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**Meeting Summary Draft • November 17-18, 2010
Simsbury Inn • Simsbury, CT**

Panelists present: David Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Matthew Cannister, US Geological Survey; Katie DeGoosh, RI Department of Environmental Management; Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Isabelle Simard, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement; and Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Others present: Patricia Bresnahan, CT Institute of Water Resources at UConn; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone; Evan Ross, RI Department of Environmental Management; Logan Senack, CT Department of Environmental Protection; Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel ANS Program Manager (naturesource communications); and John Volin, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UConn.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the next two days.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- The Panel accepted the May 2010 meeting summary.
- *NEANS Panel Business and Spring 2011 meeting scheduling* – Jan indicated that the May 2010 meeting rotation falls in the State of Rhode Island. The Panel will schedule the meeting for the week of April 29 to accommodate the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meeting slated for the first week of May in Arkansas. Québec has generously offered to host the meeting by covering room and food costs. Some Panelists have expressed difficulty with obtaining international travel approval. The Panel will poll its membership to determine if this is feasible for April 2010 or if it would be better to plan for it in 2012.
Action: Michele Tremblay will begin working on the Spring 2010 meeting for the week of April 29.
- ANS Task Force (ANSTF) report – Jan, Meg, and Michele attended the ANSTF meeting in Arlington, VA. Jan attended the Mitten Crab workshop held in conjunction with the Task Force meeting. There are now 39 approved plans with the addition of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Alabama. The experts database will be updated. The Western Panel has requested a full time coordinator to implement the

QZAP (Quagga and Zebra Action Plan). The Task Force decided to work with ad-hoc committees to conduct its work vs. establishing and disbanding standing committees. The NEANS Panel made a recommendation to the Task Force that it help the Panel restore and increase its federal agency participation. So far, USGS has designated a representative, Pam Fuller. EPA and other agencies have responded that their designees are in process. The Task Force discussed the enhancement of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HAACP) with Invasive Species Risk and Assessment Planning (ISRAP).

- Marine Co-chair election – Nancy Balcom was nominated to serve as marine co-chair. The Panel voted to elect Nancy. Meg thanked Jan for his commitment and service and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Panel.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council – Nancy Balcom updated the Panel on the spring meeting in San Francisco that focused on marine invasive species. Protocols and other controls on biofuel organisms was included in a white paper and posted at www.InvasiveSpecies.gov. Another paper on the green economy and job creation was posted that includes recommendations on the American Recovery and Recovery Act. A climate change and invasives paper(s) is/are under development. The National Invasive Species Council is next meeting in early December.

Highlights from Connecticut – Nancy Murray, CT Department of Environmental Protection provided an update on their activities as well as new species introductions in Connecticut. Nancy Balcom received a small grant to conduct a research project in Long Island Sound. The DEP-University of Connecticut Institute of Water Resources ANS Cooperative agreement is re-establishing its Coordinating Committee that will meet in December. It will be updating the ANS Species List and assigning risk-response priority. Other tasks include the state's rapid response plan; early detection and monitoring plan; an education program for anglers, boaters, and researchers to help them to prevent spread; and identification of potential funding sources. The DEP-UConn cooperative agreement includes support for an invasive plant coordinator, the CT Invasive Plant Working Group, and the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England. The CT Invasive Plant Council was created by state statute in 2003 and deals with cultivar issues and enforcement of transportation. Conservation Offices can enforce the ban on the sale of invasive plants. The Connecticut Boaters Guide for 2010 was debuted this year along with the Zebra Mussel Alert poster. Zebra Mussels are confirmed in East Twin Lakes, Lake Lilloniah, and Lake Zoar. State management plan funds are supporting 2011 surveys. Hydrilla is in two Mystic locations, Wilton-Silvermine Rivers and private ponds, a roadside wetland in Orange, and a private pond in Weston. *Franwort* is found throughout the state. A benthic barrier trail is in place at Bantam Lake. The CT Climate Adaptation Strategy will include an overarching objective to deal with invasive species that will maintain ecosystem resilience. The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201011/>

Northeast ANS Roundtable

Maine

Karen Hahnel and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection, reported that legislative threats to dedicated funds. There is concern that they will be swept by the legislature. They are working with USFWS to get the QZAP funding agreement executed. There was a bill in the legislature to ban bass fishing tournaments on and non-fire suppression water withdrawals from infested waterbodies. The study includes use of infested lakes by withdrawers and other interests. No Hydrilla was

found in Hippo Pond. Salmon Lake was treated 24D for Eurasian Milfoil. Diving was conducted and no further infestation was found. Prouts Pond remains infested. Notably, this is an old quarry with no public access. Two Hydrilla plants were found in Damariscotta Lake outside of the treatment area. Variable milfoil is being removed by diver assisted suction and other manual methods. There are two new infestations. Digby Pond in northern Maine has Arctic Char that have been hurt via bait bucket of smelt. The Char were removed for chemical treatment of the smelt and then were re-introduced. A single Pacu was found in Limestone. Fish and Wildlife now has a general permit to treat waters for fish restoration, such as goldfish ponds.

Vermont

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that the program Asian Clam was discovered in Lake George in August. There is a benthic barrier pilot program that she will report on at the April meeting. There are five different control technologies ranging from doing nothing to chemical to manual methods. The Rapid Response Task Force is fully populated with state and provincial appointments from New York, Québec, and Vermont. *The Lake Champlain Basin Aquatic Invasives Species Guide* has been published.

Ann Bove and Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported that a new crayfish species, *Camberis robustus*, has been confirmed in the upper White River in Vermont. It seems to be temperature restrictive and may not be invasive. It is suspected that it was introduced as bait. Vermont was the first continental state to legislatively ban felt-soled waders. The state initiated a new Zebra mussel program with a new staff to develop a boat wash program at boat launches in the Lake Champlain area in cooperation with commercial car washes. The program is exploring incentives, such as coupons. Effective July 1, the agency received authorization for general permitting with a draft developed. The public hearing has been held. The authorization is for the Commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish and Wildlife. There is a grassroots effort cooperative invasive species management area for the Ottauquechee watershed. There is a memorandum of understanding under development and a steering committee formed.

Rhode Island

Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey, via email reported that it is waiting to receive funding through the federal money being distributed by the CRMC to resume its volunteer freshwater aquatic plan monitoring program with the University of RI Watershed Watch in 2011.

Massachusetts

Adrienne Pappal and Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, reported that USFWS funds for QZAP have been received. An intern will evaluate non-state owned access points. A pilot decontamination station will be set up at Laurel Lake (zebra mussels). A project researching lobster trap fouling has been funded with results available in the spring. Adrienne wrote an invasive species paper for the State of the Gulf of Maine for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Marine Invader and Monitoring Information Collaborative is still going strong with twelve partners and seventy sites completed. Data is available on Marine Invader and Tracking and Information System and MA office of Coastal Zone Management. There

were 25 Rapid Assessment Survey participants, including a diver, from Narragansett to Casco Bays this summer. A new species of Asian rock shrimp has been found. Jan is working on the invasive species portion of the Great Waters / Gulf of Maine restoration effort. There is a \$2B federal fund request attached to the plan.

Québec

Isabelle Simard, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, reported that the water chestnut eradication program continued this summer. The biomass collected was three times higher than in 2009. We believe that is due to lower water levels and high water temperature. All the water chestnut rosettes were collected and all the known or suspected infested areas were visited. A new financial agreement will soon be signed to make sure that financial resources will be available for the eradication of the plant over the next four years. The ministry of Environment (MDDEP) is developing a protocol for the detection of exotic aquatic invasive plants for its Volunteer Lake monitoring network. We have more than 600 lakes enrolled in the network and we hope that most of them will start implement the protocol next summer. The protocol is adapted from the Maine volunteer lake monitoring program, for which we are very grateful for their help and all the tools that they have developed. MDDEP is working on applications for iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch for the detection of invasive species. It will be only plants for the first version but we are planning to expend the application to fish, invertebrates, and insects. MDDEP will implement in 2011 a code of best practices to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MRNF) is developing a strategy on invasive animals and invasive organisms affecting animals MRNF has started a research program on Asian clam to evaluate its distribution in the St. Lawrence River and in other industrial water effluents. The only known location of the species in the province is in the Gentilly power plant. Posters were displayed to inform the public about the situation. The St. Lawrence River AIS early detection network was renewed this year and the territory covered was increased. The network relies on reports from commercial fishermen. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture is really worried about the important increase in green crab populations that was observed this year in the Magdalen Islands. Collecting efforts were conducted in one important water body for mussel aquaculture, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada.

New York

Leslie Surprenant (via email) and Dave Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reported that the Office of Invasive Species Coordination's programs may slow down because about 20% of the staff was lost to retirement. Steve Sanford is one the retirees but is finishing his term on the Task Force. Contracts have been award for the research institute clearinghouse database, two new more PRISM partners, management plan, and two projects on feral swine and clean stock. New York State issued a revised certification December 2008, pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, which contained six conditions necessary to meet State Water Quality Standards for vessels operating in New York Waters covered by EPA's VGP. Although challenged in state court, the conditions have been upheld. The Department is currently reviewing a number of requests to extend the implementation date of condition two pertaining to the installation of ballast water treatment systems. Two bills are proposed in the legislature: 1. a list bill that would seek legislative authority to create regulatory lists for non-native plants and animals and 2. an AIS bill that

would prohibit launching or leaving a launch with visible plants or animals on boats and trailers. The bills have been vetted through stakeholder groups and will now be ushered through the legislation process. The 2008 and 2009 snakehead eradication efforts are now being monitored. Staff are active on the Great Lakes ANS Panel, Great Lakes Ballast Management Collaborative and Great Ships' Initiative Advisory Committee. The Office of Invasive Species Coordination (OISC) is charged with coordinating and collaborating with all stakeholders across the state. It is supporting the Invasive Species Council (nine state agencies under DEC and Agriculture and Market co-lead) and NYIS Advisory Committee (twenty-five government stakeholder members, fifteen of which are described in statute), implementing the Invasive Species Task Force Recommendations. OISC deals with all taxa and pathways and a team of three people and many partners (via contract) deliver comprehensive invasive species management. New York State's fiscal problems and complex procurement process have significantly impeded progress. The agency funded via contract many control and eradication projects via grants (terrestrial and aquatic), NY Invasive Species Research Institute (Cornell University <http://nyisri.org/>), NY IS Clearinghouse online library (Cornell / Sea Grant <http://nyis.info/>), NY IS Database (TNC <http://imapinvasives.org/>), Adk Invasive Plant Partnership (TNC <http://www.adkinvasives.com/>), Catskills Invasive Species Partnership (Catskill Center for Conservation and Development), Education – outreach (Cornell University – Cornell Coop Extension), Comprehensive IS Management Plan (Ecology and Environment, Department of Agriculture and Markets lead), Feral Swine study (Department of Agriculture and Markets lead), and Clean (plant) Stock Pilot (Department of Agriculture and Markets lead). Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in six new counties in NY this year (now confirmed in seven). Federal and state quarantines are in place. In addition, NYS implemented firewood transport regulations which prohibit the import of untreated firewood from out of state and the transport over fifty miles from source.

Federal, nonprofit, and academia

Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution, reported that she is working with the NEIWPC Executive Panel is working to get more support and participation for the Panel.

Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, reported that she has been working on a regional approach to monitoring and research in the five Maritime Provinces. This network approach focuses on early detection in marine areas with aquaculture and academia. Polyvinyl chloride plates are being used to collect tunicates. They are developing rapid assessment protocols that include divers, cameras, and docks--these are often training opportunities. Green crab is expanding with some large jumps. Colonial tunicates are also moving up the New Brunswick coast and heading toward Prince Edward Island. So far, *Didemnum* is not in Canadian waters. The DFO convened a national science conference to review the rapid response protocols including communications. There is a regulatory reform of the Canadian Fisheries Act being discussed relative to invasive species response, particularly movement on boats and other vectors. The Department is attempting to work on the Marine Protected Area in Basin Head on Prince Edward Island where there is a unique floating Irish Moss in that area that is crashing over the last few years. The spread of green crab happened in this area at the same time. So far, about 45K green crabs have been trapped. The research will focus on seeing if there is a tie between the expanded and diminished (trapped) populations on the Irish Moss. The blue growth on the

lobster that she reported via the Panel's listserve has not been definitively identified. It does not appear to be a barnacle but may be a tunicate. Michele suggested that the new NEANS Panel blog be piloted on the lobster blue gob discussion.

Action: Michele will work with Andrea Locke to pilot the new NEANS Panel blog software and create a new blog for the lobster blue mass identification.

Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that the Service is operating on a continuing resolution at the 2008 levels. He yielded the remainder of his time to the other representatives at the table.

Mike Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that there is \$300MM (a reduction) in the budget. For 2010, the programs for Regions 3 and 5 includes an online risk protocol for about 100 species screening in the Great Lakes basin. The state grant program is about \$800K for PA and NY. Species projects include water chestnut in western New York with early detection and monitoring for a six-acre zone for mechanical harvesting. About two thousand rosettes were harvested. NY Department of Environmental Conservation submitted an unconfirmed but probably report of round goby.

Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported that a group conducted a rapid assessment in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Data is being processed by an intern and will be included in the marine invader tracking only database. There have been about 10,000 hits on the database website. Work on *Didemnum* in the region is moving forward including a comprehensive white paper. New detection sensors are being explored to identify areas where it is prevalent, such as George's Bank, where divers cannot be deployed. The National Strategic Initiatives grant award winner is exploring chemical eradication, including calcium hydroxide, for *Didemnum* in New Zealand.

Marine and estuarine invasives in the Northeast region including ballast water discharge standards, Rapid Assessment Survey, and National Research Council updates

Jim Carlton presented news and research on several invasive discoveries in the region including a new shrimp that is native to the Pacific rim and was been found in New York City in 2001 but not announced by ichthyologists until 2010. Other discoveries include the European Rock Prawn was found in Salem, MA, an unusual bryozoan was found off Woods Hole, and a spaghetti bryozoan near Mystic, CT. The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201011/>

Spotlight on Species: Hydrilla

John Volin presented a master's degree student's thesis on *Hydrilla* in urban environments in southern Connecticut. The presentation highlighted several vectors, drivers, and management issues including the public's awareness of impacts and perception of control methods. The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201011/>

Panel discussion and decision on projects and an annual work plan for fiscal year 2011

Meg provided guidance on the four work groups that the Panel has been formed to date. Michele updated the Panel on the current leads and members of each work

group. Everyone will convene at 8:00 AM tomorrow and then break into their work groups to begin detailing and implementing their work plans. For those who have volunteered for multiple work groups, they should prioritize their participation for tomorrow but after that, they may more easily participate in more than one group via conference calls. Judy indicated that she would like to see nominal financial support for the marine database that is hosted at MIT. She will provide further information for the Panel's consideration tomorrow.

Panel discussion and decision on projects and an annual work plan

The Lake Greeter, Online Guide, Website, and Hydrilla Initiative Pilot (HIP) work groups met at 8:00 AM to refine their work plans.

Meg provided the update on the Lake Greeter program (funded by the Panel at \$3,000). Information collection will be conducted on ponds and rivers in the states and provinces, including known infestations that will be color coded. The data will be integrated with Google maps. Surveyed vs. non-surveyed waterbodies will be color-coded. Lakes with steward programs will be points on the map with possible pie charts indicating the time that the access point is staffed. The number of "saves" made by stewards will be shown on the map. Total bodies of water data from the 305b and 303d reports to Congress will be integrated as baseline information with possible acreage thresholds. A list of leads in the states and provinces will be developed, possibly through the use of Survey Monkey (naturesource communications has a professional account that she uses for the Panel's surveys).

The HIP phase I will be completed. A contractor will be engaged to implement phase II. There are additional funds from the State of Rhode Island to begin using the model for a marine species, Chinese Mitten Crab. Kevin provided an overview of the work that his agency is conducting under Rhode Island's State Management Plan. Michele can help with an online survey to collect information. She can help create it and host it on her service. If the work group wishes to employ an intern, it will need to write a contract with another entity and transfer the monies to it. Otherwise, the Panel may contract with an individual or entity to complete the work.

The online guide will include a USGS range map for the Northeast US and Canada. A user feedback form will be added. A cover page (with Protect your Waters and other programs logos and information including the NEANS Panel logo and users' logos) and new printing layouts including cards and tri-folds will be added to the guide output products. There will be a similar species category available with fewer pictures to help users differentiate species in the field. A conversion ruler for metric to imperial measurements will be added to the guide.

Upgrades to the website include new architecture and an updated look and feel, including scrolling images in the masthead. A search feature will be added. A new color theme will be implemented. The architecture will be updated so that information isn't focused on the Panel's organizational structure. The NEANS Panel blog has been initiated and is now available at www.NortheastANS.org/blog.

Jan proposed that the Panel begin paying for participants' travel expenses. He indicated that he will survey Panelists to learn their obstacles to participating in meetings so the can form a recommendation on the Panel providing travel funding assistance. Judy reminded the Panel that there have been serious concerns about the slippery slope of the Panel having very limited financial resources and opening the door to providing participants with travel assistance. Don indicated that the Gulf States and Western Panels pay for almost all of the participants' travel but they have US Fish and Wildlife Service staff vs. Panel-paid (from the \$50 annual authorization)

staff. Judy suggested that other organizations might be able to help with Panelists' travel expenses. Michele suggested that with enhanced federal participation on the NEANS Panel, that may be a possibility. She has seen some success with both US and Canadian federal agencies helping academia, nonprofit, and state/provincial staff go to meetings. Meg indicated that up to \$600 per state (7) per meeting (2) might be a good policy. This could potentially total \$4,800 per year. Jan would like to see US Fish and Wildlife Service staff the Panel. Don indicated that the Service would prefer not to have employees staff the regional panels so that they can operate on their own and not as the agency.

Mark Malchoff submitted via email a proposed work plan for a Corbicula watch card. Leslie indicated that the species has been found in Lake George. Zebra mussels and other invasives species were discovered by children, using watch cards. There is not currently a watch card for this species in the northeast region. The Panel's expense would be \$4,000 to print the cards (based on a conservative estimate of 10 cents for card). The template was created for the Hydrilla watch card. Ann Bove, Leslie Matthews, Mark Malchoff, and Leslie Surprenant offered to serve on a work group to implement the project, if approved by the Panel. The card should also be printed in French to accommodate the provinces of New Brunswick and Québec as well as for tourists to the US. Can QZAP funds support this project?

Meg proposed that an amount of funding be encumbered to support rapid response in a state or province if it supported a regional priority. Judy suggested that this should be seed money with matching funds (a percentage to be determined) required. The criteria should be simple to accommodate rapid response. A group should be established to draft simply criteria and a process for the Steering Committee's decision.

Judy proposed that \$2,000 of Panel funds be dedicated to support the Marine Invader Tracking and Information System (MITIS) database. The host website supports MIMIC and other products. Judy provided a demonstration of the map-data interface and user data entry tools. She asked states, provinces, and programs to use the tool by entering their data.

Meg moved to approve the budget as presented with the addition of the Corbicula watch card proposal. Nancy Balcom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The Panel voted to approve the budget as presented with the addition of the Corbicula watch card project with an expenditure of up to \$4,000.

Action: Jan will survey NEANS Panelists to determine their barriers to participating in Panel meetings and form recommendations to the Panel for travel funding assistance.

Action: Meg will work with Ann Bove, Mike Goehle, and John McPhedran to draft criteria and a process for a rapid response financial assistance program

Action: Judy will develop a work plan proposal for the MITIS database support.

Other business and public comment period

The next meeting will be convened during the last week of April 2011. The next state in rotation is in Rhode Island. Isabelle Simard offered to host the meeting in Québec. Susy King will confirm that she can use NEIWPC van to transport members to the province. Jan indicated that when he is polling Panelists about their travel obstacles, he can determine if it would be more difficult for them to travel out of the country. Michele had found that most states' travel approval is no more challenging to go to Canada than it is to go to another state. Mike Goehle can provide the HAACP and ISRAP training (as an hour-long presentation) at the April 2011 meeting. Jan suggested that the agenda be focused on Canadian program presentations. This would mean

postponing the HAACP and ISRAP training until the November 2011 meeting in Rhode Island. Michele suggested that the Spotlight on Species be focused on aquaculture relative to invasive species.

Jan reported that the funding for the State of Massachusetts's State Management Plan (SMP) funding has improved but it is still slow. Don said that the additional ARRA funding agreements with no added staff have caused the backup. Don is working to help the states. John said that the State of Maine's indirect rate (approximately 15%) has to be paid on contracted services such as brochures and public service announcements. This is problematic because the federal agreement limits indirect to 5%. There is some concern about funds needing to be carried over because of the delays resulting from the indirect issue and slowness of the agreements being executed. All printing funded through SMPs must go through the Government Printing Office. Mike will work with states on the process.

One of the roles of the regional panels is to make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Panelists should provide their own input so that the NEANS Panel can discuss them and decide what should be forwarded to the Task Force. Judy would like to work with other panels to discuss biosecurity to be discussed and a policy and legislation recommendations forwarded to the Task Force. Don would like panels to work with entities including nonprofits and other organizations to reinforce the recommendations.

Don reported that he spoke to the EPA registration office about the bio-pesticide that was presented yesterday.

Action: The Steering Committee will make a final determination on the Québec meeting venue for the April 2011 meeting

Action: Michele and Isabelle will work together on a draft agenda for the April 2011 meeting for the Steering Committee and for use in obtaining travel approval.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications