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### **Meeting Summary • December 16 and 17, 2002**

Panelists in attendance: Nancy Balcom, CT Sea Grant, Cynthia Boettner, New England Invasive Plant Group (NIPGro); Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Lara Gibson (via conference call), Ecology Action Centre; Bill Harman, NY State Federation of Lake Associations; Michael Hauser, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Anjuna Langevin, Shipping Federation; Michael Maddox, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council; Les Mehrhoff, G. Safford Torrey Herbarium-University of CT; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Wayne Millington, National Park Service; Anne Monnelly for Jim Straub, MA Department of Environmental Management; Jeremy Pare, New Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Judith Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Tim Sinnott, NY Department of Environmental Conservation; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jan Smith, MA Bays Program; Susan Snow-Cotter, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; and Donna Turgeon, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration.

Other participants and guests: Michelle Babione, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Jay Baker, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jen Drociak, NH Coastal Program; David Erne, Booz Allen Hamilton; Gretchen Fitzgerald (via conference call), Ecology Action Centre; Sharon Gross, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Peter Lord, *The Providence Journal*; Bob Paquette, WFCR Public Radio; David Perkins, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Gail Roderick, US Coast Guard; Michelle Robinson, MA Department of Environmental Management; Jennifer Salerno, Booz Hamilton Allen; Shannon Weigle, MA Bays Program; and Diana Weaver, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Contract staff: Michele L. Tremblay, ANS Program Manager.

#### ***Monday, December 16, 2002***

##### **Introductions and updates**

Michelle Babione, US Fish and Wildlife Service - Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, welcomed everyone to Hadley and the USF&WS facility. Susan Snow-Cotter and Tim Sinnott introduced themselves as co-chairs of panel. Panelists and others in attendance also introduced themselves.

Susan Snow-Cotter provided update on NAISA. The regional panels have conducted weekly conference calls to refine the bill. There was not a great deal of action due to other Congressional issues. In November, the US House Resources and Sciences Committees had joint hearing. Those involved felt positively about

reauthorization with all who participated testifying in support of the bill. However, NOAA had issues with the timing of the rulemaking process. There was a commitment by congressional leadership to see action in the first 100 days of the new session. Allegra Cangelosi, Northeast Midwest Institute, is encouraging regional panels to get involved in reviewing the bill and helping to it. Industries and NGOs can help with calling or writing their congressional delegations. Sharon Gross may be able to provide updates as more information is available. The bill text is available at <http://www.nemw.org/biopollute.htm#law>.

In absentia, Chuck O'Neil provided a written update on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee's activities.

Susan Snow-Cotter congratulated Jay Baker and John McPhedran for receiving federal approval of their respective state management plans.

Michele Tremblay updated the Panel's Year One and Two funding. The request for an unfunded extension for Year One has been granted. Year Two funding was approved by USF&WS. Negotiations are underway with Ecology Action Centre (EAC) to secure a second Panel contractor before the Spring 2003 meeting. Susan Snow-Cotter commented on the still-weak CA participation on the Panel. The new EAC contractor will work on encouraging more Canadian participation.

### **Roundtable**

*Jen Drociak* introduced herself as the new Saltmarsh Restoration Specialist with the NH Office of State Planning Coastal Program and will serve as that agency's NEANS Panelist.

*Jay Baker* provided an update on the rapid response plan and protocol for Massachusetts. The Panel may wish to discuss the value of a regional rapid response plan. Jay also provided an update on the NEANS Panel website. A suggestion was made to include links to state Management plans as well as provincial and state websites that carry lists of infested waters.

*Jan Smith* updated the panel on the "Eyes on the Estuaries" conference that was held in November. The conference was well-received with presenters from as far away as California. In one presentation, data indicate that Welk and Chinese Mitten Crab may survive as invaders in this region given ballast water transmission likelihood and water temperature. The US Department of Agriculture also gave a presentation on their project that tracks Internet sales of invasive species. Currently, they write warning letters to vendors and then initiative further enforcement actions as appropriate. An "Eyes on the Estuaries" workshop report is expected to be completed in January 2003.

*John McPhedran* indicated that the State of Maine's ANS management plan received federal approval. John credited their volunteer lake associations in helping to complete the plan. The Associations wrote a grant and hired a consultant to complete the project. A third person, Paul Gregory, was hired in April for the Invasive Species Program. This brings ME's program to the full staffing level required by the state's enabling legislation. Sadly, *Hydrilla* was discovered in Limerick (southwest Maine), last month.