



**Spring Meeting**  
*Providence, RI*



**NEANS**

**NORTHEAST AQUATIC  
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL**



*May 11-12, 2016*



## Conference call and webinar access

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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 Spring meeting: <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2016-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  
with Steering Committee meeting**  
Panel meeting agenda  
May 11-12, 2016  
*Save the Bay*  
100 Save the Bay Drive, Providence, RI

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016 | Panel Steering Committee**

**11:00 PM Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Steering Committee meeting**

*Meeting materials transmitted to Steering Committee members under separate cover*

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016 | Panel general session meetings**

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

*Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1, and Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Panel co-chairs*

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

- November 2015 meeting summary and March 2016 call summaries acceptance – Alicia and Sandy
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in August 2016 – Alicia, Sandy, and Michele Tremblay
- November 2016 meeting in Connecticut, Québec, or New Hampshire – Alicia, Sandy, and Michele
- May 2016 meeting with possible Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meeting hosting – Alicia, Sandy, Michele, and Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary (invited),
- 2016 NEANS Panel budget update – Meg Modley, Treasurer
- ANS Task Force May 2016 meeting update including status of NEANS Panel recommendations – Susan, Alicia, Sandy, and Michele
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present

**1:30 PM Roundtable—*really* fast-paced updates from Panelists and Panel participants** (updates may also be posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2016-meeting-roundtable-updates>)

*Moderated by Alicia Grimaldi and Sandy Keppner*

**2:00 PM Invasive species message: developing, packaging, and distributing it to target audiences**

*Amy Smagula, discussion facilitator*

**3:00 PM Spread Prevention Work Group decontamination standard operating procedure**

*Meg Modley, discussion facilitator*

**3:45 PM Spotlight on Species: Progress report on settlement plate data - impact of invasive species on native populations**

*Niels-Viggo Hobbs and Brandon Fuller, University of Rhode Island*

**4:30 PM Recess for work group meeting time or field tour**

**6:00 PM Meet at hotel TBD for group supper(s)**

**Thursday, May 12, 2016 | Panel general session meeting**

**7:00 AM Work groups meeting time at hotel or other breakfast venue**

**9:00 AM Work groups reports with light breakfast snacks provided**

**10:30 AM Highlights from Rhode Island**

*Moderated by Kevin Cute, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council*

**11:00 AM Chinese mitten crab rapid response plan final version presentation**

*Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension*

**11:30 AM Public comment period**

**12:00 PM Review action items and adjourn**



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[www.northeastans.org](http://www.northeastans.org)

**Meeting Summary Draft • December 2-3, 2015**  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation • Albany, NY

**Panelists present in Providence and via conference call/webinar (c/w):** Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Kevin Cute; RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; Pam Fuller, US Geological Survey; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region I; Bill Harman, NY State Federation of Lake Associations; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Kimberly Roth, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; James Stahlnecker for John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; and Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Others participating via conference call/webinar (c/w):** David Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Jennifer Dean, New York Natural Heritage Program; Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant; Andrea Locke, SUNY Buffalo State Great Lakes Center; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Hilary Mosher, Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management; Josh Mulhollem, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Megan Phillips, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; Melyssa Smith, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; Daniel Thayer, US Geological Survey; Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor for the Panel; Erin Vennie-Volrath, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program; David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

**Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs** – Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency Region I and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the NEANS Panel meeting. Leslie Surprenant provided orientation and logistics information for the meeting. Michele Tremblay provided additional logistics and thanks for their gracious hosting, which has made this meeting possible.

**ANS updates and Panel business:**

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- Accept May and August 2015 meeting summaries.  
**Decision: The May 2015 meeting summary was accepted.**
- Schedule Panel mid-term call in the week of February 22 and February 29, 2016.  
**Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the weeks of February 22 and 29, 2016.**

- The Panel discussed scheduling its Spring 2016 meeting. Connecticut was skipped in the rotation for fall 2015. Isabelle Simard offered to host a meeting in Québec but the offer has not yet been confirmed. Rhode Island is another possibility. There are challenges for some participants to be able to travel out of the United States with federal passports and budget restrictions. The Panel will work with contacts in Rhode Island to schedule the meeting there in May 2016.  
**Action: Michele Tremblay will poll Panelists for the weeks of late April into May for the spring Panel meeting, secure a facility and distribute a save the date message to [Panel@NortheastANS.org](mailto:Panel@NortheastANS.org).**
- Meg Modley presented the proposed 2015-2016 budget as developed by the Steering Committee. There is \$16,000 set aside for contingency and \$15,426.03 for Panel projects. The Rapid Response Fund was increased to \$10,000 (\$1,599 was paid to the Connecticut River Watershed Council). The Panel will modify its 4:00 PM agenda item to a brainstorming session to identify ideas for a shared project. Judy Pederson moved to accept the budget Ann Bove seconded the motion. The 2015-2016 budget is approved.
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force fall 2015 meeting – Michele highlighted the action and decision items from the November 2015 meeting in Silver Spring, MD. The US Fish and Wildlife Service reported that they have added \$42,000 per year to the President’s budget, which would add \$7,000 to each regional panel’s annual allocation. This would mean a new total allocation of \$47,000.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council and National Invasive Species Council – the rapid response effort has been completed. NEANS Panelists and participants in the effort including Meg Modley, Judy Pederson, Leslie Surprenant, and Michele Tremblay.
- Election of NEANS Panel co-chair for 2016-2017. Amy nominated Sandy Keppner to serve as the incoming co-chair of the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel. There were no further nominations. Sandy Keppner is elected as the Panel incoming co-chair.
- Amy opened the discussion of the membership of the Panel, which should represent the region’s experts. Michele suggested that the Panel invite David Wong and Alyson Eberhardt to serve as Panelists. Amy suggested that the Panel re-invite Katie DeGoosh from the RI Department of Environmental Management. Amy has two contacts from the CT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION that she will solicit.

Michele will invite Alyson Eberhardt and David Wong to the Panel and provide a notification letter to the Executive Secretary of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

**Roundtable** (Panelists’ and participants’ updates are posted on the Panel Forum at <http://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2015-meeting-roundtable-updates/>)

### **Massachusetts**

Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, reported that the Office of Coastal Zone Management is exploring the erosion effects of crab burrowing of the Great Marsh of Salisbury Beach. There is a new MA DCR staff who is focusing on databases, education, and outreach. The Department is working on legislation and a mobile “app” for invasive species identification and reporting. They have also been receiving nuisance complaints for native species. There is an unconfirmed report of Didymo.

David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection, reported that based on their database, Asian Clams sightings are on the increase. It seems that the more people are looking for the species, the more they are being found.

### **New Hampshire**

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, provide an update on freshwater resources in the state. There were seven new infestations. NAIS Minor is on the increase in New Hampshire. Lake associations and lake users are reporting increased growth of native plants and want to treat them as invasive species. It will be illegal to transport any plants on a boat in New Hampshire. Her program has compiled a matrix of current decontamination procedures by species. She will provide the resource to the Panelists for review and finalize it for posting on the NEANS Panel website.

### **Vermont**

Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, indicated that she provided a detailed update at [www.NortheastANS.org/forum](http://www.NortheastANS.org/forum). She reported Josh Mulhollem has joined the staff. He is the lead for spread prevention and invasive animal programs. Reports of “nuisance” native species is on the rise. There is a confirmed occurrence of starry stonewort on the Quebec border. The species has been found in the Finger Lakes region of New York and Massachusetts. They will be treating the species with a mixture of pesticides and algaecides, which will be covered under a rapid response permit. Josh reported that the agency has purchased hot water washing units for deployment at several sites including Lake Champlain, for the 2016 season.

### **Maine**

Jim Stahlnecker, ME DEP, reported that John McPhedran posted a freshwater program update. The Maine Marine Invasive Species Committee recently received a presentation on beach cast seaweed events. There have been increases in bacterial activity. There have been invasive species mixed in the native, sub-tidal species, which seems to increase when the weed is on shore. There is a spike of bacteria when the seaweed returns to the water. Jackson Marine Laboratory is conducting research on the issue. The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve is working on a green crab study. The populations seem to be decreased. There has been a report of fiddler crabs in Kittery, Maine.

### **Rhode Island**

Kevin Cute, RI Council on Marine Resources, reported that there are eleven new rivers with Asian Clams. They have been sampling in Narragansett Bay and working the methodology from diver Phil Colarusso, USEPA. They will have their own twenty-seven foot boat for their monitoring program. They are looking at the effects of salinity on invasive species on wharves and docks. The program is also using floating docks for their spawning study. Grass shrimp species are found throughout Rhode Island. They are looking for mitten crab through larvae in transects.

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

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program reported that Spiny Water Flea has spread throughout Lake Champlain this year. It was only at a few sites the previous summer. Water chestnut control is ongoing with funding from the State of Vermont and US Army Corps of Engineers. Lake George completed its two-year pilot of the

mandatory boat-washing program. They have voted to make it permanent. There will be a region-wide Adirondack Park program that provides invasive hub-lake data. Those data will help decision makers target on a landscape-wide scale information that will guide allocation of resources through a risk assessment approach. Lake Champlain is considering adding boat washing stations through a NYSDEC and VTDEC partnership. There may be expansion to Québec. The Canal Basin feasibility study for invasive barriers continues. Meg was invited to go to the Everglades to evaluate their EDRR screening tool. Meg is involved in the American Boat and Yacht Council boat-building effort. The NYS Natural Heritage Program and Sea Grant have developed a boat washing training webinar. Max Bothwell, Environment Canada, presented a session that indicated that Didymo may be a native vs. an nuisance species. Asian Clams are spreading throughout Lake Champlain. There is a return of the native salmon in the Champlain Basin, which may be due to the decrease of lamprey.

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, reported that she will be an outside reviewer for Department and Fisheries Canada for a hull fouling session. The output will be information to influence legislation. Jim Carlton conducted a shrimp survey, which she will provide to the Panel.

Bill Harman, NY State Federation of Lake Associations, reported that starry stonewort sightings are increasing. There is an increase of Hydrilla sightings in reservoirs and other waterbodies. The Federation hosted the North American Lake Management Society in Saratoga this year.

Kim Roth, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission awarded a grant for Hydrilla control to Allied Biological. The Northeast Association of Aquatic Biologist is seeking abstracts for its 2016 meeting in Maine. The Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society is meeting in January 12-14, 2016 in Saratoga Springs.

**Action: Panelists and ANS friends may provide to Michele Tremblay their events for her to post to the [www.NortheastANS.org](http://www.NortheastANS.org) calendar.**

## **Federal**

Alicia Grimaldi, USEPA, reported that Phil Colarso's work on the tunicate study is ongoing.

Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, reported that they are completing on a fisheries and environmental conservation five-year strategic plan. There are five goals, with invasive species as the third, addressing early detection, rapid response, and other approaches. They are revising the webpage for the region with a subpage for invasive species with stories, projects, and other information. The state management plan grants are in process for January 2016 for funding in the spring.

Pam Fuller, USGS, announced that "plants online" is back in operation. Dan Thayer is the new lead for plants and is asking for sightings reports so that the database and maps are accurate and representative of everyone's states and regions. Water wheel is a rare, non-native carnivorous plant (sightings in New York and New Jersey). The experts database is back online and ready for updates. Michele is making updates to Northeast region contacts.

## **Spotlight on Species: Watercraft Pressure Wash**

Dr. David Wong, Division of Watershed Management, Bureau of Water Resources, MA Department of Environmental Protection discussed the science of pressure washing to remove invasive species. The presentation may be viewed at

[http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201512/.](http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201512/)

### **Enhancing the Climate Resilience of American's Natural Resources: Fight the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species – Early Detection and Rapid Response framework and fund development**

The report from the National Invasive Species Council is not yet officially released. A presentation can be included in the Spring 2016 Panel meeting agenda.

***Action: A presentation of the National Invasive Species Council climate resilience early detection and rapid response framework and fund development plan will be included in the Spring 2016 Panel meeting agenda.***

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

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, presented the Chinese Mitten Crab plan project on which she worked with Alyson Eberhardt, University of New Hampshire Sea Grant and Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant. The NEANS Panel has provided input on drafts over the last two years. When completed in early 2016, the plan will be posted at NortheastANS.org. The current text should be revised to describe the Panel's meetings as quarterly. There was discussion about the inclusion of the Panel's Rapid Response Financial Assistance Program as a source for Plan implementation. The Panel may wish to plan a workshop on plan implementation at a Panel meeting. Judy's presentation may be viewed at

***Action: The Panel will consider a Mitten Crab Plan implementation workshop in conjunction with its fall or spring meetings.***

***Action: By December 11, 2015, Panelists will provide to Judy Pederson, Alyson Eberhardt, and Beth Bisson their comments on the text in the Mitten Crab Plan relating to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel. The presentation is posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/2015012>.***

### **Project development brainstorming**

Amy provided a background of NEANS Panel committees and the new work groups, currently Spread Prevention and Climate Change. There is approximately \$15,000 available for Panel projects. Panelists discussed their priorities including the following suggestions from each jurisdiction.

- New Hampshire, "Clean Drain Dry" and spread prevention, SOP and literature for cleaning
- Vermont: Consistent decontamination protocol, consistent and simple messaging
- New York: develop a suite of regulations for all public waters, including marine environment
- Massachusetts: zebra mussels (clean drain dry approach) and tracking the northern movement of species of concern with flyers and brochures for volunteer monitoring groups
- Other Panel member organizations: surveys and data collection on boat movement and hull fouling in freshwater and marine environments, legislative and regulatory matrix update, organisms in trade web tool, mapping of lake steward data, decontamination matrix (building on New Hampshire's effort) with a outreach/education product, and power wash SOP manual and public outreach collateral, such as a laminated card. Partners in New York are working on an SOP that may help with a regional Panel project. The Panel may wish to explore development of mobile-friendly (using a separate domain linked from and to [www.NortheastANS.org](http://www.NortheastANS.org)) website that would be an interactive way to product a public outreach tool for decontamination.

For the NEANS Panel projects, there could be funding sources for large, unified regional projects. There is a foundation that distributes a request for proposals to access legal services (match required) to conduct regulatory environment surveys. A survey effort could include updating and expanding the NEANS Panel's 2003 matrices. The Panel worked on a multi-pronged approach several years ago, the Hydrilla Initiative Pilot, which was later applied to the marine environment for Chinese Mitten Crab.

## **Work Group reports**

### *Spread Prevention*

Meg reported on the group's discussions with their priorities. The primary need is to write "good, better, best" boat inspection and decontamination Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). No funds are needed at this time because work group members have volunteered to draft the SOPs, which will include a matrix of cleaning methods for different species. Clean Drain Dry specifics collateral development. The work group will discuss recommendations for other collateral including floating key chains, flashlights, lip balms, tackle box sticker, and other message-bearing products. The work group discussed creating a geographic picture of lakes in states and provinces and geographic distribution of stewardship efforts. The effort could be piloted in one jurisdiction. Other messaging tools such as pictograms and infographics could be developed. An online library could be developed where logos might be added with contact information and additional messages. The Panel has some demographic and behavioral data from its floating key chain before-and-after survey.

***Action: Meg will solicit input from the Panel via its listserve on the Spread Prevention Work Group's plan and request for volunteers and input.***

### *Climate Change*

Judy reported that the group worked with the list spreadsheet to identify species that are moving north of their typical range. Species that have been well established vs. new species are being tracked. The strategy is to reach out to lake hosts and other volunteer groups to garner their input on species range expansion. The group will solicit input on the list for responses in February with a due date in March. There are Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) animated maps for some species. This project's data could be added to the NAS. The group plans to identify or create a system for data entry. Funds from Boat US and other sources will be identified. The pilot for marine and freshwater species pilot project should begin in April 2016.

***Action: Michele will add new Climate Change Work Group members to the listserve and distribute the current species spreadsheet file to them.***

### **Highlights from New York** – Leslie Surprenant and Catherine McGlynn, NYS

Department of Environmental Conservation provided updates on the program's state management plan and its implementation. There are two new booklets with regulated animals and prohibited and regulated plants. There is a new brochure outlining New York's invasive species regulations for commercial audiences. The new legislation requires design of universal signs (they must be at least 18 x 24 inches) that must be posted at all public access area, regardless of the ownership of the site. Draining and cleaning is required when removing and launching boats and floating docks. The new legislation takes the "reasonable precautions" approach, which includes removing, cleaning/treating, and disposing plants and animals. There are options listed but the

requirement is to use the best method available. Marine waters are included in the regulations.

The stewards program is expanding with new participants and partners. Paul Smith College is training stewards. Working with Cornell University, the Department completed an inspection handbook. The Department purchased iPads to record visitor information based on a short survey for real-time data. There are twelve (in addition to the eleven existing machines) new boat wash stations that were purchased for deployment at some steward sites. There is a new washing recommendations document.

A request for applicants for the spread prevention program was released last week for steward programs, boat washing stations, training sessions. The Lake Ontario, Finger Lakes, and Hudson Valley watersheds are the focus of this year's solicitation. Partnerships are encouraged. There is \$2MM available for this grant round with 25% match required. Each award will be in the grant \$25,000 – 100,000 range.

The Department has a contract with Cornell for a public awareness study. The study showed that 75% of those interviewed via telephone are aware of invasive species with regional and demographic differences (boaters and hikers were the most aware; water gardeners the least aware). There was follow-up with respondents where the study provided additional information and gauged compliance or willingness to improve or change their practices. An additional study for boaters and anglers was conducted, which may be of interest to the Panel for a meeting presentation. Consistent and simple messaging was identified as a need for increasing awareness and compliance. The study results are available on the Human Dimension Research Institute website.

New staff is coming on board, including outreach and education and response and management coordinators. There are twenty interns each year (mostly focused on terrestrial species). Outreach projects include fact sheets, fact sheets with AIS general information and PRISMs, and a Hydrilla webpage. Several areas, including Croton, are prioritized for Hydrilla eradication. The public session, with a professional facilitator, went well. The Department is hosting a benthic barrier webinar with white paper and brochure as planned outputs.

***Action: The Panel will consider inviting the investigators of the NY study on angler and boater awareness to a Panel meeting.***

**New York State's Updated Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan** – Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, presented on the plan and the Office's progress on the plan and its implementation. The presentation is posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201512>.

### **Public comment period**

Several participants expressed for the Panel's work. 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, naturesource communications*



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### Conference Call Summary Draft • March 1, 2016

**Panelists participating in conference call:** Ann Bove, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Administration; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Josh Mulholland, VT Department of Environmental Protection; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services, Catherine McGlynn for Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit, and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

**Others participating in conference call:** Carrie Brown-Lima, NY Invasive Species Research Institute; Hilary Mosher, FL-PRISM, Finger Lakes Institute; 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, confirmed the quorum, and outlined the agenda.

#### **Forming recommendations for the May 2016 ANSTF meeting**

Alicia provided an overview of the recommendations process and purpose. The six Regional Panels were budgeted to each receive an additional \$7,000 annually but the funding was not approved by Congress. Support for state management plans fared better, as did species-specific plans. Alicia proposed that the Panel recommend that the ANSTF convene a single in-person meeting and have two or three webinars to save funds. David, Mark, and Meg felt that the meetings had a coordination and collaboration value. Mark was able to fund most of his travel, during his co-chair tenure, through his own organization. Michele said that it is very challenging to sit alone in an office for two or more days of meetings via telephone and, when available, online presentation slides. A lot of the substantive work happens when participants are able to get together in the same place to share challenges and ideas. Alicia proposed that we re-submit the Panel's funding recommendation. Ann, Mark, and support the re-submittal. David Wong moved to re-submit the NEANS Panel's funding recommendation. Cathy McGlynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Michele said that she welcomed all participants' edits to reinforce and refresh the recommendation.

**Decision:** *The Panel will revise and re-submit to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force its November 2015 funding recommendation.*

**Action:** *Michele will distribute to the Panel its November 2015 funding recommendation, requesting edits and enhancements.*

## **May 2016 NEANS Panel meeting planning**

“Spotlight on Species” suggestions began with items from the placeholder list that Michele maintains including OSHA requirements for DASH (diver-assisted suction harvesting) contractors and viability of the program, and listing of water lettuce, water hyacinth, giant salvinia, and other high risk species. Amy suggested “spotlighting” naiad species focusing on their ecology and reproduction. Ann received a request from Cynthia Boettner that Water Chestnut be “spotlighted” due to its recent expansion in Massachusetts and Connecticut. There is not any new science or other research on water chestnut. Cynthia can provide suggestions for speakers/panelists to present at the fall NEANS Panel meeting. Michele suggested that the Panel consider revisiting Didymo issues in light of the recent findings that it is likely native and that manufacturers responded so quickly to the “infestation.” Michele and Amy, as members of the New Hampshire Legislative Exotic Aquatic Species and Weeds Committee, discussed at the recent meeting that included discussion about developing a message that is consistent with for all jurisdictions. This message might be the basis for a public service announcement, which could be part of a suite of tools used in reaching out to boaters. Amy reported that at the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society January meeting, members discussed possible partnerships with other organizations, including the NEANS Panel on projects and other initiatives. They discussed a joint meeting but the schedules may not work (they meet in January and September).

Meg suggested that there may be a Spread Prevention Work Group decontamination standard operating procedures discussions.

The call participants discussed initiating a voluntary meeting registration fee for this meeting following up on the discussions at the December 2015 meeting. Amy felt that a \$50 voluntary fee was reasonable for meeting space and light refreshments. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council has a PayPal account. Michele could set up a registration site on Eventbrite. Payments could be made electronically or by check.

***Decision item: The Panel will pilot a voluntary meeting registration fee for its May meeting.***

***Action item: Michele will set-up a meeting registration page on the Panel’s Eventbrite account and provide a link to it as well as to accept registrations via email and checks or other payments.***

***Action item: Michele will work with Panelists and speakers to develop a Spotlight on Species program for the May 2016 NEANS Panel meeting.***

***Action item: Michele will continue to track agenda placeholder items for future Panel meetings.***

***Action item: Michele will work with the Spread Prevention Work Group on an extended agenda item to discuss messaging.***

## **Work Group work Plan updates**

There were no work group updates.

## **Other business**

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned.

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

## **Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel**

*Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force  
to restore at least \$10,000 to each of the regional panels*

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel requests that the ANS Task Force restore at least \$10,000 to each of the regional panels to bring them to the original \$50,000 in annual support and work to identify and secure additional and dedicated sources of support.

The amount of \$50,000 previously authorized by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Subtitle D-Authorizations and Appropriation, Sec. 1301(b)(6)<sup>1</sup>, and allocated through the US Fish and Wildlife Services's budget. The panels' spending power has been eroded as a result of inflation over the last twenty-five years. ***In inflationary terms, \$90,708.11 would be required today to have the same spending power as did \$50,000 in 1990***<sup>2</sup>. The recent 20% reduction (amounting to a cut of \$10,000 to each regional panel's allocation) to \$40,000 annually has been especially crippling to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel's productivity.

While other programs have seen increases, the Panels were flat funded and then reduced. The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recognizes at each of its semi-annual meetings the enormous body of work and products that the regional panels provide and their importance in the Task Force's annual and decadal accomplishments, which were recently detailed in the Task Force's Report to Congress. Consistently supporting the regional approaches of the Panels to implement the work of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force should be a priority.

The panels are expected to operate multi-state (and often multi-national) organizations, which involve travelling to two Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meetings and two regional panel meetings each year, convening and hosting two regional panel meetings, convening and hosting conference calls, paying staff or contractors to manage activities, and the administrative cost of and indirect costs to host a panel. Consequently, these services have been cut and there is no funding remaining to fund the projects that have been deemed by the Task Force as so valuable and meaningful.

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel has a long history of maximizing its funding to provide a host of program services and produce products to initiate and foster communication, cooperation, and collaboration in the Northeast United States and Canada. At this time and under the current reduced funding level, the services and products can no longer be produced, maintained, or updated. These services and products include but are not limited to those in the following list (see <http://northeastans.org/resources.html> for further information).

- Semi-annual meetings that provide opportunities to connect and collaborate with partner states and provinces on agenda items providing perspectives on emerging species and issues, training and other skill building opportunities;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.epw.senate.gov/envlaws/nanpca90.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

- Hosting Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force meetings including providing field tours at invasive species early detection and removal demonstration sites;
- Active committees and work groups that meet to collaborate on cost-effective regional projects, programs, and products;
- Maintenance of a forum and listserve to share news, perspectives, and to act as a public platform for enquiries;
- Rapid response workshops with presenters from other disciplines to provide perspectives on command models and other approaches;
- Workshops that train citizen scientists in invasive species identification;
- Rapid Assessment Surveys on floating docks and rocky shores in New England;
- Rapid response grant funding to help provide support to address new infestations quickly;
- Hydrilla Initiative Pilot that created a template for multi-disciplinary approaches to invasive species early detection, rapid response, and management including literature search, social marketing, workshop, and survey;
- Production and distribution of products such as a floating key chain with contact information and QR code to online survey for behavior change metric information collection;
- *NEANS Panel Resource Digest* published online and through listserve and website distribution (no longer published due to funding cuts);
- Online Guide that dynamically produces customized and up-to-the-minute guides for field and other invasive species identification and outreach efforts;
- Chinese Mitten Crab posters for outreach at access and other sites;
- Chinese Mitten Crab early detection and rapid response plan for the northeast region;
- Watch cards for many invasive animal and plant species including hydrilla, water chestnut, and Asian clams (these efforts have included offering buy-in opportunities where the Panel offered low price purchase to other organizations) with some produced in both English and the French;
- Ability to buy-in on watch cards produced by other organizations;
- Legislative matrices comparing federal, state, provincial, and other regulatory tools;
- Best practices for decontamination of gear to circumvent the spread of Didymo; and
- Co-hosting of the International Didymo Conference 2013 in Rhode Island that brought together experts from North America, South America, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, whose participants continue to collaborate and produce white papers and other tools.

There have been General Accounting Office reviews (two within the last year), grant reporting, Reports to Congress, and other requirements where a considerable amount of additional work has been required and the Panel funding has been stagnated and then reduced.

***Restoring full funding for the six regional panels to last year's level will cost a total of only \$60,000 nationally.*** The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel recommends that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force identify and secure \$60,000 to restore this funding and work within the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to identify and secure additional and dedicated sources of support so that the panels may continue to provide the high level and high quality services and products for which they were tasked by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

*Recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force discussed and voted on unanimously during the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel's March 2, 2016 conference call.*

*Prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel*

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