



PO Box 3019
Boscawen, NH 03303
603.796.2615 • info@northeastans.org
www.northeastans.org

Meeting Summary Draft • November 30-December 1, 2011
Hotel Providence • Providence, RI

Panelists present in Providence and via conference call/webinar (c/w): Nancy Balcom, University of Connecticut Sea Grant; Katie DeGoosh, RI Department of Environmental Management; Michael Goehle, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; Jason LeBlanc, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (c/w); Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey; Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant Project; Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Adrienne Pappal for Jan Smith, MA Office of Coastal Zone; Nancy Murray, CT Department of Energy and Environment; Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Isabelle Simard, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement; and Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jim Straub, MA Department of Recreation and Conservation; and Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Others participating: Cristine Bourassa, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve; Peg Brady, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Anne Carroll, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Jennifer Dean, New York Natural Heritage Program; Alicia Schaffner-Eichinger; NEANS Panel HIP II contractor; David Gregg, RI Natural History Survey; Niels Hobbs; Meaghan Johnstone, The Nature Conservancy; Sue Kiernan, RI Department of Environmental Management; Joe Livolsi, US Environmental Protection Agency; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Susan Mangin, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Mark Nimiroski, RI Department of Environmental Management; Michele L. Tremblay, NEANS Panel contractor Program Manager (naturesource communications); and Wei Ying Wong, The Ocean Project.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, review of meeting agenda, and updates by Co-Chairs – Kevin Cute welcomed meeting participants to Providence. Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Nancy Balcom, Sea Grant, University of Connecticut welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the next two days. Kevin arranged a field trip for Thursday afternoon for those who can stay at the end of the meeting.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- The Panelists and guests introduced themselves and their organizations.
- Kevin Cute moved to accept the April 2011 meeting summary. Judy Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Meg called for nominations from the floor for the NEANS Panel freshwater co-chair. Several nominations were made but they were declined due to work conflicts. Ann Bove was nominated and she accepted the nomination. Ann Bove

was elected as freshwater co-chair. Nancy presented Meg with a certificate of appreciation from the Panel.

- Susy King has been promoted to Director of Water Quality Programs at NEIWPC. Her successor as NEANS Panelists is Teresa Portante-Lyle. Because of her promotion, Susy feels that it is best for her to resign as NEANS Panel Treasurer, Nancy called for nominations from the floor for that office. Meg was nominated to serve as Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Meg was elected Treasurer.
- *NEANS Panel Business and Spring 2012 meeting scheduling* – The May 2012 meeting location is proposed for western New York State to coordinate with the Great Lakes Panel’s meeting. The proposal includes sharing presentations and field trips, while maintaining separate business meetings. Leslie Suprenant suggested a ballast water focus for the joint meeting in New York.

Action: Michele Tremblay will begin working on the May 2012 meeting with the Great Lakes Panel in western New York State.

- ANS Task Force (ANSTF) report – Susan Mangin reported on the November 2011 business meeting in Washington, DC. The joint awards program call for nominations is nearly ready for distribution. Michele Tremblay has participated on the work group. The Lionfish Work Group, chaired by James Ballard, is seeking volunteers to serve on its efforts. Judy Pederson volunteered for the effort. The Snakehead Work Group does not yet have a confirmed chair but will also be soliciting volunteers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) funding for the Nonindigenous Species Database has been eliminated. The ANSTF is asking Regional Panels to document their use of the database so that that information may be included in a letter to USGS. The ANSTF conditionally approved the state plans for Texas and Arizona. The ANSTF is forming an ad-hoc group to address research gaps associated with ballast water and is seeking volunteers. The USFWS will provide a report on strengthening screening and monitoring of animals and plants in trade. There were several climate change presentations. AS a result there is now a joint ANSTF and National Invasive Species Committee (NISC) committee to examine climate change ramifications on invasive species. Meg indicated that climate change will be included in Vermont’s plan. The ANSTF is revising its strategic plan and is asking for input and comments. Some of the regional Panels are concerned due to the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) payment processing. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council will participate in a conference call with those regional Panels and the USFWS to explore fiscal agent opportunities. The ANSTF will write a letter to NISC regarding federal waterbody management and inspection to prevent invasive species transfer. The Task Force Research Committee will be meeting in the spring. The ANSTF’s charter is renewed every year and was signed in August. All Panels’ agendas must be approved by the Executive Secretary due to FACA regulations. A USFWS staff must be in attendance at all regional Panels’ meetings.
- Mid-term NEANS Panel conference calls – To better prepare the Panel to form recommendations for the ANSTF and to manage its business in a more timely way, there is a proposal to convene mid-term calls of the Panel. Judy Pederson moved to convene full Panel conference calls in between the spring and fall meetings. Susy King seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Invasive Species Advisory Council – Nancy Balcom updated the Panel on ISAC. Although she is no longer a member as of this past summer, Nancy updated the Panel that the next ISAC is meeting in Washington, DC next week with a focus on

commerce with concern about Internet sales of non-native species and discussions on ballast water.

Decision: The Panel will convene mid-term conference calls (half-way in between the spring and fall meetings) to manage business in a more timely way and to prepare recommendations for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Action: Michele Tremblay will poll the NEANS Panelists for their availability for the first mid-term conference call in February 2012.

Action: Judy Pederson will be added to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Lionfish work group.

Highlights from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations – Kevin Cute moderated the session and thanked all of the participants who have worked as a result of the Rhode Island state management plan and the funds that it has facilitated. Katie DeGoosh, RI Department of Environmental Management presented an update on zebra mussel and invasive plants in freshwater habitats. Joe Livolsi, US Environmental Protection Agency presented “Atlantic Ecology Division Leave No Trace” program. Hope Leeson, Rhode Island Natural History Survey presented an update on Narragansett Bay volunteer monitoring.

Updates are posted by panel participants at

http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

The presentations are online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201111/>

Northeast ANS Roundtable

Massachusetts, Jim Straub MA Department of Conservation and Recreation,

thanked the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force for its funding for their boat washing station with a lower-pressure device that is less likely to damage boats and trailers and drive organisms into tighter spots. Only one or two boaters refused the courtesy wash so the program was enormously successful. The public was very helpful in promoting the program. There have been no further zebra mussel infestations in the Connecticut River watershed. The approach is focused on outreach and education. The Dowding Bill, pending legislation, would make it illegal (civil penalties) to transport invasive species. The sticker program, proposed several years ago, was not passed into law.

Adrienne Pappal, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management, reported that the Marine Invaders Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC) now has ten partners in the program.

Updates are posted by panel participants at

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Maine

Karen Hahnel and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection,

reported that \$35,000 was taken from the boat registration dedicated fund and it will likely happen again. The Department is slated for re-organization. Hydrilla has been found in a private pond in mid-coast Maine. It is dense and was likely established for quite a long time. Pete Thayer, ME Department of Marine Resources can no longer participate. The Department is nominating Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant, to serve as its representative.

Updates are posted by panel participants at

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Vermont

Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program, reported that Asian Clam management is ongoing with partners. Suction harvesting and other manual removal should be completed this week. Several acres at three sites have been matted. Mandatory boat washing is being considered: there is legal authority to do so but politically, there is some hesitation but the public and political attention as been positive, overall. Paul Smith College has received \$300K to expand their boat launch program in the Great Lakes basin. Variable leaf milfoil was found in the southern part of Lake Champlain in an area of about 80 acres. Spread prevention efforts, including a media release has been implemented. Six new boat programs were initiated. Warren Community in New York (the first county to do so) passed an invasive species transport law.

Leslie Matthews, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, added that tropical storm Irene caused catastrophic damage in several parts of Vermont including her agency's offices and that they are now in temporary quarters. Their laboratory was destroyed but a brave and dedicated staff waded through chest-high water to save computer hard drives. The storm damage has also obliterated monitoring and survey work schedules.

Updates are posted by panel participants at
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Rhode Island

Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, reported that his updates were covered during the Highlights from Rhode Island during yesterday's session.

New York

Leslie Surprenant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Updates are posted by panel participants at
http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

New York

Mark Malchoff, NY Sea Grant

Updates are posted by panel participants at
http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

Québec

Isabelle Simard, QC Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement

Updates are posted by panel participants at
http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

Nova Scotia

Jason LeBlanc, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Updates are posted by panel participants at
http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

Federal, nonprofit, and academia

Susy King, New England Interstate Water Pollution, reported that with her promotion at NEWIPCC, this is her last meeting after seven years. Teresa Portante-Lyle will be her successor.

Updates are posted by panel participants at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, reported that no new AIS reported since the last Panel meeting. Monitoring is ongoing with Didemnum. Spread of existing species, including green crab has extended to Prince Edward Island and the western coast of Newfoundland. Commercial fisheries such as for lobster bait were issued in Nova Scotia. Previously, a fine of \$1 was levied on a fisherman who sold green crab for bait. Some tunicates have spread. Several vectors have been identified in the spread such as derelict vessels. There have been two meetings to develop regulatory lists for aquatic species as an implementation of the Fishery Act. This would prevent movement of species through any vector (beyond ballast water regulations). The lists would be what cannot come into Canada and the second would be what could not be moved from one part of the country to another. DFO is collaborating with the Huntsman Marine Center in St. Andrews, NB to create invasive species education modules for students. The AIS Marine Monitoring Network works with partners who use has been use media including plates and tubes. The resulting data are incorporated into a GIS database.

Mike Goehle and Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service

About ten people participated in the HACCP training as an adjunct to the Panel meeting this week. Don reported that forty-one states have approved management plans. The program will be included in Grants.gov soon. The Services continues to try to identify and secure additional funding for Panels and states. It is challenging to keep the existing funding. Updates are posted by panel participants at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

Judy Pederson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sea Grant and Nancy Balcom University of Connecticut Sea Grant, reported on a restaurant that is serving invasive species, There is a great deal of state agency concern about the ramifications of spread of the species and diseases carried by them. Judy found Mile-a-minute plant on her Cape Cod property, the identification was verified by Jennifer Forman Orth, University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

Updates are posted by panel participants at http://www.northeastans.org/blog/?page_id=30

The Invasive Paradigm

James T. Carlton, Williams College

The presentation will be posted when it is received from Dr. Carlton.

Spotlight on Species: *Palaemon macrodactylus* and *P. elegans*

Niels Hobbs, marine scientist

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201111/>

Work group updates

Website revision and online guide

Leslie Matthews reported that the Online Guide revisions are complete and will be posted online. The largest revision will include a second printing format of 4 x 6 inch identification card. Currently, the guide is only printable as an 8 ½ x 11 sheet. There is now a standard back page that will print on both formats of the online guide. Michele suggested that QR codes that link to the online guide be added to the back page. Leslie reminded Panelists and ANS friends that the online guide is dynamic so information can be changed and additional species can be added. There is a need for more marine participants on the work group. Adrienne Pappal indicated that Niels Hobbs will be creating pages for *Palaemon elegans* and other species. Meg Modley committed to provided images for Asian Clam. She suggested that information from past NEANS Panel Spotlight on Species sessions would be good resources.

Karen Hahnel reported that the web re-design edits are complete. The work group will provide these edits to the website contractor, Yellahoose, LLC, who will implement the changes. The plan is to go live in the next month. There was a discussion as to whether or not Panel approval is needed or that a guided tour is necessary. Either of these options could be facilitated by the mid-term call with naturesource communications' webinar service.

Action: The new website will go live within the next 30-60 days.

