



Fall Meeting
Albany, New York



NEANS

**NORTHEAST AQUATIC
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL**



December 2-3, 2015



Conference call and webinar access for December 2-3, 2015 meeting

Dear NEANS Panelists and ANS friends,

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Access includes the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Steering Committee, Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel general session, and Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council board of directors meetings.

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If you cannot travel to the meeting or participate remotely, I will be posting presentations (where presenter permissions are provided to me) at <http://www.northeastans.org/panel-members.html>, where your briefing book is posted. Please be sure to take a moment to click on the meeting forum link for the Fall 2015 meeting: <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates/> and add your update.

Should you encounter any difficulties, please call me at the number below or email me. I will endeavour to respond as I am able during the meeting.

Safe travels, keyboarding, and dialing.

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Michele L. Tremblay

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NEANS Panel • December 2015 meeting participants

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**NEANS Panel Meeting with Steering Committee
and NEANS Council Meetings**

December 2-3, 2015

*New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation | Room 919
625 Broadway, Albany, NY*

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 | Panel Steering Committee

**11:00 PM Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Steering Committee
meeting**

*Meeting materials transmitted to Steering Committee members under
separate cover*

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015 | Panel Steering Committee and general session
meetings**

**1:00 PM Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting
agenda, and updates by Co-chair**

*Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, Alicia
Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, co-chairs*

ANS updates and Panel business:

- May 2015 meeting summary and August 2015 call summary acceptance – Amy and Alicia
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in February 2016 – Amy, Alicia, and Michele Tremblay
- November 2015 meeting in Connecticut, Québec, or Rhode Island – Amy, Alicia, and Michele
- 2015-2016 NEANS Panel budget update – Meg Modley, Treasurer
- ANS Task Force November 2015 meeting update including status of NEANS Panel recommendations – Don MacLean, Acting Executive Secretary (invited), Alicia, and Michele
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present (see 2:30 PM agenda item)
- Election of NEANS Panel co-chair for 2015-2017 – Amy and Alicia

**1:45 PM Roundtable—*really* fast-paced updates from Panelists and Panel
participants** (updates may also be posted at

<http://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates>)

*Moderated by Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services
and Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1*

2:30 PM Spotlight on Species: Watercraft Pressure Wash: How High Is High?

*Dr. David Wong, Division of Watershed Management, Bureau of Water
Resources, MA Department of Environmental Protection*

**3:15 PM Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources:
Fight the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species – Early
Detection and Rapid Response framework and fund development
plan**

*Judy Pederson and Michele Tremblay, Members, Invasive Species
Advisory Council EDRR Subcommittee Ad-Hoc Advisory Team Members*

3:30 PM Chinese mitten crab rapid response plan draft presentation

Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

4:00 PM Work group meeting time

**6:00 PM Meet at Holiday Inn Express lobby, 300 Broadway, for group
supper(s)**

Thursday, December 3, 2015 | Panel general session meeting

8:00 AM Work groups meeting time with light breakfast snacks provided
Holiday Inn Express provides a complimentary hot breakfast for its guests

9:15 AM Work group reports

10:00 AM Highlights from New York
Moderated by Leslie Surpenant and Catherine A. McGlynn, Invasive Species Coordination Unit, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

10:45 AM New York State's Updated Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan
Catherine A. McGlynn

11:15 AM Public comment period

11:30 AM Review action items and adjourn

Thursday, December 3, 2015 | Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council

12:30 PM Board of Directors meeting
Board packet distributed to directors under separate cover



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Meeting Summary • May 14-15, 2014
Gulf of Maine Research Institute • Portland, ME

Panelists present in Providence and via conference call/webinar (c/w): Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Kevin Cute; RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region I; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Environment and Energy; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Joe Roman, University of Vermont and Harvard University; Kimberly Roth, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Isabelle Simard, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques QC; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Others participating via conference call/webinar (c/w): Denise Blanchette, ME Department Environmental Protection; Caroline Casals, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES; Jeremy Miller, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor for the Panel.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs –Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region I and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the NEANS Panel meeting.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- Accept December 2014 meeting summary with correction to the date in the header. The footer date is correct.

Decision: The December 2014 meeting summary was accepted.

- Schedule Panel mid-term call in the week of August 3, 2015.
- Schedule November 2015 meeting in Connecticut. Isabelle Simard offered to host a meeting in Québec when its rotation turn is up again.

Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the week of August 3, 2015.

Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the weeks of October 19, October 26, and November 30 fall Panel meeting, secure a facility and distribute a save the date message to Panel@NortheastANS.org. Michele will work with Nancy Murray, CT Department of Energy and Environment and her contacts to explore no-cost venues.

- Meg Modley was not at the meeting or on the conference call so is not able to provide an update on the 2014-2015 budget update. The item is set aside until she calls in to the meeting.
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force convened its spring meeting – Michele highlighted the action and decision items. There was some consternation about the five-year renewal of the QZAP funding as well as the approval of management plans with no funding. The US Fish and Wildlife Service reported that they have added \$42,000 per year to the President's budget, which would add \$7,000 to each regional panel's annual allocation. This would mean a new total allocation of \$47,000.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – Climate change

Presentation of National Invasive Species Council and Aquatic Nuisance Species ask Force Award to the Lake Hosts of NH LAKES

Amy introduced Andrea LaMoreaux, Vice-president, NH LAKES. She provided a background on the organization and its Lake Host program, which has about 500 volunteers and 250 paid staff who perform about 86,000 courtesy inspections at nearly 90 boat ramps. Support is provided by a payroll grant award funded by the NH Department of Environmental Services with local match from lake associations. There are six centralized training sessions convened in Concord. There are refresher trainings convened locally by 85 local group coordinators. There were nearly 60 fragments caught since 2002, they have captured about 1,500 fragments. Trailers and boat exteriors are checked but not as yet live wells. The Lake Host literature includes information about live wells. Amy Smagula re-presented an award recognizing the program during the National Invasive Species Week. There is a training video, which includes NEANS Panelists in starring roles, posted on the NHLAKES.org website. NH LAKES is working on an app for invasive species data collection.

Field tor update – Judy Pederson reported that both native and invasive organisms were found on the brief tour of the Coast Guard access area. The Panel thanked Sarah Kirn, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, for providing an escort for the Panelists on their tour.

Highlights from Maine – John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection facilitated the updates. The Maine Marine Invasive Species Collaborative (with NH and MA participants) have met a few times since November. They have helped support green crab research and outreach, with a focus on predation. The rapid response and Chinese Mitten Crab plan along with outreach on the MIMIC and terrestrial invasive species sites and a new monitoring in Casco Bay. The group works with the Maine Invasive Species Network, which includes terrestrial species. Tom Trott, Suffolk University has been monitoring islands for the National Park Service in Boston area and Maine sites. Those interested in participating can contact Tom. There was a new infestation of Variable leaf milfoil. There has been a shift in the funding allocations between Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (20%) vs. what the Department of Environmental Protection receives (80%), that must be spent on eradication activities. Proposed legislation in 2015 would have provided additional funding. Since 2003, the US Fish and Wildlife Service-approved State Management Plan grant has provided part of the funding to the IFW and other organizations. The state's natural heritage program is authorized to receive the funding.

John McPhedran provided an update on the in-state task force. Last year, ME Fish and Wildlife responded to hundreds of reports. Seventy-four were confirmed as invasive species. There is a debate about winter live bait vs. killed bait. Vermont and New York have regulations in place that are based on allowed species vs. banned species. Maine bans all out-of-state bait but it is difficult to prevent anglers from moving smelt. Jim Stahlnecker, reported on a collaborative project with USGS and other partners. Other updates in Maine's presentation included:

- Massive eelgrass loss documented 2001 to next aerial photo analysis in 2013,
- Eelgrass transects at five sites around Casco Bay were examined through the 2014 season,
- For percent cover, canopy height, trapped green crabs (June through September),
- Percent cover of Eelgrass decrease or lack of change correlated with highest overall crab abundance,
- Sites with courser sediments showed negative change in percent cover – Interaction with crabs,
- Influence of sediment nutrient availability in fine sediments,
- Very fine sediments did not hinder growth of eelgrass,
- Light availability was favorable for eelgrass restoration,
- Eelgrass restoration likely in absence of green crabs, and
- Work in 2015 on transplanting eelgrass at two sites combined with crab exclusion and trapping.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201505>.

Action: John and Michele will work with ME Department of Marine Fisheries to request a new designee to represent the agency on the NEANS Panel.

Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources: Fight the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species – Early Detection and Rapid Response framework and fund development plan

Judy Pederson and Michele Tremblay participated in the first Invasive Species Advisory Council Early Detection Rapid Response Ad-hoc EDRR Advisory Team (ISACEDRRAEDRRAT) conference call. Michele participated in the first conference call pro bono for the Panel. Judy Pederson participated for the Panel and MIT. Stas Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council, has scheduled a call with Michele to learn more about the NEANS Panel's initiatives such as the Rapid Response grant fund and the Hydrilla Initiative Project (HIP). Judy is looking for responses from the Panelists on her requests for species for the Climate Change Work Group and would like examples of databases to help her design her database or "app."

Action: Michele will forward to the Panel the information about the ISAC EDRR effort. Panelists should email their thoughts and suggestions to Michele to share with Stas Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council, during their scheduled call on May 14, 2015 at 1:30 PM.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201505/>

Other business

Judy presented a book, *Bringing Nature Home*, by Douglas W. Tallamy, that she felt communicated an articulate message about native and non-native species. John enquired about other states' and provinces' use of hotlines or how they plan to respond to the phasing out of the US Fish and Wildlife's national hotline. Generally, Panelists are providing their own office or mobile telephone numbers for calls, texts, or emails. Denise Blanchette found parrot feather sold in a pet store in Maine. Some states are

performing spot or thorough checks of pet stores. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sends its list of banned species to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council. New Hampshire searches the Secretary of State's office website to see what relevant businesses are registered as pet retailers or other outlets.

Action: Michele will contact the Great Lakes Commission to invite a representative to the next Panel meeting to present on their online invasive species automated search tool.

Work Group reports

Spread Prevention

Mark Malchoff reported that refinements have been made to the floating key chain survey page at <http://northeastans.org/keychain.html>. Mark reported on the results of the February 28, 2015 conference call. The group worked with Michele to make modifications to the key chain webpage and the interface with the user survey, which measures the understanding of the Clean Drain Dry message and commitment to changing behaviors.

Climate Change

Judy led a work group meeting this morning. They are seeking species-specific information on the effects of climate change on native and non-native populations from Panelists and other invasive species professionals.

Roundtable (Panelists' and participants' updates are posted on the Panel Forum at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates/>)

Massachusetts

There are two new hydrilla infestations in lakes where the vector is not likely gardening or other traditional introduction routes. They are working on six other infestations. The Commonwealth produced floating key chains. They have a new policy that prohibits the placement of web addresses on the products unless the product is reviewed through the Governor's public relations office. The new "clean, drain, dry law makes it illegal to knowingly transport invasive species on any boats or trailers. How this law addresses live wells is uncertain. All invasive species herbicide treatment data in the Commonwealth are provided to the Department for monitoring and analysis. There is a program where boaters are asked to sign and date a certification, which must be displayed in the vehicle.

New Hampshire

Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department, reported that he succeeded Steve Perry, subsequent to his retirement. Amy Smagula has covered plants and some animals. Fish and Game has not been heavily involved in invasive issues, the main focus is inland fisheries management. Scott is working on an online guide for animals so he is seeking high resolution images. Michele Tremblay suggested that he upload his data and images to the NEANS Panel online guide. Scott and Cheri Patterson are working on a response flow chart. He is drafting a policy and procedure for boat cleaning. Michele suggested that he go through the HACCP training to help with the process.

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, provided an update on two early detections of Variable Milfoil due to trained weed watchers. Divers are working on new fragments and removal efforts are underway. Amy discussed legislation that would mandate self-inspection. Enforcement and monitoring would be difficult at best so the compromise was to create an information card to outline the

“Clean, Drain, Dry” process, which emphasizes personal responsibility to perform inspections and removals.

Vermont

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported that spiny water flea is confirmed in Lake Champlain. The spread has been fast and wide. In a couple of weeks, the sightings had increased from one site in fourteen to almost all of them. The Lake Champlain Basin Program has formed a response group, which is looking at chemical controls. It appears that chlorine bleach facilitates egg hatching. A pilot decontamination plan, including high-pressure washing, is planned for the season with one objective having staffed region stations throughout the state. The Department has a new invasive species staff. They partnered with TNC to hire a terrestrial invasive species staff and will be responsible for volunteer coordination. The NALMS meeting will be convened in November 2015.

Maine

Jim Stahlnecker, ME DEP, reported on their work on green crab and their effects on eel grass with Hilary Neckles, US Geological Survey. There were some eel grass density reductions at some sites where sediments were coarser. Green crabs tend to shred eel grass but it is not clear if they are shredding it for habitat alteration or if they are eating it. The canopy height and density appear to be affected. Chlorinated water and freezing (for twenty-four hours) do not appear to serve as euthanasia.

Rhode Island

Kevin Cute, RI Council on Marine Resources, reported that they are continuing dock monitoring and conducting a plate study to determine competition of invasive species. The invasive species are dominant in the samples. Kevin is working on a net sweeping protocol that Jim Carlton developed. They are looking for invasive shrimp species, which have been found over the last two years. They are involved in SCUBA diving in eelgrass areas with Phil Colorarusso, USEPA. They conducted their first dive last year in Narragansett Bay. Kevin is working with Save the Bay to conduct plankton tows and will be analyzing samples for swimming larva. There is a new DEM boat monitoring project.

Québec

Isabelle Simard, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques QC, provided a detailed update posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates>. Isabelle is looking for input on Panelists who have used eDNA to help prioritize their freshwater and marine sampling efforts.

Academia, interstate, and professional nonprofit

Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, continues his outreach and education work at bass tournaments. There is a new Adirondack Park Agency permit program. There is an LCSG Outreach at several bass tournaments, especially during the July 30 - August 1 FLW Rayovac Series in Plattsburgh. The new Adirondack Park Agency Permits proposed April 23. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is seeking public comment on two general permits to advance New York State's goal to combat invasive species in the Adirondack Park. The general permits will streamline and expedite the Park Agency's review process. This will ensure qualified invasive species management

organizations have the ability to respond quickly to invasive species infestations. A detailed update posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates>.

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, reported that she has retired but is now a research affiliate. She is leading the Climate Change Work Group effort with the Panel and is working with other Sea Grants on the Mitten Crab Rapid Response plan. She is working on a book on rapid response and would appreciate images of hydroids and other species that may be confused with others.

Larry Harris, University of New Hampshire, reported that he is working with Judy Pederson as well as a former student to identify and secure datasets and images.

Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant, reported on work partnering with the MIT and NH Sea Grants on the Mitten Crab plan.

Federal

Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that the application packages are being prepared for state management plan grants with an email distributed yesterday have been distributed. The program should be back on schedule with funding targeted to be delivered to states in the fall.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201505/>

Spotlight on Species: Green Crabs

Jeremy Miller, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Dr. Joe Roman, University of Vermont and Harvard University provided a presentation on their research and field work. The presentation may be viewed at

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201505/>

Chinese Mitten Crab Sea Grant Project rapid response draft plan presentation

Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant, presented an update on the Chinese Mitten Crab Plan, which can be viewed at

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201505/>

Public comment period

There were no further comments from the public. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications



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Conference Call Summary Draft • August 7, 2015

Panelists participating in conference call: Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Administration; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, and Catherine McGlynn for Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit.

Others participating in conference call: Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel contractor (naturesource communications) and David Wong,

Consent agenda – The consent agenda was accepted.

Welcome and roll call – Amy Smagula and Alicia Grimaldi welcomed everyone to the conference call and outlined the agenda.

December 2015 NEANS Panel meeting planning

Nancy Murray is on leave and cannot host the meeting for its next rotation in Connecticut. Some Panelists questioned having the meeting in Connecticut if there would be no one in attendance from that jurisdiction. They proposed that the Panel move to the next jurisdiction(s) in rotation (Québec, Rhode Island, and New York) to see if one of them is willing to provide gratis meeting space. When staff return to Connecticut, the jurisdiction will be placed back into rotation.

“Spotlight on Species” suggestions included OSHA requirements for DASH (diver-assisted suction harvesting) contractors and viability and listing of water lettuce, water hyacinth, giant salvinia, and other high risk species. David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection submitted an agenda request on high pressure washing and Alyson Eberhardt has a standing request for the Mitten Crab plan process. Pressure washing and other decontamination methods, highlighting efficacy and cost, could be the theme for the Spotlight on Species session at the December meeting. It would be good to consult with New York State experts are working relative to spiny water flea where pressure and hot temperatures are needed. A matrix guidance document, which would be posted on NortheastANS.org, could be a good output from this “Spotlight” Session. Ann Bove reported that Josh Mulholland, may be appointed to the second Vermont seat on the Panel.

Jim suggested that each state, province, and other Panel members, bring their resources to share to begin discussions about message, decontamination, design, and other ideas with an eye toward improvement and consistency. Perhaps this might be fodder for a work group formation and project where the Panel produced universally products as it has done with key chains and watch cards.

Decision item: *The fall Panel meeting will be convened in Québec, Rhode Island, and New York. When staff return to Connecticut, the jurisdiction will be placed back into rotation.*

Action item: Michele will begin working with contacts in Québec, Rhode Island, and New York to secure gratis meeting space for the Panel's fall 2015 meeting.

Forming recommendations for the May 2015 ANSTF meeting

The Panel will submit a revision of its May ANS Task Force meeting financial recommendation. Since then, there has been a discussion that there may be an additional \$7,000 annually granted to the regional panels but there has been no confirmation of the new total amount (\$47,000). The Panel discussed policy recommendations relative to decontamination protocols. Jim asked if there were any developments in transport, such as interstate transport at the federal level. Another policy recommendation could be that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force encourage or otherwise be active in NISA reauthorization. Michele has been working pro bono with Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission, on a coalition to discuss NISA reauthorization strategies. Jim Straub moved that the Panel submit the funding and NISA reauthorization recommendation. Ann seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: The Panel will recommend to the ANS Task Force increased regional panel funding and that the Task Force be active in NISA reauthorization.

Action: Michele will draft and submit the Panel's two recommendations on funding and NISA reauthorization.

Work Group work Plan updates

There were no work group leads available for updates.

Michele reported that the effort that she began in May to sell the Panel's remaining Hydrilla and the Illinois Indiana Sea Grant Carp watch cards as well as the new solicitation and order of Asian Clam watch cards has netted \$1,368.09. She hopes that this small additional revenue will assist the Panel with its funding shortfalls.

Other business

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications

Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to take a leadership role in the NISA reauthorization.

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel requests that the ANS Task Force take a leadership role in the reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act. The Act was originally passed by the 104th Congress in 1996 (<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/NISA1996.pdf>).

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel feels that there have been many changes to the landscape of its work including introduction and movement of species not considered when the Act was written. There have also been regulatory and other policy changes. This need has been recognized by several organizations that have convened conference calls with stakeholders and have begun to discuss revisions to the Act.

The Panel understands that there are some agencies and organizations that have trepidation about re-opening the Act, which has been operating under a continuing resolution for many years. However, in addition to updating the current landscape of invasive species in the United States, there is an opportunity to analyze the appropriations and revise them to assure that Congress understands what is required to address the mandates required under this law. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel believes that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's leadership and coordination in this effort is essential.

Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force discussed and voted on unanimously during the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel's August 7, 2015 conference call.

Prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel

Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel

Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
to restore at least \$10,000 to each of the regional panels

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel requests that the ANS Task Force restore at least \$10,000 to each of the regional panels to bring them to the original \$50,000 in annual support and work to identify and secure additional and dedicated sources of support.

Up until two years ago, the \$50,000 annual funding was authorized by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Subtitle D-Authorizations and Appropriation, Sec. 1301(b)(6)¹, and allocated through the US Fish and Wildlife Services's budget. The panels' spending power has been eroded as a result of inflation over the last twenty-five years. ***In inflationary terms, \$91,027.16 would be required today to have the same spending power as did \$50,000 in 1990***². The recent 20% reduction (amounting to a cut of \$10,000 to each regional panel's allocation) to \$40,000 annually has been especially crippling to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel's productivity.

The panels are expected to operate multi-state (and often multi-national) organizations, which involve travelling to two Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meetings and two regional panel meetings each year, convening and hosting two regional panel meetings, convening and hosting conference calls, paying staff or contractors to manage activities, and the administrative cost of and indirect costs to host a panel. Consequently, these services have been cut and there is no funding remaining to fund the projects that have been deemed by the Task Force as so valuable and meaningful.

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recognizes at each of its semi-annual meeting the enormous body of work and products that the regional panels provide and their importance in the Task Force's annual and decadal accomplishments, which were recently detailed in the Task Force's Report to Congress.

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel has a long history of maximizing its funding to provide a host of program services and produce products to initiate and foster communication, cooperation, and collaboration in the Northeast United States and Canada. At this time and under the current reduced funding level, the services and products can no longer be produced, maintained, or updated. These services and products include but are not limited to those in the following list (see <http://northeastans.org/resources.html> for further information).

- Semi-annual meetings that provide opportunities to connect and collaborate with partner states and provinces on agenda items providing perspectives on emerging species and issues, training and other skill building opportunities;
- Hosting Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meetings including providing field tours at invasive species early detection and removal demonstration sites;

¹ <http://www.epw.senate.gov/envlaws/nanpca90.pdf>

² <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

- Active committees and work groups that meet to collaborate on cost-effective regional projects, programs, and products;
- Maintenance of a forum and listserv to share news, perspectives, and to act as a public platform for enquiries;
- Rapid response workshops with presenters from other disciplines to provide perspectives on command models and other approaches;
- Workshops that train citizen scientists in invasive species identification;
- Rapid Assessment Surveys on floating docks and rocky shores in New England;
- Rapid response grant funding to help provide support to address new infestations quickly;
- Hydrilla Initiative Pilot that created a template for multi-disciplinary approaches to invasive species early detection, rapid response, and management including literature search, social marketing, workshop, and survey;
- Production and distribution of products such as a floating key chain with contact information and QR code to online survey for behavior change metric information collection;
- *NEANS Panel Resource Digest* published online and through listserv and website distribution (no longer published due to funding cuts);
- Online Guide that dynamically produces customized and up-to-the-minute guides for field and other invasive species identification and outreach efforts;
- Chinese Mitten Crab posters for outreach at access and other sites;
- Chinese Mitten Crab early detection and rapid response plan for the northeast region;
- Watch cards for many invasive animal and plant species including hydrilla, water chestnut, and Asian clams (these efforts have included offering buy-in opportunities where the Panel offered low price purchase to other organizations) with some produced in both English and the French;
- Ability to buy-in on watch cards produced by other organizations;
- Legislative matrices comparing federal, state, provincial, and other regulatory tools;
- Best practices for decontamination of gear to circumvent the spread of Didymo; and
- Co-hosting of the International Didymo Conference 2013 in Rhode Island that brought together experts from North America, South America, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, whose participants continue to collaborate and produce white papers and other tools.

There have been General Accounting Office reviews (two within the last year), grant reporting, Reports to Congress, and other requirements where a considerable amount of additional work has been required and the Panel funding has been stagnated and then reduced.

Restoring full funding for the six regional panels to last year's level will cost a total of only \$60,000 nationally. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel recommends that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force identify and secure \$60,000 to restore this funding and work within the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to identify and secure additional and dedicated sources of support so that the panels may continue to provide the high level and high quality services and products for which they were tasked by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force discussed and voted on unanimously during the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel's August 7, 2015 conference call.

Prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel