



**Northeast Aquatic  
Nuisance Species Panel**  
Resource Digest – May 1, 2005  
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Please send items and postings for the NEANS Panel Digest to Susan.Park@state.ma.us

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**A. News From the Northeast**

**International sea squirt conference held in Woods Hole, MA**

On April 21 and 22, researchers and managers from around the world convened at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to discuss the growing global problem of invasive tunicates. Scientists, including keynote speakers Gretchen Lambert (University of Washington) and Jim Carlton (Williams College), presented information on the biology, ecology, impacts, and possible control mechanisms for these marine invaders. Research papers will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology. For more information on the conference, see <http://www.whoi.edu/institutes/oli/activities/seasquirt.html> and [http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article\\_20174.shtml](http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_20174.shtml).

**Bare Hill Pond in Harvard, MA, is swamped by invasives**

The Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Commission is seeking funds to control invasive aquatic plants in the pond. They hope to control the plants, including milfoil and fanwort, by drawing down water in the pond, which will require the installation of a deep drawdown pumping system. More information on the project can be found at <http://www.harvard.ma.us/bhpwmc.htm> and <http://www.harvardhillside.com/Stories/0,1413,108~5342~2789429,00.html>.

**Is there a viable population of alewife in Lake Champlain?**

The discovery of 6 alewives in Lake Champlain last year has prompted a full-scale survey of the lake to determine whether the invasive fish species has become established. The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Complex (US Fish and Wildlife) plans to conduct electrofishing surveys this summer. Also, in partnership with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the Service will attempt to sample alewife in the late summer using mid-water trawls. For more information, contact Madeleine Lyttle at 802.872.0629 x21 or [madeleine\\_lyttle@fws.gov](mailto:madeleine_lyttle@fws.gov).

**B. Coming Soon to a Watershed Near You**

**Study shows that NOBOB vessels still carry viable organisms**

A 5-year study, conducted by the University of Michigan and NOAA, has found that “No Ballast on Board” vessels in the Great Lakes often carry residual viable organisms in their ballast tanks. These NOBOB vessels are currently exempt from ballast water management regulations. However, the study concluded that organisms could escape when NOBOB vessels added and discharged ballast water to the tanks. For more information, see <http://www.mlive.com/news/muchronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-6/1113923727250340.xml>.

**New quarantine facility opens for invasive plant research**

The US Department of Agriculture has opened a quarantine research facility in southern Florida for the study of invasive plants. The facility can now study the plants and possible

biocontrol agents under safe, controlled conditions. While the lab is focused primarily on terrestrial species, they will also be investigating aquatic plants such as the water hyacinth. For further information, visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050408.2.htm>.

### **Strange Days on Planet Earth airs on PBS**

Just in time for Earth Day, PBS and National Geographic premiered their four-part documentary "Strange Days on Planet Earth." The first hour focused on invasive species and featured many local researchers, including Jim Carlton (Williams College) and Megan Tyrell (Wells NERR). The series can be purchased on DVD at <http://www.pbs.org/strangedays/>.

### **Invasive species editorial in the New York Times**

On Earth Day, New York Times contributing author Alan Burdick chose to inform and educate readers on the problem of invasive species. In particular, he focused on the problem of ballast water as a vector for new invasions and criticized the lack of funding and legislation available to deal with the growing problem. To read the full editorial, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/22/opinion/22burdick.html>.

### **US Coast Guard to hold public meeting on NOBOB issue**

The Coast Guard will be holding a public meeting in Cleveland, OH on May 9, 2005, to receive comments on ballast water management strategies for NOBOB vessels. For more information on the meeting, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/nobob.htm>.

## **C. Policy and Legislation**

### **Three invasive species bills introduced to the US Congress**

Three new bills related to invasive species were introduced to Congress this April. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 was introduced to both the House and the Senate. This Act proposes to reauthorize and strengthen the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. Rep. Ehlers of Michigan introduced the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act, which aims to increase funding for invasive species prevention, detection, control, and eradication. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bill, the National Invasive Species Council Act, would give the Council responsibility for coordinating all invasive species activities throughout the federal government. For more on these bills, see <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/laws/congress109.shtml>.

### **Ruling reverses ballast water exemption to EPA's Clean Water Act**

After a six-year legal battle, a federal court in California has ruled that the EPA can no longer exempt ballast water from Clean Water Act permits. The EPA has argued that the Coast Guard should regulate the discharge of ballast. However, US District Judge Susan Illston found that ballast water is a pollutant and should be regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit program. The text of the ruling can be found at [http://www.lclark.edu/org/peac/objects/order\\_granting\\_sj.pdf](http://www.lclark.edu/org/peac/objects/order_granting_sj.pdf). To find out more about the issue, see [http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?abbr=press\\_&page=NewsArticle&id=7067](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?abbr=press_&page=NewsArticle&id=7067) <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=631253>.

### **Michigan poised to require ballast water treatment**

Michigan lawmakers are preparing to pass legislation that would require permits for ships docking at Michigan ports. These permits would be issued to ships only if discharged

ballast was treated. The state hopes to begin permitting in 2007. For more information on this story, see [http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw114382\\_20050414.htm](http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw114382_20050414.htm).

#### **D. Reports, Publications, and Web-based Resources**

##### **Reports**

##### **Invasive Animal Species in Marine and Estuarine Environments: Biology and Ecology**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has released a report on invasive marine organisms, particularly those species that may pose a threat to USACE activities. This report can be found at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA430308>.

##### **Baitfish of Vermont Including Lake Champlain**

This new 38-page guidebook was produced to help baitfish dealers and anglers identify the species of baitfish that are legal to use for fishing in Vermont. A new regulation, developed in 2003 in consultation with several Vermont baitfish dealers, was passed which places controls on the importation and use of baitfish to help prevent the introduction and spread of harmful exotic species. The guide can be found at [http://www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/Detail.CFM?Agency\\_\\_ID=805](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/fw/fwhome/Detail.CFM?Agency__ID=805).

##### **Invasive Species: Cooperation and Coordination Are Important for Effective Management of Invasive Weeds**

This US Government Accountability Office (USGAO) report outlines the problem of invasive weeds and makes recommendations on improving invasive plant management. The report can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05185.pdf>.

##### **Select publications from the scientific literature**

Ahyong, ST. 2005. Range extension of two invasive crab species in eastern Australia: *Carcinus maenas* (Linnaeus) and *Pyromaia tuberculata* (Lockington). *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 50(4): 460-2.

Avasthi, A. 2005. Saying no to invasives. *Science*. 308: 481.

Davis, AR, K Benkendorff and DW Ward. 2005. Responses of common SE Australian herbivores to three suspected invasive *Caulerpa* spp. *Marine Biology*. 146(5): 859-868.

Dionisio Pires, LM, BM Bontes, E Van Donk, and BW Ibelings. 2005. Grazing on colonial and filamentous, toxic and non-toxic cyanobacteria by the zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*. *Journal of Plankton Research*. 27(4): 331-339.

Glasby, TM, RG Creese and PT Gibson. 2005. Experimental use of salt to control the invasive marine alga *Caulerpa taxifolia* in New South Wales, Australia. *Biological Conservation*. 122(4): 573-580.

Hewitt, C, M Campbell, F McEnulty, K Moore, N Murfet, B Robertson, and B Schaffelke. 2005. Efficacy of physical removal of a marine pest: the introduced kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* in a Tasmanian Marine Reserve. *Biological Invasions*. 7(2): 251-263.

Nyberg, C and I Wallentinus. 2005. Can species traits be used to predict marine macroalgal introductions? *Biological Invasions*. 7(2): 265-279.

Rudnick, D, T Veldhuizen, R Tullis, C Culver, K Hieb, and B Tsukimura. 2005. A life history model for the San Francisco Estuary population of the Chinese mitten crab, *Eriocheir sinensis* (Decapoda: Grapsoidea). *Biological Invasions*. 7(2): 333-350

Yamada, S, B Dumbauld, A Kalin, C Hunt, R Figlar-Barnes, and A Randall. 2005. Growth and persistence of a recent invader *Carcinus maenas* in estuaries of the northeastern Pacific. *Biological Invasions*. 7(2): 309-321.

#### **Web-based Resources**

##### **National Invasive Species Council website adds new material**

The NISC website, <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>, has added a considerable amount of new information. To see new additions for March 2005, go to <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/new/new0305.shtml>

##### **NOAA offers new educational kit on estuary science**

A new online educational product, the fourth in a series of “Discovery Kits” developed by NOAA’s National Ocean Service, is now available online for students and teachers. This latest kit explains the science of estuaries and contains some information on invasive estuarine species. The kits can be found at <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education>.

#### **E. Upcoming Conferences and Events**

May 3, 2005 – Portsmouth, NH, US

##### **NEANS Panel Workshop – Implementing Rapid Response to Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Northeast: Key Components of a Successful Program**

For more information, contact Michele L. Tremblay at [mlt@naturesource.net](mailto:mlt@naturesource.net).

May 4-5, 2005 – Portsmouth, NH, US

##### **Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Meeting**

<http://www.northeastans.org/meetings.htm>

May 5-6, 2005 – Florence, Italy

##### **Biological Invasions in Inland Waters**

Hosted by the University of Florence.

<http://www.dbag.unifi.it/inwat/index.html>

May 13, 2005 – White River Junction, VT, US

##### **Cooperative Weed Management Area Workshop**

A free workshop sponsored by the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Midwest Invasive Plant Network. To register, go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/nnis/cwma.pdf>.

May 14 and 22, 2005 – Beverly, MA, US

##### **Marine Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop**

At this workshop, Salem Sound Coastwatch will present information on invasive species identification and survey techniques, as well as background information on the pathways of introduction and the goals and structure of this monitoring program.

<http://www.salemsound.org/calendar.htm#May>.

May 15-18, 2005 – St. Paul, MN, US

**Are Your Natives Restless? Holistic Strategies for Conserving Freshwater Mollusks during Exotic Species Invasions**

Hosted by the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society and the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee. See more at <http://ellipse.inhs.uiuc.edu/FMCS/symposium/>.

May 25-27, 2006 – Monterey, CA, US

**ANS Task Force May Meeting**

[http://www.anstaskforce.gov/May\\_'05\\_ANSTF\\_Meeting.doc](http://www.anstaskforce.gov/May_'05_ANSTF_Meeting.doc)

July 12-14, 2005 – Portland, ME, US

**River and Lake Restoration: Changing Landscapes**

Hosted by the Universities Council on Water Resources and the National Institutes for Water Resources. One planned topic is the control and management of invasive species. <http://ucowr.siu.edu/05CoP.pdf>

September 5-12, 2005 – Katowice, Poland

**8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions**

[http://www.emapi.us.edu.pl/invite\\_ok.php](http://www.emapi.us.edu.pl/invite_ok.php)

September 16-17, 2005 – Framingham, MA, US

**2<sup>nd</sup> New England Invasive Plant Summit**

Convened by the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) and New England Invasive Plant Group (NIPGro). Now calling for papers at <http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/summit05/plantsummit05.htm>.

Spring, 2006 – Florida, US

**14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species**

Abstracts are due August 31, 2005. See <http://www.icaais.org/>.

**F. Other**

**Funding opportunities**

**USDA opportunities for invasive species**

The report “USDA Grant and Partnership Programs that Can Address Invasive Species Research, Technical Assistance, Prevention and Control” details the various ways in which the agency can support invasive species efforts. The report can be found at <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/docs/usdagrants2005.pdf>.

**National Research Initiative: Animal and Plant Biosecurity**

The Animal and Plant Biosecurity program aims to establish investigator collaboration on animal and plant diseases and pests of high economic impact that are currently endemic in the U.S., or that are future threats due to accidental or intentional introduction through bioterrorism attacks. Final proposals are due June 15, 2005. For more information, see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1074>.

**Native Plant Conservation Initiative**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Plant Conservation Alliance, has announced a Request for Proposals for the 2005 Native Plant Conservation Initiative (NPCI). Pre-proposals are due August 15, 2005. For more information, see <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/npci.htm>.