Action: The Panel will be treated to a guided tour of the new website during its first mid-term call in late winter 2012 via a webinar that naturesource communications will set up.

HIP II

Kevin introduced Alicia Schaffner-Eichinger; NEANS Panel HIP II contractor, who provided an update on the early detection rapid response plan for Chinese Mitten Crab. The final draft should be ready for the NEANS Panel's vote at its May 2011 meeting. The draft includes identification of gaps in monitoring and policies to help form recommendations for provinces and states on a region-wide basis. For instance, memoranda of understanding could be developed and executed between jurisdictions and through the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEGECP). This follows up on previous work conducted by the NEANS Panel Policy and Legislation Committee. Doug Fine at the MA Department of Environmental Protection organizes NEGECP agendas so he can work with Kevin Cute on the proposed memorandum of understanding or proclamation. Judy Pederson suggested that each NEANS Panel jurisdictional representative provide their NEGECP contact information to Kevin. There was discussion about whether a proclamation would be better received by the NEGECP to include terrestrial species. Departments of Agriculture would need to be engaged in that process and they are not part of the Panel at this time. They sometimes have a different view of invasive species and their spread prevention and management. Terrestrial species are also not included in state management plans and funds cannot be spent on them. Kevin felt that the onus should be on each province and state to determine if terrestrial species and departments of agriculture should be included and that it would likely not be an effective approach if they were all not in agreement.

Action: NEANS Panel provinces, states, federal partners, and other organizations will provide to Alicia Schaffner-Eichinger; NEANS Panel HIP II contractor, invasive species policies, regulations, and laws for the Chinese Mitten Crab early detection rapid response plan. Monitoring activities with effectiveness analysis should be also included.

Corbicula Asian Clam Watch Card

Mark Malchoff distributed a draft watch card for Corbicula and received several comments. He will complete the final version with a QR code that naturesource communications created that will direct smart phone users to the Asian Clam page of the NEANS Panel's Online Guide. The card may not be able to be easily converted into a poster or sign.

Action: Mark Malchoff will work with his associate to incorporate into the final version the work group's comments into the Panel's Asian Clam watch card.

Action: naturesource communications will obtain a second printing services quotation for the Panel's Asian Clam watch card.

Didymo 2012 conference and other collaborative opportunities for future meetings

Michele has been working with the Didymo Work Group on their conference on the east coast, possibly in New Hampshire in November 2012. Meg indicated that the proposal was for the Panel to pay for a contract revision for Michele to work on the conference and combine it with the NEANS Panel's fall meeting. The site selection criteria include a venue that is close to an airport and can accommodate 200-300 attendees for two days of sessions. The Center of New Hampshire in Manchester is not available in November and only has one week in October. There are other venues that are further from the Manchester Airport. Michele will also look at Massachusetts and Maine. She will continue to work with Leah Elwell and the work group and keep the Steering Committee updated. Field trips are not likely to be part of the agenda and travel time would take an entire day to reach Didymo site, even if they are in evidence during the fall or winter.

NEANS Panel: ten years of communication and collaboration and plans for the next decade and recognition of participants' contributions

Panel members were recognized and thanked for their work over the last ten years. They were presented with NEANS Panel dry bags to help them with their field work. The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201111/>

iMapInvasives: news and resources

Jennifer Dean, New York Natural Heritage Program

The presentation is online at <http://www.northeastans.org/docs/meetings/201111/>

Other business and public comment period

Nancy announced that the following slate of officers was conditionally voted to the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Council: Nancy Balcom, chair; Ann Bove, vice-chair; Meg Modley, treasurer (effective January 1, 2012); and Michele Tremblay, secretary. Nancy Balcom nominated Kevin Cute to serve as a director, Kevin indicated that he would stay on but would happy to step aside if someone else was willing. Mark Malchoff is willing to serve in the future. The Panel agreed to the vote of the slate of officers.

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications