



August Mid-term Meeting

Video call

August 25, 2021



NEANS

NORTHEAST AQUATIC
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL



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**Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel
meeting**

August 25, 2021

Video conference

August 25, 2021 (all times are ET)

**9:00 AM Welcome, introductions, and roll call – NEANS Panel co-chairs and
Program Manager**

Ian Pfingsten, US Geological Survey

*Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the
Panel*

ANS brief updates and Panel business

- Membership updates – Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel
- Election of co-chair – Ian
- May 2021 meeting summary acceptance – Ian
- Fall 2021 meeting: scheduling, logistics, and agenda suggestions – Ian 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

9:30 AM Panel recommendations for the ANS Task Force fall 2021 meeting

Ian Pfingsten

10:00 AM Preparation for NEANS Panel fall online meeting: 12.3.21 and 12.8.21

Ian Pfingsten and Michele Tremblay

10:30 AM Public comment period

Ian Pfingsten

10:45 AM Other business

11:30 AM Adjourn

The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Steering Committee will convene immediately after the recess of this meeting. Agenda materials will be sent under separate cover to Steering Committee members.



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Meeting Summary DRAFT | May 18-19, 2021
conference call/webinar

NEANS Panelists present: Renée Bernier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Greg Bugbee, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station; Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game Department; David Gregg, RI Museum of Natural History; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency; Bill Harman, NYS Association of Lake Federal of Lake Association; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Meg Modley John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Ian Pfungsten, US Geological Survey; Read Porter, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jim Straub, and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

Others participating: Ann Bove, consultant; Denise Blanchette, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Vanessa Curran, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Wes Daniel, US Geological Survey; Karen Hahnel, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Chris Gobler, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University; Alanna Keating, BoatUS Foundation; Christine Lipsky, National Park Service; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Meagan McCormack, NYS Natural Heritage program; Sarah LeSage, Great Lakes Panel; Susan Pasko; Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Steven Pearson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Adam Sepulva, US Geological Survey; Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the Panel; Erin Vennie-Volrath, NYS Department of Environmental Protection; and Cecilia Weibert, Great Lakes Panel.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs and roll call – Read Porter, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program and Ian Pfungsten, US Geological Survey.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- Michele called the roll and established that there is a quorum.
- Membership: Michele provided a report with a new member, Brian Greene, The Nature Conservancy New York. There are no further updates on the federal agencies' seats and other organizations. There are Panelist ongoing participation gaps for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Coast Guard (USCG), and National Park Service (NPS). Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, has been working with the regional panels to support and help secure membership. Michele has been speaking with Susan about other vacancies. The best results may come from local office recruitment. However, Susan's clout at the DC level is invaluable.
- **Action: Michele will prepare a list of federal agencies for Susan to assist her with identifying representatives from Coast Guard, National Park Services, and National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration, and the Coast Guard,**

- John moved to accept the November 2020 meeting summary. Ian seconded the motion. The motion carried with a correction to a typographical error in the November 2020 document.
- Meg moved to accept the February 2021 meeting summary. Ian seconded the motion. The motion carried.
Decision: The November 2020 and February 2021 meeting summaries were accepted with a typographical error in the November 2020 document.
- Schedule mid-term Panel summer conference call.
Decision: The Panel will convene its midterm meeting in August 2021.
Action: Michele will work with the co-chairs on a polling platform checking availability for first thing in the morning and late in the afternoon for the weeks of August 16 and 23, 2021.
- Schedule fall 2021 meeting
Decision: Schedule fall meeting for November or December 2021 November 29 and December 6, 2021
Action: Michele will work with the co-chairs on a polling platform checking availability for first thing in the morning and late in the afternoon for the weeks of November 29 and December 6, 2021.
- Susan provided an update on the ANS Task Force and presentation on moss balls, which is posted at <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>.
- Everyone felt that it was a wonderful model of how to provide information to agencies and to the general public, which can be used at the state levels. The information was provided to everyone very quickly. Several agencies said that their relationships within their own state networks were improved during this crisis. It is an eye opener for everyone to understand a risk that occurred quickly and a good response model. Some felt that there was confusing about whom to contact. That could be a lesson learned for the states and how a command model might be helpful for the jurisdictions, where appropriate.
- There was no one available to provide a National Invasive Species Council update.
- Sandra Keppner was called away and could not provide a State Management Plan update.

Proposal for Joint Great Lakes and NEANS Panels

Sarah LeSage, outgoing chair, Great Lakes Panel, presented their recommendation, which now have small edits from the Great Lakes Panel that provide grammatical and clarifications, proposed as a joint recommendation with the NEANS Panel to encompass the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain for full EPA funding as part of FY 2022 budget implementing federal Vessel Incident Discharge Act (VIDA) for those waterbodies. The relevant Report to Congress will be attached to the recommendation. The Panel thanked Sara and Cecilia for preparing the recommendation, including the NEANS Panel, and their time to present it today.

Meg moved to submit with the Great Lakes Panel the recommendation relative to VIDA and funding. Ian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The Panel agreed to co-submit the Great Lakes Panel's proposed joint recommendation regarding VIDA to the ANS Task Force.

Action: Michele will work with the NEANS Panel co-chairs and Sarah LeSage to submit the proposed joint recommendation regarding VIDA to the ANS Task Force.

Panel recommendations to the ANS Task Force Chinese mitten crab

Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant, provided an overview of the recommendation (posted at ANSTaskForce.gov) that she and others in the Climate Change Work Group prepared. She thanked Kevin Cute and Cathy McGlynn on their mitten crab work. She has asked Jim Straub to be part of the team until he identifies a Massachusetts contact. Ian asked if there were eDNA markers available. The recommendation might be stronger with a specific “ask” to that committee. She will include them and the references in the final version of the recommendation. Wes said that Susan Pasko is the temporary chair of the Research Committee of the ANS Task Force. The recommendation requires a vote today.

Judy moved to proceed with the recommendation with the proposed revisions. John seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The Panel agreed to submit the proposed recommendation regarding Mitten Crab to the ANS Task Force.

Action: Michele will work with the NEANS Panel co-chairs to submit the proposed recommendation regarding Mitten Crab to the ANS Task Force.

Hydrilla

Cathy McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, summarized the recommendation (posted at ANSTaskForce.gov), which requested a heightened consideration, support, and coordination at the federal level.

Meg moved to proceed with the recommendation. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The Panel agreed to submit the proposed recommendation regarding Hydrilla to the ANS Task Force.

Action: Michele will work with the NEANS Panel co-chairs to submit the proposed recommendation regarding Hydrilla Crab to the ANS Task Force.

VIDA

Read Porter, RI Sea Grant, introduced the VIDA recommendation (posted at ANSTaskForce.gov), which resulted from the recent VIDA group call. The ANS Task Force can have a significant role in implementation. Sarah LeSage asked about the current US Coast Guard (USCG) State Working Group’s recommendations and actions. It may be a better strategy to determine where there may be places in their recommendations where there are further needs by the states. The federal law requires the ANS Task Force to act on the VIDA. The Panel has to make recommendations to the ANS Task Force. The Panel can recognize the Working Group’s work to strengthen the Panel’s recommendation. Read will update the recommendation with mitten crab and USCG Working Group Recommendation.

John moved to approve the recommendation with the proposed revisions. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Decision: The Panel agreed to submit the proposed recommendation regarding VIDA to the ANS Task Force.

Action: Michele will work with the NEANS Panel co-chairs to submit the proposed recommendation regarding VIDA to the ANS Task Force.

Work and other groups' reports

Climate Change: Judy provided a synopsis of the work group's terms of reference it prepared. The process was important to recognize what the group had completed, what it had not, and a three-year plan for its objectives. 1). Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS), 2). Draft information for managers to help them understand CC and identify gaps in climate change data and information, and 3). Disseminate information to audiences. The second phase is for the work group to see how it would fund RAS again, which has, in the past, come from several organizations. The RAS is conducted every three or four years so it is time plan for another survey. The next phase is to find long-term, sustainable support for the RAS. Also needed is to assure of the RAS goals and to support them financially. This includes proactive work with legislators and other decision makers are needed. A series of one-page summaries of identified issues are planned.

Spread Prevention: The Work group met on May 7 and discussed 1). Having the Panel involved in the Great Lakes AID Landing blitz to develop public service announcements during the weeks of June 5 and July 5, and better leverage National Invasive Species Week in the Northeast region, 2). Supporting bait vector trade work (Amy Fowler's effort); evaluating vectors 3.) OIT and horizon scanning, 4). Identify states' and organizations' status of outreach efforts and coordinating messages, Northeast states and provinces could be polled, and develop a PSA for invasive species. The group has drafted a recommendation to the ANS Task Force for hydrilla on the Connecticut River. Read participated in the meeting and impressed by the different initiatives. With a full agenda, the terms of reference for the work group was developed but will be drafted after field season has concluded. The Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted with states' priorities to survey hydrilla within the Connecticut River watershed.

VIDA Squad

Alicia is the new EPA lead for this effort. The Squad will draft a terms of reference (TOR) as a work group.

Action: Michele will send to the Panel the Climate Change, Spread Prevention, and VIDA work group terms of reference documents.

Public comment period

There was no public comment.

Other business

There was no other business.

Rapid Assessment Survey of marine bioinvasions of southern New England and New York with an overview of new records and range expansions

Judy Pederson provided background, protocols, and results from the survey. Judy thanked the agencies that contributed to the effort, including the NEANS Panel. The presentation can be viewed at

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>

Moving in? Chinese mitten crabs

Judy provided an overview of the current range and expansion of the crabs. There has been one sighting in New York. The US Fish and Wildlife Service map in the presentation represents a climate change map, which can be viewed as a range expansion map. The NEANS Panel is submitting a recommendation to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>

Hydrilla on the Connecticut River

Cathy McGlynn presented the species and response status. Meg thanked the state leads for gathering specimens for the study. David said that Procellacore® is not permitted in sensitive habitat. The hydrilla type is likely a different type of monoecious hydrilla but cannot be confirmed at this time. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>

eDNA Work: now what?

Adam Sepulveda, US Geological Survey, presented on DNA on zebra mussels, which is a sensitive issue in the west, where he is based. There is a challenge with making decisions when not all facts are available. The presentation included next steps for USGS and the NEANS Panel, which are to convene in the fall of 2021 at five in-person meetings (travel reimbursement is possible for NEANS Panelists) and ten two-hour meetings convened virtually. Case studies are solicited. The model is based a mix of qualitative and quantitative data in a matrix. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>

Action: Michele and Adam will work together to frame a specific request to NEAN Panelists to participate in the next steps for the project.

Factors promoting the proliferation of the red seaweed, *Dasysiphonia japonica*, and consequences for newly invaded ecosystems

Christopher Gobler presented results of his research on climate change and the red seaweed invasion in New York. In 2007, it was first observed in the Northeast. The decayed species releases hydrogen sulphide, which is hazardous to human life (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-020-02445-9>). The study included the addition of both nitrogen and phosphorus. On Long Island, there is an effort to upgrade 200,000 onsite septic systems with a grant program from the State of New York. This is a cost saving vs. community systems. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2021-meeting-presentations>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.