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Meeting Summary Draft • April 26-27, 2011
Hôtel Château Laurier • Québec, QC

Panelists present via conference call/webinar (c/v): Nancy Balcom, University of Connecticut; Marcel Bernard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Bill Harman, NYS Federation of Lake Associations; Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Jason LeBlanc, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Wayne Millington, National Park Services (c/v); Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone c/w); Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Isabelle Simard, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement; and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services (c/w), and Leslie Surpenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Others present and via conference call/webinar: Greg Booma, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (c/v); Peg Brady, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Alain Demers, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement; Nathalie La violette, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement; Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel ANS Program Manager (nature resource communications); Guy Verrault, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Nancy Balcom, Sea Grant, University of Connecticut welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the next two days. Meg thanked Isabelle Simard and department for their generous hosting and was presented with a small gift in appreciation. Meg welcomed all of the Canadian attendees to the meeting and expressed the Panel's appreciation for their participation.

Ann Bove offered the following tribute to the late, Les Mehrhoff, a charter NEANS Panelist. The NEANS Panel recently lost a valued Panel member with the passing of Dr. Leslie J. Mehrhoff. Les passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on December 22, 2010 at his home in Connecticut. Many of us knew Les as a passionate and tireless advocate for the invasives species issue. Additionally, Les was the co-founder of IPANE, the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, and former curator of the George Safford Torrey Herbarium at the University of Connecticut. He was also the former chief botanist for the CT Department of Environmental Protection. Particularly noteworthy, Les was an incredible botanist, an enthusiastic naturalist, and a wonderful human being whose smile could fill a room. The Panel held a moment of silence and reflection in Les's honor.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- The Panel accepted the November 2011 meeting summary.
- There are two non-governmental vacancies on the Steering Committee. Meg called for nominations from the floor. Nancy Balcom nominated Susy King. Karen Hahnel nominated Mark Malchoff. Ann Bove nominated Cynthia Boettner but withdrew it because she could not reach Cynthia to see if she could accept it. Isabelle Simard nominated Jason LeBlanc for one of the Canadian provincial positions.
- *NEANS Panel Business and fall 2011 meeting scheduling* – The November 2011 meeting rotation falls in the State of Rhode Island. The Sea Grant event will be held in Newport, RI on November 14-16, 2011 so it is important not to overlap with those three days. The last Panel meeting will was in Providence so the Panel may wish to meet in Newport.

Action: After determining the Aquatic Nuisance Species Federal Task Force Fall 2011 meeting, Michele Tremblay will begin working on the November 2011 meeting in Rhode Island.

- ANS Task Force (ANSTF) report – Meg, Nancy, and Michele will be participating in the meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Incident Command System Work Group is soliciting membership from all of the Panels.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council – Nancy Balcom updated the Panel on the meeting in June 14-16, 2011 in Denver CO. The theme is managing invasives species in the west. This will be Nancy's last meeting with ISAC. She is chairing the education and outreach committee.

Action: The issue of voting Canadian Provincial members will be added to the next Steering Committee call agenda. Meg, Nancy, and Michele will research.

Highlights from Québec – Isabelle Simard and Anouk Simard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, reported on the new strategic plan with new website. The Goby project identified the species's role in the food chain. Tench is in the Richelieu River and is now commercially harvested. The agency presented on VHS The regulation of aquatic species has increased the powers to control invasive species. The modification has two aspects: it regulates positions some fish species to prevent their introduction into QC waters. This includes about twenty species such as big head and silver carp, tench, and snakehead. The second aspect is bait regulation focused on fish diseases. Didymo has been found in most rivers where it was indicated as viable. Therefore it is no longer a priority to continue the agency survey but volunteer monitoring is the next step with anglers providing their observations via an online tool at www.rspee.glu.org (in both French and English). Updates are posted by panel participants at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26.

Northeast ANS Roundtable

Maine

Karen Hahnel and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection, posted updates at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26.

Vermont

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported suction harvesting over six acres of mats the largest in the state of New York. The results will be sampled and reported in mid-July. They have raised over \$380K with known expenses of about \$430K. There will be additional suction harvesting in the late fall. Senator Leahy

secured over \$6MM for grants and other programs. There has been about \$250K in grants awarded to local groups for stewardship programs. The LC Rapid Response Task Force formed in February 2011 and was trained in March and is now working to include these systems in their plan. \$200K was secured for a barrier project on the LC canal.

Ann Bove and Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, posted agency updates at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26.

Rhode Island

Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, reported on activities including continuing volunteer monitoring at floating docks, initiating video monitoring of bulkheads and ships at major ports, beginning a Chinese Mitten crab sentinel project with traps in the Narragansett Bay estuary, developing an Oriental Grass Shrimp monitoring project, and developing HACCP-based protocols for the EPA Atlantic Ecology Division to prevent the spread of AIR through freshwater and marine activities. The RI Department of Environmental Management presented to the EPA/AED their AIS field research activities, trained enforcement officers on protocols to prevent spread, drafted regulations to ban the transport of aquatic invasive species, updated distribution maps and the infested water bodies list, and planned the summer AIS surveys on private access drinking water reservoirs. The RH Natural History Survey, with the University of RI, is conducting aquatic plant identification training for volunteers and is hiring an intern to collect and identify species on freshwater ponds. The Narragansett Bay Natural Estuarine Research Reserve is creating the Rhode Island Marine and Estuarine Invasive Species website, developing educational materials, conducting intertidal and subtidal monitoring projects to report AIS discoveries, and is continuing to conduct its Phragmites eradication efforts.

Massachusetts

Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, posted agency updates at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26

New York

Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation posted at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26 her agency's updates.

New York

Mark Malchoff, NY Sea Grant

Nova Scotia

Jason LeBlanc, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture posted agency updates at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26

Federal, nonprofit, and academia

Bill Harman, NYS Federation of Lake Associations

The stony stonewort macroalgae is moving into inland lakes. Copper sulfate in large applications seems to be the only way to control it. The first lake management program has been instituted at SUNY Oneonta.

Peg Brady, NOAA, reported that she is the liaison for NOAA with Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and National Invasive Species Council. The Task Force meeting agenda next week features establishment of a committee, one focused on revising the outdated recreational guidelines document and their implementation. The other is the pet industry re-engaging with the Task Force and developing a best management practices. Both of these issues are important for the NEANS Panel to consider during its own meeting to form recommendations for the Task Force. NOAA hosted a panel at a national conference on marine bioinvasions and climate change. This conference culminates in recommendations from all panels that are then forwarded to the leadership of all federal agencies. NOAA co-hosting with several other organizations the second annual National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington, DC. President Obama introduced the national ocean policy last year with nine priorities for the development of strategic action plans. Peg is chairing the Ecosystem-based management work group. Over all, the process is an opportunity to review plan outlines and comment on where invasive species issues should be in the national policy. Habitattitude appears to be dormant. Listening sessions will be held convened and full plans will be drafted and noticed in the federal register in the fall. The Lacey Act is under consideration for revision.

Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that at this point, there are no answers on what will happen to invasive species funding. There is a rumor that there is a 2% cut across the boards. The Service will keep Panels and states with management plans informed. Further updates are posted at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26

Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported that the RA survey. In addition, the survey attempted to determine the biomass of non-native species in 15 x 15 cm areas. Anemones were prevalent and on average about 15% of the biomass was non-native. In some areas, it was up to 40% coverage. Dry weight analysis will be conducted next. MITIS water quality samples and nonprofits will monitor green and other crabs. Another Bryozoan has been found in the Connecticut River. It was not supposed to be able to overwinter but has survived.

Roundtable updates were posted to http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=26 by Panelists present at this meeting, participating via conference call/webinar, and by those who could not be at the meeting.

Early detection of invasive al aquatic species in the St. Lawrence River estuary through a commercial fisherman network

Guy Verreault, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la faune

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

Spotlight on Species: Corbicula

Anouk Simard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Québec

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

Early detection of exotic aquatic invasive plants in Québec: networks and tools to catch the interest of spotters

Nathalie La Violette and Alain Demers, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs. The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

Votes and other actions from the meeting requiring a quorum

The bylaws were reviewed and the Panel discussed candidates for Steering Committee membership.

Decision: Jason LeBlanc was voted as a member of the Steering Committee as the provincial representative for Nova Scotia. Susy King was voted as a member of the Steering Committee.

Decision: The meeting summary was accepted.

Work group updates

After the work groups met, they provided their project updates.

Website revision and online guide

Online guide and web re-design are in process with Yellahoose, LLC. Based on the comments received, the site was revised and is currently housed on the development server. Further comments and suggestions from this morning's work session will be forwarded to Yellahoose and will be incorporated for final revision. The new species for the online guide are freshwater clam and Didymo.

Action: If anyone has high-resolution images and information for additions to the online guide, please forward them to Leslie Matthews. Suggestions are also welcome.

Action: Nancy and Judy will work together on marine species

HIP II

Kevin updated the group on HIP's next iteration: HIP II focused on Chinese Mitten Crab EDRR Plan for surveys of all of the NEANS Panel's states' and provinces' capacity. This will consist of contracting with an individual to work on HIP II and to develop under the RI SMP to develop improved regulations for marine species. Each state and province can use the template drafted by the contractor to submit their information and constitute a complete plan for the region. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council will invoice, accept, and expend the funds from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, combined with those that the Panel allocated to pay the contractor for this work.

Action: The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council will execute a cooperative agreement with the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and post a request for qualifications for a contractor to perform the HIP II and RI SMP work. The Council will execute a contract with the individual selected to perform the services.

Lake Greeters

The program has identified parameters for which to collect information and from contacts to work with. A blue print will be available at the November 2011 meeting in Rhode Island.

Corbicula Asian Clam Watch Card

Mark Malchoff distributed a draft watch card for Corbicula

Action: Mark Malchoff will email to Michele an electronic draft of the Asian Clam Watch Card for funding and Panel consistency review.

Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network

Hugh MacIsaac, CAISN Director, University of Windsor

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

Department of Fisheries and Oceans framework for early detection and rapid response

Nicholas Mandrak, Great Lakes Laboratory for Fisheries, Aquatic Sciences Central and Arctic

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/index-eng.htm>

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

DFO risk assessments: potential threat of green crab, mitten crab, and tunicates in Canada's waters

Chris McKindsey, Department of Fisheries and Oceans

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201104/>

Other business and public comment period

There was no other business and no comments from the public.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications