Associations has been working on several models including boat inspection and washing initiatives. Boaters are escorted to off-lake sites for inspection and high-pressure washing. Bilge disinfectant choices are also offered. There is water chestnut in the Susquehanna headwaters and rapid response efforts have been initiated with volunteer hand pulling and the use of 24D.

Bruce Thorpe, NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture reported that the Atlantic Zone Invasives Species Committee has been launched with leadership from Prince Edward Island and participation from other provinces. There is a new Bay of Fundy monitoring program with collectors throughout the region deployed to inventory invasive species. New species have been found including Violet Tunicate (*Botrylloides violaceus*) at a wharf in Cape Tormentine, NB—the species seems to be isolated in this area, Vase tunicate (*Ciona intestinalis*) found on collectors in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine, Golden Star Tunicate (*Botryllus schlosseri*) were also found in Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. These species were found during a quick initial analysis of collector plates. These species have not yet manifested themselves as a nuisance. Other species will likely be found during surveys. One freshwater species has been identified: Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and was first observed in Québec and has now been found in the Restigouche River in northern NB, adjacent to the Québec border.

Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provided updates on the *Didymosphenia geminata* ("Didymo," a diatom) invasion in the Restigouche River. The suspicion is that the organism was introduced into the river via contaminated waders. Participants can contact Andrea or Michele Tremblay for Benoît Limoges, the lead's contact information. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and a number of other Canadian and American agencies including the NEANS Panel, will be hosting the next International Invasive Sea Squirt conference which will include a taxonomic workshop and field trips in Brudenell, Prince Edward Island (where invasive tunicates are rampant) on October 2-4, 2007.

Kevin Cute, RI Resources Management Council, reported that Rhode Island's draft management plan has been completed. The Working Group will be convened in January. Kevin's agency will be hosting the NEANS Panel contract intern.

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, updated the Panel on the May 23-24, 2006 Marine Bioinvasions conference. A link is posted on the NEANS Panel website.

Jim Straub, Anne Monnelly, and Michelle Robinson, Conservation and Recreation updated the Panel on their new governor. There is proposed legislation that would set up a \$2 million grant program for prevention and management of aquatic invasive species, administered through MADCR. There has been an unconfirmed report of a zebra mussel sighting in MA in a boat engine that had been out of the water for over a year. MADCR will incorporate more stringent inspections into its boat ramp program. Other activities include MADCR managing the third year of their boat ramp program. Despite a very rainy season, 2283 surveys were collected by six ramp monitors rotating through thirteen ramps statewide. There were 123 saves (a "save" occurs when a non-native species is removed from a boat/trailer prior to its entering or leaving a water body). During 2004 and 2005 a total of 2,820 surveys were collected with 183 saves. DCR has collaborated for the past two years with the Department of Fish and Game Environmental Police and have had an invasive species tri-fold brochure included in with the boat registration renewal mailing that is sent to over 80,000 boaters.

There is \$80,000 from a recent mailing that they will be programming. This year two more water bodies reported new populations of Asian Clams (*Corbicula*) bringing the total of known infestations in MA to four. Also, there was a reported sighting of Flowering Rush (*Butomas umbellatus*) on Winter Pond. The Weed Watcher Program continues and this year 17 lake groups across the state participated in the Weed Watcher Program. Over 60 lake associations with approximately 600 volunteers have participated. The state, working closely with the town of Fairhaven, funded the successful treatment of the only known infestation of Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) in the Commonwealth. Post monitoring of the pond and public education will continue next year.

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, indicated that the Lake Host Program inspected 30,000 boats on 65 lakes. Three new infestations, two variable milfoil and one other species. Weed Watchers reported the infestations that are considered eradicated. The NH management plan is slated for completion in summer 2007. The research grant program is extended through May 2007. A NH legislative committee is promoting and enhancing invasive programs and is supportive of the \$5 million request that is in process.

Scott Weber, New England Aquarium (NEAQ), reported that a lionfish was captured off Rhode Island in Long Island Sound. Where 200-300 juveniles were found. They likely migrated from Gulf of Mexico waters. NEAQ is working on Bahamian conservation efforts where reef surveys are conducted.

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that the ANS Sub-committee is working on initiatives for the canal system. The spread prevention work group is working on initiatives including fishing tournament guidelines. A law enforcement training presentation is being developed along with an identification guide. The rapid response work group is drafting a plan for VT, NY, and QC. The Program was one of the Alewife workshop conveners.

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, indicated that a rapid response plan or the entire State of VT would likely build on the Champlain Basin Plan. In June, the VT Governor launched a voluntary (\$10) sticker program that will fund municipal ANS projects. An increase in known ANS has been seen including three additional Eurasian Milfoil sites. Four new water chestnut sites were treated with chemicals. Zebra Mussels were conformed in the Mississquoi Bay part of Lake Champlain. No new species were confirmed.

Robert Reid, NOAA, reported that it concentrated on lionfish and tunicate *Didemnum* in Georges Bank. First noticed in 2003, it covers about 88 square miles. In August, a survey indicated that the area had not increased but was denser in some drifts and could threaten fish stocks. Asian crabs, spider crabs, and sea urchins will eat dead *Didemnum*.

Wayne Millington, National Park Service, reported that it is finishing its vegetated mapping with groundtruthing conducted by The Nature Conservancy. One invasive plant management team in the PA/NJ border area is working in the Northeast region. Plans for each park will be drafted so that interpretive staff can explain the detrimental effects of invasive species.

Susan Farady, The Ocean Conservancy, reported that its work on invasives has primarily focused on her participation on the Maine Marine Invasives Work Group. Susan works on ecosystem and policy from the Portland office.

Diane Gould, EPA, works with the Casco Bay Program as its coordinator.

David Delaney, McGill University, has been trying to work on developing Quebec participation from those groups and agencies. He and Michele Tremblay will work on developing that participation.

**Action: Michele Tremblay will work with David Delaney to develop Québec participation.**

**Budget and possible fiscal agent change** – Judy Pederson indicated that the Panel is considering a change in its fiscal management. Currently, the US Gulf of Maine Association (the fiscal agent for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment) manages its funds but the arrangement is not inexpensive and the reporting is difficult for the Panel to decipher and manage. Judy proposed that the Panel amend its bylaws to include a treasurer who would work with contracted staff to manage the Panel's funds. If the Panel pursues becoming its own fiscal agent, it would first establish a trade name and become a registered organization in a state. It could then pursue incorporation and IRS tax-exempt status if it desired. There could be a savings with indirect and other costs.

John moved to add a Treasurer position to the bylaws and empower the Steering Committee to explore fiscal management options and create its own organization if necessary. Anne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Action: The Steering Committee will work with the ANS Program Manager to explore fiscal management options, draft enabling text to create a Treasurer position, and implement the necessary organization changes so that the Panel can manage its own funds.**

**NEANS Panel Five-year retrospective and five-year Strategic Plan** – Judy reported that the retrospective draft is nearly complete. The Steering Committee will refine the document and distribute it to the Panel for comments.

Jim and Judy guided the Panel through the Five-year Plan draft. The current draft includes overarching strategies/approaches, priority ranking, and resources. Both NEANS Panel committees during their breakout sessions and Panelists representing their agencies and organizations should provide comments on the draft Strategy.

**Action: Michele will distribute to the Panel via its listserv the Strategic Plan draft and a subsequent reminder on December 1. Panelists should send comments to Michele Tremblay by December 15, 2006.**

**NEANS Panel bylaws amendment** – Michele introduced the proposed bylaw amendments that would enable the Treasurer position and provide guidance on how it would manage the Panel's financial issues.

Scott moved to accept the proposed bylaw amendments. Bill Harman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Action: Michele will finalize the amended bylaws document, post it to the Panel website, and announce its posting via the website.**

**Volunteer monitoring Workshop update** – Charles Hernick, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Charles updated the Panel on the NEANS Panel workshop held in October. Questions from the workshop include:

How can or should the Panel support the use of a regional standard volunteer monitoring protocol a how can the Panel support the use of regional tools?

**Committee updates (committees will be preparing and submitting detailed work plans. Please visit [northeastans.org](http://northeastans.org) for further details).**

*Communication, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Committee* – Michelle Robinson and Amy Michelle Robinson

Karen Hahnel will be succeeding Amy Smagula as CEO Committee co-chair, serving with Michelle Robinson.

***Action: Michele will update the Steering Committee listserve and CEO website with its co-chair changes.***

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

The committee has focused on the proclamation and presented its fourth draft version. The proclamation would be signed by the Governors of the six New England states and New York and the Premiers of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Québec. The proclamation should focus on supporting the Panel’s regional approach with the pilot project. The Panel decided that the proclamation should reference the state plans vs. that of a regional plan. The contacts for provinces and states are as follows:

CT	Bill Hyatt	NY	Tim Preddice
MA	Anne Monnelly	PE	Neil McNair
ME	John McPhedran	QC	David Delaney*
NB	Bruce Thorpe	RI	Kevin Cute
NH	Amy Smagula	VT	Ann Bove
NS	Andrea Locke*		

\*these individuals will not necessarily be the contact but will help the Panel identify the appropriate staff/contact

This proclamation should be considered a first step to build federal support. Showing that the provinces and states have signed the proclamation can be a tool to then go to the federal agencies and ask them to sign a resolution of support.

***Action: The Policy and Legislation Committee will incorporate into the draft proclamation the Panel’s comments and distribute via its listserve the next draft.***

*Science and Technology (ST) Committee* – Jan Smith and Scott Weber

Scott outlined the work plan for the ST Committee.

*Shipping Committee (SH)* – Kevin Cute and Andrea Locke

The Committee isn’t directly involved with the Hydrilla pilot. Its work will be implemented through its contract intern.

***Action: All committees will email to Michele Tremblay their completed work plans.***

### **Spotlight on Species: Invasive and their role in infectious disease**

Scott Weber, New England Aquarium facilitated a session discussing the role of infectious diseases relative to invasive species. Presenters were Tonie Roche, US Geological Survey on avian vacuolar myelinopathy and its association with introduced aquatic vegetation; Roxanna Smolowitz, Woods Hole Oceanography Institute, parasitic effects on oysters; and Andrea Locke; Malpeque to MSX: links between disease and non-indigenous species in Atlantic Canada.

### **Other business and public comment period**

There were no comments from the public.

***Action: Panelists and friends should send their suggestions on future “Spotlight on Species” sessions including that for May 2007.***

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