



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 • May 22-23, 2006  
Cape Codder Resort and Spa, Hyannis, MA**

**Panelists in attendance:** Jason Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Michael Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; William Hyatt, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Susannah King, NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Museum; Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; 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; Jan Smith, MA Bays National Estuaries Program; James Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Peter Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources; Scott Weber, New England Aquarium; and Lisa Windhausen, Lake Champlain Basin Program.

**Others present:** David Delaney, McGill University; Lisa Drake, US Coast Guard Academy; Jennifer Forman Orth, University of MA at Boston; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Charles Hernick, NOAA Fellow at MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jeffrey Herrod, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Elizabeth Hoagland, NOAA/NCCOS; Kathy Hoppe, ME Department of Environmental Conservation; Scott Newsham, Federal ANS Task Force; James Stahlnecker, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Elizabeth Stephenson, ME Coastal Program; Beth Suedmeyer, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager (naturesource communications); Sylvie Trottier, McGill University; and Barbara Welch, ME Department of Environmental Protection.

**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

Judy Pederson provided information on the Harwichport and Sandwich field trips slated for Tuesday afternoon.

**ANS updates and Panel business:**

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves.  
**Action: Those having suggestions for future ANS Task Force activities should forward them to Scott Newsham.**
- *November 2005 meeting summary* – Judy asked that a descriptive sentence be added to the “Spotlight on Species.”  
**Action: Judy Pederson will work with Michele Tremblay on adding to the November 2005 meeting summary additional “Spotlight on Species” descriptive text.**
- *NEANS Panel Business and November 2006 meeting scheduling* – Michele Tremblay. The November 2006 meeting rotation falls in the State of Maine. Possible locations include

Boothbay, Portland, or Bangor. Panelists and friends were asked to provide any possible date conflicts.

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

**Action: Michele Tremblay will begin work on finalizing a date and securing a facility for the November 2005 meeting.**

- *New NEANS Panel website introduction* – Michele Tremblay provided an update on the northeastans.org website revision that went live in February. Mike Hauser was thanked for his Herculean efforts on the website. To date, incomplete provincial and state pages include CT, NY, and QC. More text is needed for the Shipping Committee.

**Action: Michele will continue to remind provinces and states and NEANS Panel Committee co-chairs to provide her with information for their respective pages.**

- *Canada representatives for NEANS Panel membership* – Andrea Locke  
Andrew Bagnall from NS Agriculture and Fisheries is on board. Andrea suggested that the Panel invite the Prince Edward Island (PEI) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (DAFA) to join and suggested that Neil McNair be the designee. A motion was made and seconded to invite the PEI DAFA to join the Panel. Scott Newsham indicated that there are currently draft operating guidelines regarding membership but that the Panel should proceed and invite the PEI agency.

**Action: Michele will invite Neil McNair, *NEED AGENCY NAME*, to join the Panel and work with Scott Newsham to assure that the procedure is consistent with the ANS Task Force regulations.**

- *Maine Marine Invasives Work Group meeting* – Michele participated in the May Work Group meeting. She reported that it had many parallel and intersecting issues with those of the Panel. A good deal of the meeting was spent brainstorming about some innovative ANS approaches for the Group and the Panel. She suggested that the Work Group be invited to present its work to date and plans at the Panel's November 2006 meeting.

**Action: The Panel will consider setting aside agenda time for a presentation by the Maine Invasives Work Group and discuss ways in which the two organizations might communicate, cooperative, and collaborate.**

- *Gulf of Maine Research Institute Vital Signs meeting* – Michele met with the leads for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Vital Signs project when she was in Portland for the Maine Marine Invasives Work Group meeting in May. Vital Signs works with teachers and students in Gulf of Maine Schools to gather phonological and other environmental data including air and water temperature, basic water chemistry, and other physical observations. The data are uploading via PDAs and notebook computers and can be viewed using mapping tools on the organization's website

([http://www.gmamapping.org/vital\\_signs/](http://www.gmamapping.org/vital_signs/)). The program is expanding to include invasive species monitoring and is seeking users for its data. Vital Signs could be a rapid response element. Michele suggested that Vital Signs be invited to present at the November 2006 meeting agenda. The Panel might also wish to pursue arranging a field trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on the Portland waterfront.

**Action: The Panel will consider setting aside November 2006 agenda time for a presentation by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute Vital Signs Program and discuss ways in which the two organizations might communicate, cooperative, and collaborate.**

**Action: The Panel will consider a November 2006 meeting field trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.**

- *ANS Task Force update* – Lisa Windhausen reminded Panelists of the Task Force meeting that the NEANS Panel is hosting this week.

**Highlights from Massachusetts** - Jay Baker and Beth Suedemyer, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, Jim Straub, Anne Monnelly, and Michelle Robinson, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Massachusetts continues work on the Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response with new NOAA Fellow, Charles Hernick. The draft that is being prepared for MA will be presented to the NEANS Panel for its evaluation as a possible regional framework.

The MA Marine Invaders Monitoring Network was launched this year. Volunteers are being trained for fieldwork this Spring for monthly monitoring. Salem Sound Coastwatch piloted this approach in MA. Several volunteer, academia, museum, schools, and nonprofit organizations are involved. An annual survey is also planned.

The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation is training AmeriCorps members from the Student Conservation Association to be upland and wetland species “removers” using hand-pulling techniques for the next five years. Anne Monnelly is working on a pilot project with submerged aquatic macrophytes using a solar technology. This will be launched in a lake with a large infestation curly leaf pondweed and two milfoils. An RFP to evaluate the success of the technology has been distributed. Michelle Robinson continues to manage a program with volunteer boat ramp monitors. To date the program has had 183 “saves” (preventing ANS from getting into Massachusetts waters). The boater brochures are distributed with license renewals and have about an 80,000 distribution annually. The Weed Watcher program is in its fourth year.

**Planning 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 (please see CEO Committee report)

**Applying social marketing principles for stormwater education** – Barbara Welch and Kathy Hoppe, ME Department of Environmental Protection

Kathy Hoppe provided an update on the ME Department of Environmental Protection’s “Think Blue” (ThinkBlueMaine.org) social marketing campaign. Social marketing uses many commercial marketing principles but applies them for the common good. The objective of this approach is to achieve positive behavioral change. This campaign uses a mass marketing approach to distribute information, change behaviors, and measure results. This effort employed pre- and post-campaign surveys and focus groups to craft a message and to measure its effectiveness in changing behaviors.

Barbara Welch presented the “LakeSmart” program. This program’s approach is more individually targeted vs. the Think Blue mass media approach.

Funding for these efforts came from municipalities (about \$100,000); USEPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source funds matched this amount. Grants from lottery funding were pursued as well as EPA outreach grants. Further detail on the funding sources and how they were spent can be found at [www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/doceducation/nps/05report.pdf](http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/doceducation/nps/05report.pdf).

**Moving forward with a regional Hydrilla effort**

John McPhedran presented the *Rid Hydrilla from Northeast Waters* (RHyNEW) May 16, 2006 scoping draft. The social marketing proposal is one piece of this initiative. This pilot effort represents a combined effort with the Panel and all of its committees including Communication, Education, and Outreach; Policy and Legislation; and Science and Technology. The Panel’s role formed a draft work plan.

Jim Straub indicated that the Panel’s Steering Committee would be the coordinator for this effort. The end product will be a model of a collaborative regional approach with Hydrilla as

the pilot species. This effort will represent a model for other Panel actions and approaches. Jim presented the proposed Science and Technology Committee work plan. The Science and Technology Hydrilla web page on the northeastans.org site may be developed as part of this effort.

The Panel and its committees may implement some of these items. Other items may be implemented at the member agency level with the Panel coordinated efforts.

The Northeast state Governors and Atlantic Canada Premiers could sign a proclamation (that the Panel would draft). This process could happen within the New England Governors and Eastern Premiers meetings or individually within those states and provinces. A memorandum of agreement process among the agencies could happen concurrently or subsequent to the RHyNEW Plan development.

Jim Straub reviewed the *RHyNEW Estimated Budget Needs* May 2006 draft. This information was forwarded to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to include in its *Action Plan 2006-2011* work plan and budget proposal.

This initiative is a pilot for the Panel crafting a regional response so that the point is made that the Panel is uniquely positioned to implement this approach.

The RhyNEW acronym was discussed. One suggestion was RIP (“Remove Invasives Program” or other words that would form the acronym).

***Action: Panel Committees will include in their work plans the assignments and work items in the RHyNEW.***

***Action: The Steering Committee will work on finalizing a Hydrilla pilot initiative name and acronym.***

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

Elaine Hoagland, NOAA, introduced herself. She underscored the need for taxonomic experts in the rapid response role. She announced that the new “taxonomic cadre” website is about to be launched. The site includes portraits of individuals, the species on which they are experts, and how they wish to be contacted. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission has sought funding for this effort.

Charles Hernick suggested that those groups that might be harmed by the effort should be contracted and worked with.

### **Northeast ANS Roundtable**

Judy Pederson presented the seafood translation brochures in a variety of Asian languages including Khmer, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese. The brochure is also available in Spanish because many individuals processing seafood speak that language. The brochures provide information on how to properly dispose of live seafood. The Network Outreach Program (NOP) works to identify areas that are not part of national programs like seafood, hull fouling, bait, and ballast water. The NOP trains divers to conduct surveys. Mark Wiley, Barbara Warren, and Beth Owen train divers to conduct transects and other survey components. The other part of this program provides information to divers. The information will be available online using GIS technology. The Fifth International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions will be held May 21-24, 2007.

Amy Smagula reported that New Hampshire developed a new pamphlet to inform the public about which plants are native and to promote the importance of boat and trailer cleaning. New Hampshire is anticipating that its state plan will be ready for ANSTF review in November. Amy reported that \$300,000 is allocated for research grants. The sunset clause has been removed so the funding will indefinitely.

Hope Leeson reported that the RI Natural History Survey conducts a program to train volunteers from five land trusts to recognize invasive species. The Survey has received a grant from the USDA Forest Service to create management technique demonstration areas that are open to the land trusts for training sessions.

Ann Bove report that the legislature created a volunteer AIS sticker. The design was created through a public contest. The sticker will sell for \$10 with \$9 dedicated to AIS programs. Vermont has completed its report to the legislature (available online) to provide them with a sense of current costs of ANS management in Vermont as well as future costs. A legislative study committee was recommended to further explore options for the state.

Tim Preddice reported that NY State has received \$1,000,000 to eradicate invasive species. A request for proposals was issued to municipalities for grants in the \$10 to 100K range. This year, 46 applications were received and 31 were awarded. NY is sharing \$3,000,000 with the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Unfortunately, no funds can be used to pay for personnel costs. New York's Invasive Species Task Force is a multi-agency and nonprofit group that works together to plan statewide projects.

Bill Hyatt reported that Connecticut's statewide ANS plan has gone through internal review with a final review slated for June. The state's Hydrilla infestations are more extensive than originally thought and funding is not adequate to eradicate the plant from one small watershed.

Robert Reid reported that he is still working on the George's Bank tunicate (*Didemnum*) infestation and that it has been shrinking. His program is working with Canadians in August to further work on infestation on the Bank. NOAA is working on lab studies on the nutritional value of *Didemnum* to determine if another species might eat it into extirpation. A NOAA Sea Grant RFP has been distributed with a *Didemnum* component.

Jan Smith has been working with Salem Sound Coastwatch on its diver program. The Massachusetts Bays Program has been working with MIT on rapid assessment. They are looking for sites that would be good for a group of about 20 people and solicited suggestions for those at this meeting.

Scott Weber reported that the New England Aquarium has been working with four organizations in the Bahamas to capture tropical species for its collection. Lionfish have been found off Long Island and monitoring waters off Rhode Island. NOAA has found the species in Rhode Island and their presence, as well as other tropical fishes, has been marketed by dive shops. They are a top predator in some regions.

Mike Goehle has been working on HAACP workshops in Virginia and Cornell, NY and encouraged everyone to visit the website. The 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative has been a western program addressing the westward migration of zebra mussels and is looking to expand its focus. Anyone doing border surveys in the Northeast using the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian forms should contact Mike. There is an online database ([100meridian.org](http://100meridian.org)) with boat traffic data.

Lisa Windhausen reported that the freshwater Alewife species was found in Lake Champlain. The Lake Champlain Basin Program held a workshop with five experts to examine potential impacts of the species to the Lake. The rapid response and prevention workgroups are charged with implementing the basin plan. The work groups are examining policy needs. The

Basin Program is partnering with the US Army Core of Engineers (USACE) and has a grant program to use USACE resources for Champlain restoration, including ANS prevention and control. Municipalities are eligible to apply for these funds.

Susy King reported that the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission is partnering with the Long Island Sound Study group to provide Enhancement Grants to develop an ANS Management Plan for the Sound. The funding decision anticipated in early June.

Andrea Locke reported that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is working on the second year of five years of ANS funding. The agency has developed a monitoring program for the Atlantic Zone (four DFO regions) that is structured with three levels. The first level is non-targeted and broad spectrum and is associated with sampling navigational buoys. The second level is more targeted toward high-risk or sensitive areas and is mainly directed toward tunicates. PVC plates will be deployed at over 100 sites such as those associated with aquaculture, seafood processing, and ports. The third level is a non-targeted approach that relies on established volunteer networks and programs that perform environmental (but not necessarily) ANS monitoring. DFO is working on an AIS taxonomic clearinghouse building on its toll-free reporting hotline. The program will become more formalized with dedicated funding. One of its planned tasks is to update its database. AIS reports and specimens will be forwarded to a regional taxonomist and performing triage with additional experts as needed. The National Risk Assessment Center of expertise will be holding a workshop in June to develop Canada Risk Assessment elements. Andrea is working on a rapid response element based on the rapid response NEANS Panel workshop convened in May 2003. There is an active higher-level group in Atlantic Canada AIS Task Group comprised of federal and provincial deputies and federal regional directors general to raise awareness and to promote discussions and understanding.

Peter Francisco coordinates Washington, DC and the activities of the five field units. Headquarters is working on the ballast water discharge standard. The US Coast Guard (USCG) is working with the International Maritime Organization on protocols. The Smithsonian Institution worked on national ballast water information clearinghouse. The reports are mandatory so that USCG is now receiving about 11,000 monthly reports; up from 4,000 in 2004. More reports are submitted electronically so that they can be incorporated in the database. Ballast water exams are conducted with teams that go on board to analyze compliance with international and domestic regulations. The number of these exams has nearly doubled since mid-2004. There is interest and seriousness in the program with those affected comfortable with it. There were 2,000 deficiencies reported with the majority being the lack of required on board ballast water management records and plans. Peter presented the USCG's current brochure on the program. One of the regulations states that ballast water uptake should be circumvented in areas where there are ANS or know pathogens. Unfortunately, most commanders do not have that knowledge so this pro-active approach is not feasible. Peter asked that those who have site-specific information on "hot spots" relative to ballast water intakes should contact him so that the local USCG units can disseminate it to the shipping operators. Jack Moorhouse will succeed Peter in July. Peter has been promoted to a station in Virginia.

Peter Thayer reported that the state's plan is online. The ME legislature asked ME Departments of Marine Resources and Environmental Protection to submit a report summarizing report on ANS with recommendations. The report findings indicated that the

state's research, monitoring, education, outreach, and prevention efforts are extensive. However, the recommendations section was diluted. The Maine Marine Invasives Working Group recommendations were included in the report. Elizabeth Stephenson, who coordinates the Working Group, provided background on the effort. It has been challenging to move forward on the recommendations without dedicated funding. Elizabeth asked if other states had similar groups that could offer insights or models. There are comparable working groups in NH and RI and Atlantic Canada including the Provinces of NB, NS, and PE. John McPhedran reported that there were no new known invasive infestations in 2005 as of the December freeze. The Commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have signed the state rapid response plan. There is an increasing demand by residents for herbicide use in lakes. Variable milfoil is not currently controlled with herbicides. John asked if other states and provinces have threshold criteria for use impairments relative to ANS that trigger management responses.

Kevin Cute reported that the RI ANS state management plan is nearly complete. An intern drafted the first version. The state has two funding from two sources, his agency and the RI Aquaculture Initiative Grant Program, to fund completion of the plan. The latter funding source has fostered a dialogue and collaboration between ANS planners and the aquaculture industry. RI has a biosecurity board with membership including agencies and interests including agriculture, state veterinarian, aquaculture, University of RI, and RI Coastal Resources Management Council.

Scott Newsham provided an update on current federal ANS legislation. The Senate has a ballast water management bill that has a likelihood of passage. The House has its own version. The financial authorization is fairly high in the bills. Industry appears to have a strong interest in the bill's passage. Is there a benefit in provinces and states providing their states of the environment (relative to ANS) documentation of reductions in recommendations and budget cuts to the Panel for dissemination?

***Action: Judy will act as the receptacle for site locations for ANS or pathogens and she will send it to the USCG.***

**Committee updates (committees will be preparing and submitting detailed work plans and all will address the RHyNEW initiative. These work plans will be posted at [northeastans.org](http://northeastans.org)).**

*Communication, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Committee* – Michelle Robinson and Amy Michelle Robinson reported that the committee worked on the November 2006 social marketing workshop planning. The Committee will draft a workshop outline and present it as an RFP to social marketing experts. The CEO committee is working on developing plans for the upcoming Social Marketing workshop to be held at the November NEANS meeting in Maine. CEO will draft and distribute an RFP for experts in the field of social marketing that can assist the NEANS Panel with developing and packaging specific messages to lead us to achieve our goal of preventing new RHyNEW initiative. It will be developing the target audience list so that it can be prepared to discuss this thoroughly with the selected expert and maximize the time that the Panel has with that individual to work on this project.

***Action: all committees will email to Michele their annual work plans.***

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

The committee would like to update the legislative matrix and would like to work with an unpaid law school graduate student or intern who would consider this part of his/her course work for credit. The committee recommended that the proposed RHyNEW memorandum of

agreement (MOA) be a part of the Plan process but that it would move forward with the Governor and Premier proclamation. The Committee will develop a briefing packet for the proclamation. The Committee would like to work with Charles Hernick to determine what other groups should be part of the RHyNEW. A July 20, 2006 conference call will be convened at 10:00 AM ET / 11:00 AM AT. The MOA will be developed after the plan is developed. The PL will reach out to provinces and states to determine their levels of commitment.

**Action: Michele will reserve conference lines for the July 20, 2006 at 10:00 AM ET / 11:00 AM AT PL conference call.**

**Action: Michele will draft the first version of a Governor and Premier proclamation for the PL Committee's review and comment.**

**Action: Those who have contacts for policy unpaid interns should forward them to Anne Monnelly (Amy might have one)**

**Action: Proclamation examples should be sent to Anne, Susy, and Michele.**

**Action: provincial and state representatives contacts for the legislative matrix and proclamation are Bill Hyatt for CT, Susan Snow-Cotter for MA, John McPhedran for ME, Bruce Thorpe for NB, Amy Smagula for NH, Andrew Bagnall for NS, Tim Preddice for NY, Kevin Cute for RI, and Ann Bove for VT. A Québec representative should be secured.**

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

Jan Smith has succeeded Jay Baker as ST Committee co-chair and will serve with Scott Weber. Jennifer Forman Orth will develop a template for past and future “Spotlight on Species” summaries with the first being Alewife. She will develop a webpage linking identification resources for invasive species and work in collaboration with NOAA effort. The Committee will work with the New England Aquarium (NEAq) on a NEANS Panel NEAq marine invasives monitoring workshop. The Committee will develop marine invasives species kiosk at the New England Aquarium. The Committee is drafting the RHyNEW plan. The May 2006 draft will be revised and re-distributed to the Steering Committee for review and comment.

**Action: Michele will update the Steering Committee membership and listserve with the Science and Technology co-chair changes (Jan Smith succeeding Jay Baker).**

**Action: John and Jim will revise the May 2006 RHyNEW work plan and budget drafts.**

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

The Committee continues to develop written material developed by an EPA intern. The materials are targeted to coastal traffic and general background audiences. Instead of mailing them, they will be posted on the Panel website as backgrounders and regional resource materials. The Committee will develop an assessment of policy positions and current ballast water regulations. The materials could be used to develop Panel recommendations to the ANSTF. The Committee will develop a bibliography of Northeast-relevant resources. The Committee would like to use its NEANS Panel \$5,000 allocation to contract with an intern. The Committee proposed working with the CEO and PL Committees to contract with one individual to work collectively on these initiatives. The Committee plans to develop AIS data for ports.

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

Judy's NEANS Panel co-chair term will expire in November. One Panel co-chair represents marine interests; the other, freshwater. She asked that those with a marine background or representation should contact her, Jim, and Michele to learn more about the Panel's co-chairs' roles and to express his/her willingness to stand for election.

***Action: Those interested in stepping forward as the marine NEANS Panel co-chair should contact Michele, Jim, and Judy.***

***Action: The next Steering Committee call will be held June 28, 2006 10:00 AM ET / 11:00 AM AT call. Michele will distribute a save the date message to the Steering Committee.***

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