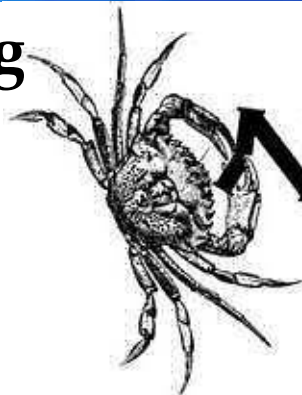
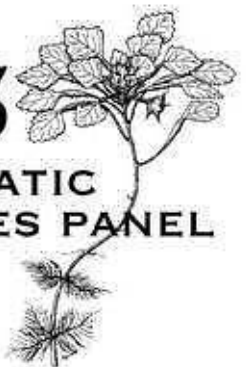


**Spring Meeting**  
*Portland, Maine*



**NEANS**

**NORTHEAST AQUATIC  
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL**



*May 11-13, 2015*



## Conference call and webinar access for May 12-13, 2015 meeting

Dear NEANS Panelists and ANS friends,

This document provides you with instructions, links, and credentials for conference call and webinar access.

The webinar is desktop sharing style so you will be able to see the presentations as they appear on the projection screen at the meeting. To hear the presenters and participate in discussions, you must dial into the conference line. *You may also dial-in if you do not wish to participate in the webinar.*

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Access includes the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Steering Committee, Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel general session, and Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council board of directors meetings. There will not be remote access for the HACCP workshop.

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The application will launch automatically on most computers. If it does not, you will be prompted to do so manually by clicking on the link displayed in small blue box in the upper right-hand corner of your screen.

The best call quality for everyone will be achieved by using a landline instead of a mobile telephone and a headset or handset instead of speaker telephone. The delays and echoes are magnified and create feedback and other audio disturbances, especially if multiple callers are also using mobile telephones or speaker telephones. If you must use a mobile telephone or a speaker telephone, please engage your mute tool when you are in a noisy area or are not speaking.

If you cannot travel to the meeting or participate remotely, I will be posting presentations (where presenter permissions are provided to me) at <http://www.northeastans.org/panel-members.html>, where your briefing book is posted. Please be sure to take a moment to click on the meeting forum link for the Fall 2014 meeting: <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2014-meeting-roundtable-updates/> and add your update.

Should you encounter any difficulties, please call me at the number below or email me. I will endeavour to respond as I am able during the meeting.

Safe travels, keyboarding, and dialing.

--

Michele L. Tremblay

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**NEANS Panel Meeting Agenda and  
GMRI-NEANS Panel Science Café**  
May 11-13, 2015  
*Gulf of Maine Research Institute  
Portland, ME*

**Monday, May 11, 2015 | Gulf of Maine Research Institute-Northeast Aquatic  
Nuisance Species Panel Science Café**

**5:30 - 7:30 Gulf of Maine Research Institute Science Café**

*PM with members of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel*

**Tuesday, May 12, 2015 | Panel Steering Committee and general session meetings**

**1:00 PM Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting  
agenda, and updates by Co-chair**

*Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, Alicia  
Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, co-chairs*

***ANS updates and Panel business:***

- December 2014 meeting summary and February 2015 call summary acceptance – Amy and Alicia
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in August 2015 – Amy, Alicia, and Michele Tremblay
- November 2015 meeting in Connecticut – Amy, Alicia, Nancy Murray, and Michele
- 2014-2015 NEANS Panel budget update – Meg Modley, Treasurer
- ANS Task Force May 2015 meeting update including status of NEANS Panel recommendations – Don MacLean, Acting Executive Secretary (invited), Alicia, and Michele
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present (see 2:30 PM agenda item)

**1:45 PM Presentation of National Invasive Species Council and Aquatic  
Nuisance Species Task Force award to the Lake Hosts of NH LAKES**

*Amy Smagula and Alicia Grimaldi to Andrea Lamoreaux, Vice-  
president, NH LAKES*

**2:15 PM Highlights from Maine**

*Moderated by John McPhedran, Maine Department of Environmental  
Protection*

**2:45 PM Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources:  
Fight the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species – Early  
Detection and Rapid Response framework and fund development  
plan**

*Judy Pederson and Michele Tremblay, Members, Invasive Species  
Advisory Council EDRR Subcommittee Ad-Hoc Advisory Team Members*

**3:15 PM Meeting recess and leave for field tour**  
**Invasive species underfoot—exploring docks and wharves**  
*Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant College Program*  
*Larry Harris, University of New Hampshire (invited)*

**6:00 PM Meet at a Holiday Inn by the Bay lobby for group supper(s)**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015 | Panel general session meeting**

**8:00 AM Work groups meeting time with breakfast snacks provided**

**9:15 AM Work group reports**

**9:45 AM Roundtable—*really* fast-paced updates from Panelists and Panel participants** (updates may also be posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2014-meeting-roundtable-updates>)  
*Moderated by Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services and Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1*

**10:15 AM Spotlight on Species: Green Crabs**  
*Jeremy Miller, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve*  
*Joe Roman, Harvard University and University of Vermont*

**11:30 AM Chinese mitten crab rapid response plan draft presentation**  
*Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension*

**12:00 AM Public comment period**

**12:15 PM Panel meeting adjourns**

# NEANS Panel • May 2015 meeting participants

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**Meeting Summary Draft • May 14-15, 2014**  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries • Gloucester, MA

**Panelists present in Providence and via conference call/webinar (c/w):** Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Peg Brady, Kevin Cute; RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Environment and Energy (c/w); Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Kimberly Roth, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**Others participating via conference call/webinar (c/w):** Denise Blanchette, ME Department Environmental Protection; Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant; Susan Pasko; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Jim Stahlnecker, ME Department of Environmental Protection; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor for the Panel.

**Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs** –Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the NEANS Panel meeting.

**ANS updates and Panel business:**

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- Accept May 2014 meeting summary.  
**Decision: The October 2013 meeting summary was accepted.**
- Schedule Panel mid-term call in February 2015.  
**Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the second week of February.**
- Schedule May 2015 meeting in Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast (Hutchinson Center), Boothbay, or Portland, Maine. The date ranges of May 21-22 and May 5-7 are identified as conflicts. The second half of the month becomes more challenging.  
**Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the fall Panel meeting, secure a facility and distribute a save the date message to [Panel@NortheastANS.org](mailto:Panel@NortheastANS.org). Michele will work with the Maine Panelists and her contacts to explore no-cost venues.**
- 2013-2015 budget update – Meg indicated that all funds are spent or encumbered according to the current budget. There was \$10,000 set aside for rapid response. The Panel awarded a single grant of \$1,600 to the Connecticut River Watershed Council for a water chestnut removal effort. There was a small amount of funding set aside for some projects, pending future Panel funding projections. The annual authorization is \$50,000 but the allocation is only \$40,000 currently.

- Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force convened its fall meeting at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's new headquarters in Falls Church, VA. Don MacLean provided an update of the November 2014 meeting. There are some issues with the Task Force's website, which are being repaired. There was an "all Panels meeting" convened the day before the Task Force's meeting. Michele Tremblay, on behalf of the NEANS Panel (working pro bono) and Erika Jensen, on behalf of the Great Lakes Commission, are co-hosting a conference call for Panels and other concerned organizations to discuss NISA re-authorization. There may be an issue with the legality of using a stop sign-like graphic in the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers materials due to US Department of Transportation rules. The federal ANS hotline will be phased out and support will be focused on driving traffic to the database. Susan Pasko is working on the final draft of the Report to Congress. The NEANS Panel will need to provide further information for a new section of the report. The final comment and submission deadline will be December 5, 2014. The report is required and may support NISA reauthorization as well as to support other funding discussions. The lionfish control and management plan is slated to be finalized with federal register posting. Training sessions focused on elements of the plan are being developed. There was a discussion about revitalizing the Habitattitude program. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has not had the funding to support a new ANS Task Force Executive Secretary but is now planning to post the position. Don provided handouts that are currently posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>. Additional updates may be found at the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force website at [www.ANSTaskForce.gov](http://www.ANSTaskForce.gov).
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – Peg reported that ISAC has not met for some time but was hosted for a meeting in November 2014. There are some NISC membership vacancies. Laurie Williams, Executive Director, has retired. Gordon Brown's former seat has been filled by Hilary Smith. The Research Committee is meeting to discuss climate change. The northeast has not been well represented in the NISAW award program. Nominations are due December 5, 2014.
- Mark's term as senior co-chair ends with this meeting. Meg nominated Alicia Grimaldi to serve as co-chair. There were no further nominations. Mark closed the nominations. The Panel voted to elect Alicia Grimaldi as co-chair.  
**Decision: The Panel elected Alicia Grimaldi as the new co-chair.**
- Amy presented Mark with a certificate of appreciation for his two years of service as co-chair and received applause from all signifying their gratitude.

**Highlights from Massachusetts** – Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. Jim distributed the Department's new "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" branded pamphlet, which provides instructions on how to prevent the spread of invasive species, including decontamination procedures. He distributed a hardcopy of the new Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Massachusetts law (302 CMR 18.00). There is still an opportunity to comment on the law, given that the public comment period has been extended. Jim discussed how there may be new approaches to remove water from systems. There are significant funds dedicated to cutting and removing terrestrial species. There are new transportation laws for invasive species including aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The law includes nuisance species that are native or exotic as defined in 18.02. Freshwater bait movement and disposal is addressed primarily through education. The primary issue is not the bait but the packing materials and

water. The Department has the power to quarantine waterbodies where some ANS are found. For instance, in an infected lake, docked boats shall not be removed, if so ordered by the Department. There have been no fines assessed to date. Rangers are enforcing the law at state parks. The law provides the DCR with the ability to train and empower other enforcement personnel. The Department is now receiving all \$22,000+- state management funds, which formerly were provided in part or in whole to the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). An intern will be evaluating the plan implementation.

Anne Carroll provided on a report that Jan Smith gave to her. Jan retired from the Office of Coastal Zone Management last week. The rapid response report is finalized. Adrienne coordinated the MIMIC activities this summer. Jim Carlton, Williams College, conducted a shrimp study with the remaining funds. An intern conducted a green crab burrow study. The sea squirt conference was supported by the same funds.

Judy Pederson was at the conference where a chef presented the value of serving invasive species, including sea squirts. They (*stye/la*) were not very tasty when eaten raw. With cooking and preparation with rice and vegetables, the taste was not much better.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>.

**Action: The Panelists will sign and mail a card to thank Jan Smith for his charter membership with the Panel since 2001.**

### **New York State Aquatic Invasive Species Plan draft and New York's new AIS laws and regulations**

Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation was not able to participate in the meeting. She provided a written update posted at

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

### **Preliminary Results of ShrimpEx14: A Sweep of the Northeast Coast from Maine to New Jersey for Introduced and Native Shrimp**

Jim Carlton, Williams College, provided a preliminary presentation on the ShrimpEx14 results.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

### **Work Group reports**

#### *Spread Prevention*

Mark Malchoff reported that refinements have been made to the floating key chain survey page at <http://northeastans.org/keychain.html>.

**Action:** Michele will continue to provide monthly reports to the Spread Prevention Work Group with they key chain survey results.

#### **Action:**

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

#### *Climate Change*

Judy led a work group meeting this morning. There are some interesting data from Canada that would be a good model for the Panel's approach to climate change effects on native and non-native populations. The primary issue is that this the ideal time to document effects of climate change on invasive species. A research project for both marine and freshwater would be ideal for a graduate student or intern. Perhaps the Panel could shift the focus to the effects of climate change on ecosystem vs. the



current culture that considers only human health, safety, and property. The US Coast Guard is implementing the ballast water regulations, which includes working with users on reporting. This does not appear to be the USCG's primary focus given their broad areas of responsibility and authority. The US Environmental Protection Agency has authority in this area including through the NPDES process. States can also use their own 401 certification. The NISAW and the Clean Water Act are the empowering laws. Jim Stahlnecker felt that a regional approach would be more effective than each state taking the responsibility individually. In the Great Lakes region, that approach has been successfully implemented through exchanges and treatments. California has been successful with its own approach. Generally, the shifts in biodiversity have been marked as evidenced in the presentation that Larry Harris provided to the Panel several years ago. Peg suggested that a joint workshop with biodiversity groups might be timely. Freshwater information can be found in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans risk assessment document, the Environmental Law Institute *Effects of Climate Change on Aquatic Invasive Species and Implications for Management and Research* (<http://www.eli.org/research-report/effects-climate-change-aquatic-invasive-species-implications-management-research>), and the Lake Champlain study, *Climate Change in the Champlain Basin* (<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont/howwework/champlain-climate-report-5-2010-2.pdf>). The focus should be general biodiversity with an emphasis on climate change effects or ballast water and hull fouling vectors. Judy, John, Peg, Mark, and Alicia volunteered. Judy will contact Adrienne Pappal to gauge her availability and interest in participating.

**Action: The Climate Change Work Group will work with the Panel leadership to form a substantial part of the May meeting to discuss the need and approaches for a regional response for both freshwater and marine environments.**

**Roundtable** (Panelists' and participants' updates are posted on the Panel Forum at [http://www.northeastans.org/forum/?page\\_id=87](http://www.northeastans.org/forum/?page_id=87))

#### **Connecticut**

Nancy Murray, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

#### **New Hampshire**

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, reported that there were two early detection programs. Two small populations of variable milfoil were found and mostly removed by divers in two small lakes. The two populations appear to be eradicated as winter begins. There is an additional two dollars per boat registration that has garnered an additional \$190,000 for control efforts. Exotic species rules expired over the summer and the proposed new rules were adopted with giant salvinia but without the inclusion of certain non-native water garden plant species including water hyacinth and water lettuce. The water garden lobby opposed their inclusion. Peg suggested the ANS Task Force water garden guidance document might be a good tool for education with these groups. The Panel discussed if the onus should be on the regulatory agency to identify alternative species or to disprove their harm or should it be on the injury?

#### **New York**

Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation reported that DEC adopted regulations in early June of this year requiring recreational boaters to remove all visible plants and animals from their boats, trailers, and associated equipment and

to drain all water from water-holding compartments before launching in or leaving a DEC-owned water. The regulations may be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html#Part59Sect594Part190Sect19024p>. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation adopted similar, complementary regulations in November 2014, which may be viewed at <http://docs.dos.ny.gov/info/register/2014/nov12/pdf/rulemaking.pdf>. The Governor signed two AIS-related laws in September. One requires operators of boats and individuals deploying floating docks into a public water body or its inlet or outlet to take “reasonable precautions such as removal of any visible plant or animal matter, washing, draining, or drying” and requires DEC to develop regulations that prescribe acceptable “reasonable precautions.” DEC is currently working with stakeholders as it crafts the draft regulations. It is expected the final regulations will be adopted in September 2015. Over the past several years, several local governments have adopted their own laws, creating a regulatory “patchwork.” While the new law does not supersede local laws, adoption of statewide regulations will help communities and boaters by providing one set of regulations that can be applied statewide. The second law directs DEC to develop a universal AIS spread-prevention warning sign and to make this sign available online to all owners of public boat launches. The law requires that owners of all such launches, within one year of enactment (i.e. by 9/23/15), to “conspicuously post the universal sign of not less than eighteen inches by twenty-four inches.” DEC has designed and posted universal signage at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/85939.html>. On October 29, DEC released its draft Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and is accepting public comments through December 15. Leslie encouraged NEANS Panelists to review and comment on the draft. There are more than 50 actions recommended in this strategic plan. The plan may be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99053.html>. Leslie is seeking information from other NEANS Panel states and provinces on their AIS programs, staffing, and budgets. Thanks to all who provided their states’ and provinces’ information. If anyone wishes their boat steward program on the map being developed by NYiMapInvasives, please respond to Leslie’s emails sent last week and a few weeks prior.

### **Vermont**

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, reported on water chestnut management in Lake Champlain and other waterbodies is primarily conducted by local groups in partnership with VTDEC. The populations have been reduced to seven miles with forty-six eliminated. Funding has been cut. A large portion of remaining funds have been dedicated to water chestnut. It will likely be up to four more years to reduce populations to allow hand pulling as an ongoing solution. It was a surprise to see how large the spiny water flea population in Lake Champlain is. A new Eurasian milfoil and a new water chestnut population have been identified. Over 2500 pounds of water chestnut biomass have been removed to date. There are about 67 waterbodies in Vermont affected by invasive species.

### **Maine**

John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), reported that there was one new variable milfoil population, although there was one floating fragment found in 2003. The MEDEP along with other cooperating groups worked together to find a population and conducted a removal operation. There were additional areas that were confirmed as variable milfoil in the ~1,400 acre lake. The two ponds with Hydrilla have been surveyed: one appears to be free of it and the other

remains. There are several private ponds with Hydrilla. A legislative action changed the MEDEP allocation of boat sticker funding to 80% of the proceeds for control activities. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) receives the remaining 20%. The state's invasive species task force is working on its plan revision. The *Maine Citizens' Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plant Management* was published this summer. The grant program is being revised to streamline the application process and provide better information for the MEDEP. Out of the enquiries the IFW received this year, there were 72 confirmed as invasive species. There was some discussion about using live vs. dead baitfish. No baitfish not raised in Maine may legally enter the state. No seine bait harvesting may occur in lakes with documented invasive species.

Jim Stahlnecker said that green crab effects on eelgrass are being studied in collaboration with Hilary Neckles, US Geological Survey, who is studying eelgrass density in Casco Bay.

### **Academia, interstate, and nonprofit**

Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, has continued work on bass tournament outreach and education. The tournaments draw anglers from a wide geographic area and they move among a large number of lakes. Boat washing education continues to be the approach. Bloody red shrimp is a species of growing concern.

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that there are boating stations that are wrapping up their seasonal inspection and decontamination work. There was not a great deal of negative press on the program. The state, municipalities, and local organizations have shared the costs. The barrier proposal work is ongoing with US Army Corps to investigate a hydrological barrier. Their funding has been cut significantly. The NYS Canal Corporation is working on a flow drainage project to support the effort. They have supported the boat launch steward program. Lake Champlain water chestnut funding efforts remain challenging. There was a rapid response effort focused on spiny water flea in Lake Champlain indicating that the population has expanded in biomass as well as geographically. Drying appears to be the best method to control transmission at all life stages vs. chemical methods. Boat launch steward data are being processed, including boat corridor movement to inform decontamination station siting. The North American Plant Management Society's annual meeting is slated for January 20-22, 2015.

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, provided a synopsis of the International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference in Woods Hole, held in April 2014. The meeting included a half-day workshop on ascidians led by Gretchen Lambert (Friday Harbor) and Rosana Rocha (Brazil). The meeting included participants from Spain, Australia, Canada, and the US. Several talks and posters presented work on responses of non-native species to climate related impacts, e.g. temperature and salinity, competition, and distribution. At the Israeli Marine Bioinvasions in the Mediterranean Meeting and Workshop, there were large-scale interaction. The underlying focus was on the probably widening and deepening of the Suez Canal and the likely impacts on the Mediterranean. There are over 700 invasive species, most as Lessepsian migration (through the Suez Canal) and the numbers are predicted to double. Egypt has not prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment nor considered mitigation efforts. The Europeans and others have sent letters to the Egyptian government requesting an environmental impact assessment. By comparison, this region has about 40 identified non-native species and a total of about 650 species in the Gulf of Maine. The other discussion revolved around two issues, Climate change, biodiversity, and non-native species and ballast and hull fouling vectors. Although both were deemed to merit in-depth discussions, the group agreed

that a half-day session on climate change, biodiversity, and non-native species would be appropriate for the May 2015 meeting. Suggested topics and speakers should be made to the steering committee with Judy, Mark, John, Alicia, and Peg as resources. The request for information on northern range expansions from NEANS Panel representatives has proven to be challenging with everyone's workload. The goal of the meeting is to put climate change into perspective for the panel and identify how we can collectively work together to identify data gaps, and highlight changes that are observed.

Nancy Balcom, UConn Sea Grant, reported that there a female Chinese mitten crab report in Greenwich. Jim Carlton indicated that it likely came from the Hudson River. There was a recent report of striped mussels in a pond in southern Connecticut. Nancy reported that her work focus has changed and that she is resigning from the Panel. This is her last meeting. The Panel expressed their appreciation or Nancy's work and leadership with the Panel

### **Federal**

Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency, reported that the agency is conducting transects at about twenty sites, which found eight new invasive tunicates.

Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that all state management plan grants have been distributed. The recent audit process has changed the grant program dramatically. There is now a much higher emphasis on due dates and tracking deliverables, including automated reminders. They are also working on decreasing the lag time between applications and state receiving their funds.

Peg Brady, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reported on internal work to organize line offices to connect them with the invasive species network. They will have their second retreat in the spring and host a HACCP training in California. The Lionfish plan work continues. NOAA has action plans processes for the sanctuary and protected areas.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

### **Spotlight on Species: Lionfish**

Dr. Stephanie Green, Department of Integrative Biology, Oregon State University James R. Ballard, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel presented background and progress to date on the Lionfish invasion, plan, and recommendations.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

### **Chinese Mitten Crab Sea Grant Project rapid response draft plan presentation**

Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant, presented an update on the Chinese Mitten Crab Plan.

<http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201412/>

### **Public comment period**

Michele expressed her gratitude for Nancy's work with and leadership of the Panel. The entire Panel thanked Nancy for her many years of service and her charter representation on the NEANS Panel.

It is not clear on the priority status of invasive species with the region's Sea Grants. There is some variation but staff resources are generally not large. At the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the issue is identified as a priority but that is not always reflected in

the final budget. Information on impacts to endangered species and migratory birds may help change the budget allocations. Another issue is at what point control brings the invasive species to a manageable level.

There were no further comments from the public. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

*Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications*



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## Conference Call Summary Draft • February 3, 2015

**Panelists participating in conference call:** Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Administration; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Energy and Environment; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Kimberly Roth, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, and Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit.

**Others participating in conference call:** Cathy McGlynn, Northeast Illinois Plant Partnership; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; and Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel contractor (naturesource communications).

**Consent agenda** – The consent agenda was accepted.

**Welcome and roll call** – Alicia Grimaldi welcomed everyone to the conference call and outlined the agenda.

### May 2015 NEANS Panel meeting planning

Michele provided a background on the current meeting format and provided a list of agenda topic placeholders. Mark likes the current format that allows him to drive the morning of the first day of the meeting vs. having to drive in the overnight hours. Nancy Murray expressed that the State of Connecticut was under severe travel restrictions so a different format would not provide any relief. Karen, Leslie, Judy, and Ann support the two-day meeting format for the May meeting to facilitate easier travel and networking on the evening. A suggestion for the Spotlight on Species agenda is to feature green crab and eelgrass work with climate change and indicator species emphasis. Amy Smagula suggested a discussion of allowed and prohibited species listings.

**Decision:** *The Panel will utilize its traditional two-day meeting and field tour format for the May 2015 meeting at Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, Maine.*

**Action:** *Alicia will take the lead to identify presenters for the Spotlight on Species: green crab agenda item and a related field tour opportunity.*

**Action:** *Amy will take the lead to identify presenters for the Spotlight on Species: species listing agenda item.*

**Action:** *Michele will submit requests for proposals to the new Eastland Park Hotel and the Holiday Inn by the Bay and make a selection based on lowest price.*

### Forming recommendations for the May 2015 ANSTF meeting

Ann suggested that the Panel re-draft and re-submit its recommendation to restore and increase Panel funding. Currently, the six regional panels were each cut \$10,000 for a

total of \$60,000 nationally. Leslie asked if all Panels could write a single sign-on letter to submit as a recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to restore and increase Panel funding. The Council can advocate directly to elected officials. John moved to re-draft and re-submit the NEANS Panel's funding restoration and increase recommendation for presentation at the May 2015 ANS Task Force meeting. Amy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

***Decision: The Panel will submit a recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at its May 2015 meeting asking for increased regional panel funding and will invite the other five regional panels to sign on to the effort for a unified recommendation.***

***Action: Michele will invite the other five regional panels to coordinate in a unified recommendation to increase their funding levels and submit it to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at its May 2015 meeting.***

### **Funding updates**

Michele reported that she is researching the Keen grant opportunity, which emphasizes outdoor and youth activities. She was able to negotiate a lower fee with the CPA, Stephen C. Robinson, to prepare the state and federal filings. This lower price means that Michele will do more work to justify the reduced fee.

### **Work Group updates**

The Spread Prevention Work Group is convening a conference call on February 26, 2015 to evaluate the floating key chain and survey project

Judy is the marine co-chair of the work group. She reported that she has not received much feedback on the solicitation for information regarding Climate Change Work Group project. Canada has provided some very good information. Most of the marine monitoring programs are not including temperature data. Isabelle Simard is the freshwater co-chair. Judy will be evaluating the approach and will be contacting the Panel with a new request.

### **Other business**

Michele, working pro bono and Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission are working together to prepare for and convene a conference call to discuss the National Invasive Species Act re-authorization.

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned.

*Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications*