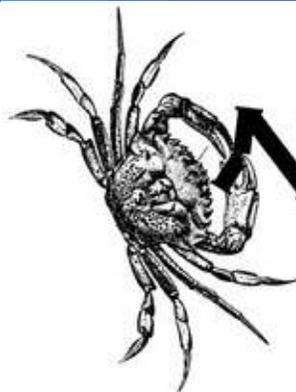


Spring Meeting

conference call

May 2020



NEANS

NORTHEAST AQUATIC
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL





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Should you encounter any difficulties, please call me (not a text) at the number below or email me. I will endeavour to respond as I am able during the meeting.

Sincerely,

—

Michele L. Tremblay
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my pronouns are she, her, hers



**Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel
meeting**

May 6, 2020

online

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 (all times are ET)

1:00 PM Welcome, introductions, and roll call – NEANS Panel co-chairs

David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection

Read Porter, Marine Affairs Institute, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal

Program, Roger Williams University School of Law

ANS updates and Panel business

- Membership updates – Michele Tremblay, contractor to the Panel
- December 2019 meeting and February 2020 call summaries acceptance – David and Read
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in August 2020 – David, Read, and Michele
- ANS Task Force business and meeting updates – Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, US Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- State Management Plans and new grants management system – Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present

1:30 PM Marine Rapid Assessment Survey overview

Judy Pederson and Jim Carlton, project leads and principal investigators

1:45 PM Research on lobster bait movement

Read Porter, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program

2:00 PM US Geological Survey's Non-indigenous Aquatic Species (NAS): tools and information for researchers, managers, and stakeholders

Ian Pfingston, US Geological Survey

2:30 PM Connecticut River Hydrilla Project: strength in regional collaboration

Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program

3:00 PM Other business

3:15 PM Public comment period

3:30 PM Adjourn



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Meeting Summary Draft • December 11, 2019
Five Rivers Environmental Center • Delmar, NY

NEANS Panelists present in Delmar and via conference call/webinar (cc/w): Renée Bernier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (cc/w); Greg Bugbee, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station (cc/w); Kevin Cute; RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Audra Martin, New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (cc/w); Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program;); Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Ian Pflingsten, US Geological Survey; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services (cc/w); Mike Vissichelli, US Army Corps of Engineers; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

Others participating on site and or via conference call/webinar: Denise Blanchette, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Anne Carroll, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Summer Stebbins, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station (cc/w); Gwendolyn Temple, Capital Mohawk Partnership for Invasive Species; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the Panel.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs, chairs, and vice-chairs – Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Marine Resources Council and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- Membership: Michele indicated that there are Panelist participation gaps for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Coast Guard (USCG). Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, has been working with the regional panels to secure USGS membership. Michele has been speaking with Susan about other vacancies. The best results may come from local office recruitment.
- John moved to accept the June 2019 meeting and August call summaries. The motion carried.

Decision: The June 2019 meeting summary was accepted.

Decision: The August 2019 call summary was accepted.

- February 2020 mid-term conference call.
- **Action: Michele will send a Doodle poll for February 2 and 3, 2020.**
- The Panel discussed hosting the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in Mystic, Connecticut. There will not be sufficient hydrilla growth to support a field tour on

the Connecticut River. It is an opportunity to showcase a multi-state rapid response to an infestation. Inviting Connecticut decision makers to the meeting to There is a marine Rapid Assessment Survey site in Mystic. There is an opportunity for a laboratory tour.

Decision: The NEANS Panel spring 2020 meeting will be convened in Mystic, Connecticut.

Action: Greg Bugbee, Kim Jensen, Sandy Keppner, Cathy McGlynn, John McPhedran, Meg Modley, Michele Tremblay, and David Wong will serve on a Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force May 2020 meeting planning group with designated US Fish and Wildlife Service staff.

Action: Michele will create a listserve for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force planning group.

Action: Cathy and Meg will work together to create an invitation list of decision makers so that they can hear about the hydrilla infestation and its impacts.

- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force met in Falls Church, Virginia. Kevin was able to travel for the first day of the meeting. Michele was on the telephone and webinar for the two days. Meg represented the Lake Champlain Basin Program for both days. Meg provided an update on the meeting proceedings, which focused on the strategic plan, bylaws, and sub-committees (can only be chaired by ANS Task Force members). There were presentations on VIDA, the proposal or resolution from the US Forest Service regarding FACA and other aspects of the bylaws and other governance. There is a group formed to examine more closely these governance issues. The regional panels meeting had several discussions including being voting members of the task force and being able to serve on subcommittees. The voting status is specified by law. There is frustration that the panels cannot chair or serve on subcommittees. John asked how the US Fish and Wildlife Service listening session for state management plans fit into this process.
- Stas Burgiel is now the director of the National Invasive Species Council.
Action: Michele will send a congratulations letter to Stas Burgiel on his new position as director of the National Invasive Species Council.
- Kevin announced that he is the outgoing (marine) co-chair. John nominated Read Porter to serve as incoming co-chair. Kevin provided his recommendation on Read's policy and legal qualifications. Read was elected as co-chair. Meg suggested that Cathy and Kim to succeed David when his term concludes in the fall of 2020.

Decision: The Panel elected Read Porter as the incoming co-chair.

Roundtable

The Panelists agreed to post their updates on

<https://www.northeastans.org/forum/december-2019-meeting-updates/>

Connecticut River Hydrilla Project

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment has applied for 2019 funding for its state management plan. There is an effort to secure funding for further surveys for hydrilla, water chestnut, fanwort, and Eurasian milfoil. Greg provided updates on his agency's efforts and will upload to the Panel's forum his agency summary.

Work Group reports

The Climate Change Work Group met to discuss range expansion and introduced species.

The Spread Prevention Work Group met and focused on the Connecticut River hydrilla invasion in the lower part of the State of Connecticut. One page descriptions of issues that affect organisms.

Action: Work Group leads or scribes will email to Michele Tremblay their meeting summaries and action items documents.

Review decision and action items

The Panel was in consensus with the decision and action items as read.

Other business

There was no other business.

Public comment period

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications

Review and agreement on decision and action items

Decisions

- The June 2019 meeting summary was accepted.
- The August 2019 call summary was accepted.
- The Panel elected Read Porter as incoming co-chair.
- Michele will send a Doodle poll for February 2 and 3, 2020.
- The NEANS Panel spring first week of May 2020 meeting will be convened in Mystic, Connecticut and will be hosting the ANSTF.

Actions

- Cathy, Greg, and Meg will work together to create an invitation list of decision makers so that they can hear about the hydrilla infestation and its impacts. With letters from Panel co-chairs.
- Michele will send a congratulations letter to Stas Burgiel on his new position as director of the National Invasive Species Council.
- Greg Bugbee, Kim Jensen, Sandy Keppner, Cathy McGlynn, John McPhedran, Meg Modley, Michele Tremblay, and David Wong will serve on a Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force May 2020 meeting planning group with designated US Fish and Wildlife Service staff.
- Michele will create a listserv for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force planning group.
- Work Group leads or scribes will email to Michele Tremblay their meeting summaries and action items documents.
- Climate Change and
- Co-chair thank you letter to the MAPAIS and suggest that we meet again in New York when our schedules coordinate again.
- Michele will send a letter to the Five River Environmental Center.
- Read will present on the “Bait importation law” at the next Panel meeting.
- The VIDA work group will provide an update at the next Panel meeting.



Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species



Meeting Summary Draft • December 10, 2019
Five Rivers Environmental Center • Delmar, NY

NEANS Panelists present in Delmar and via conference call/webinar (cc/w): Renée Bernier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (cc/w); Greg Bugbee, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station (cc/w); Kevin Cute; RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Audra Martin, New England Interstate Pollution Control Commission; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (cc/w); Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program;); Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Ian Pflingsten, US Geological Survey; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services (cc/w); Mike Vissichelli, US Army Corps of Engineers; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

MAPAIS Panelists present in Delmar and via conference call/webinar (cc/w): Jay Kilian, MD Department of Natural Resources, Steven Pearson, NYS Department of Environmental Protection; Edna Stetzar, DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Others participating on site and or via conference call/webinar: Denise Blanchette, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Julianna Greenberg, US Environmental Protection Agency; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Susan Pasko, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (cc/w); Summer Stebbins, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station (cc/w); Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the Panel; and Nicole White, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Joint panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs, chairs, and vice-chairs – Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Marine Resources Council and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection, and Jay Kilian, MD Department of Natural Resources and Edna Stetzar, DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the NEANS Panel meeting. Michele Tremblay and Julianna Greenberg provided logistics information.

A synthesis of marine live bait trade as a vector for species invasions

Amy Fowler, George Mason University, presented on bait trade research.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Marine Rapid Assessment Survey overview

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, provided a report on the summer's activities and preliminary findings.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act: jurisdiction responsibilities, authorities, and opportunities

Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council updated the Panels on VIDA implementation.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Action: Everyone will email their requests to MLT@naturesource.net if they wish to join the VIDASTateInspection@NortheastANS.org.

US Geological Survey's Non-indigenous Aquatic Species (NAS): tools and information for researchers, managers, and stakeholders

Ian Pffingsten, US Geological Survey, provided an update on mapping and other tools from the NAS.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Highlights from New York State

Catherine McGlynn and Steven Pearson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; and Meg Wilkinson, iMAP Invasives provided an update on the state's activities and partnerships.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Update on the Chesapeake Nutria Eradication Partnership: next steps

Ray Fernald, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Jonathan McKnight, MD Department of Natural Resources presented a case study on their nutria project.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Working together on the movement of invasive species

Boating vector best management practices

John McPhedran, Karen Hahnel, and Denise Blanchette, ME Department of Environmental Protection, provided a presentation of their boat sticker program and best practices.

Legal framework and legislative matrix

Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services provided an overview of the funding, best management practices, and policy matrix. The Word file is posted on the "Resources" page in the "Legislation Summaries of Panel Member States" section on NortheastANS.org. It will supplant the April 30, 2003 file.

Action: The VIDA content will be updated each April to discuss at the spring NEANS Panel and the MAPAIS meetings.

Action: The MAPAIS and the NEANS Panel will each maintain a version of the Word funding, best management practices, and policy matrix.

Action: Michele will create a Google Docs group with one state and provincial agency contact to update each entity's entries at the end of their respective legislative sessions.

Consistent messaging for boaters

Catherine McGlynn and Steven Pearson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation provided a presentation on WISPA.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/2019-12/>

Public comment period

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

NEANS Panel and MAPAIS actions

- Everyone will email their requests to MLT@naturesource.net if they wish to join the VIDAStateInspection@NortheastANS.org.
- The VIDA content will be updated each April to discuss at the spring NEANS Panel and the MAPAIS meetings.
- The MAPAIS and the NEANS Panel will each maintain a version of the Word funding, best management practices, and policy matrix.
- Michele will create a Google Docs group with one state and provincial agency contact to update each entity's entries at the end of their respective legislative sessions.
- John McPhedran and Denise Blanchette will coordinate with Amy Fowler to update an information exchange on bloodworms. Amy will provide publications to share with the NEANS Panel.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications



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Conference Call DRAFT Summary • February 3, 2020

Panelists present via conference call: Greg Bugbee, Agricultural Experiment Station, CT Department of Environmental Services; Vanessa Curren, for Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Katie DeGoosh, RI Department of Environmental Management; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Judy Pederson, MIT; Ian Pflingsten, US Geological Survey; Read Porter, RI Sea Grant; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

Others participating via conference call: Wes Daniel, US Geological Survey; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection, Summer Stebbins, Agricultural Experiment Station, CT Department of Environmental Services; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturessource communications, contractor to the Panel.

Welcome and roll call

David Wong and Read Porter, co-chairs, welcomed everyone to the conference call. Michele Tremblay conducted the roll call.

Proposed recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

David moved to bring to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) the motion regarding Hydrilla in the Connecticut River. John seconded the motion. Meg introduced the recommendation regarding support for the Connecticut River Hydrilla survey and control efforts in the Northeast. The support could be funding or in-kind support for survey, outreach and education, expertise, control, or other aspects of combating the infestation. There was concern that the Task Force may want specific requests with a budget. Greg said that there was controversy regarding survey methodologies. He would like to use the same methods that Connecticut has used for the lower third of the river. The Army Corps of Engineers methods on which the Panel was trained in June 2019, are different. The management protocols for this new strain of Hydrilla management would be that of the Corps. Funding, primarily, and assistance are required for the survey and for management, respectively. Assistance with identifying and securing multiple years of funding should be requested. The Army Corps would work with the Panel in September 2020. David suggested that Greg and Meg work together on a second revision of the recommendation. Meg, Sandy, and John felt that it may be premature to provide specific survey protocols and budget. The Task Force is a high-level group so it may not benefit from specifics. Read thought that specific assistance may be helpful for agency representatives to bring to their staff. Michele will assist them with the new recommendation template that the ANSTF Executive Secretary is developing with the regional panels' coordinators. Cathy would like the recommendation to include a budget for watercraft inspection stewards'

salaries and tablets, and for future surveys to address the methodologies issue. The motion carried.

Kevin Foster, US Army Corps of Engineers, submitted a recommendation regarding possible invasive alga in the Towns of Brunswick and West Bath in Maine. He was not on the call to present his recommendation. Robert Russell, ME Department of Marine Resources, may have been involved in the project but was not on the call. Meg felt that the recommendation was not clear enough to present to the ANS Task Force. It may make more sense to provide this information as an update during the ANS Task Force meeting vs. presenting it as a recommendation. John made a motion that there is not sufficient information at this time to present to the ANS Task Force this issue as a recommendation. Meg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to support Connecticut River Hydrilla survey and control efforts in the Northeast.

Action: Meg and Cathy will work on the recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to support Connecticut River Hydrilla survey and control efforts in the Northeast (Michele will provide the ANS Task Force's required template when it is ready).

Action: The Panel will present the information in the proposed alga recommendation as an update to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Action: Michele will work with Judy Pederson to inform her contact at UNH regarding the alga.

Hosting the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

Michele provided an overview on the process so far regarding the planning group, securing the venue for the meeting, and the change in federal requirements for financial responsibility. Judy said that at this time, she felt that she and Jim Carlton would be able to provide a field tour to the marine Rapid Assessment Survey and provide a presentation on the program. Meg suggested engaging a diver to remove species to bring up to the surface and show to the ANS Task Force. Jim could be invited to provide his presentation on invasive species moving via tsunami debris. The Panel would want to present on its Connecticut River Hydrilla work to date to support its recommendation. It is not likely that Hydrilla will be visible for a field tour but the extent of the issue, the river flow, and tidal movement can be shown via video presentation by Greg Bugbee and Summer Stebbins. The Panel's presentation can include the training session that it conducted with the Corps. There may be some Hydrilla in Mystic Seaport and Coventry Lake, the latter of which will be a long drive. The invitation letter to local officials to come to the May 2020 ANS Task Force and Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species meetings will be finalized and distributed by the Panel.

Action: Michele will transmit the Panel's presentation and field tour recommendations for the ANS Task Force meeting to the May 2020 planning group.

eDNA webinar

Ian Pflugsten, US Geological Survey, reported that there were six webinars planned for each regional panel. Originally, the USGS had planned a joint webinar for the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species and the NEANS Panel on March 23. They heard feedback that it would be better for each panel to have its own webinar. The suggested date for the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel is April 13 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Michele heard feedback that it would be better if the webinar would be

earlier in the day to accommodate the Panelists in the Atlantic Time Zone as well as those in the Eastern Time Zone.

Action: Michele will request that the eDNA webinar be moved to a time that would work for NEANS Panelists and other participants in the Eastern and Atlantic Time Zones.

Other business

Cathy requested that the Panel revise the Fiscal year 2020 budget to include \$200 to pay the State of Connecticut for annual treatment permit fees to address the Hydrilla infestation in the Connecticut River. Meg moved to spend up to \$500 for permitting during the 2020 fiscal year, which would amend the budget. John seconded the motion. Read asked what was available for this budget amendment. There is currently \$9,231.75 available. The \$500 would be placed in the expense category for the Spread Prevention Work Group's budget. The motion carried.

Decision: \$500 is moved from the "Under (over) available funds" category to the "Spread Prevention Work Group" line item.

Action: Cathy will update the budget to move \$500 from the "Under (over) available funds" category to the "Spread Prevention Work Group" line item.

Public comment period

There was no public comment.

Review action items

The decision items were reviewed and agreed upon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Conference call summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications