



**Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel
meeting**

November 3, 2023

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Zoom only—credentials on page 2

Friday, November 3, 2023 (all times are ET)

11:00 AM Welcome, introductions, and roll call – NEANS Panel co-chairs and Program Manager

Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation

James Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications, contractor to the Panel

ANS brief updates and Panel business

- Roll call and declaration of proxy/proxies – Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel
- Membership updates – Michele
- May 2023 meeting summary acceptance – Jim and Kim
- August 2023 mid-term meeting summary acceptance – Jim and Kim
- ANS Task Force business and meeting updates – Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, US Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- NEANS Panel recommendations to the ANSTF – Jim, Kim, and Michele
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in February 2024 – Michele
- Spring venue-based early May 2024 meeting—Maine is next in rotation but ANS Task Force hosting Connecticut is the planning group's recommendation: scheduling, logistics, and agenda suggestions – Jim, Kim, Michele, and Maine members and participants
- State Management Plans – Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present
- Outgoing senior co-chair recognition and in-coming co-chair election

11:30 AM Don't Let it Loose

Jennifer Riddle, Invasive Species Action Network

Desired Outcome: Participation from NE states in responsible pet ownership messaging efforts

11:40 AM New Threats

Toni Pied and John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection

Desired outcome: discuss *Utricularia inflata* and how jurisdictions are responding and managing the plant

11:55 AM Other business

12:10 PM Public comment period

12:15 AM Review action items and next steps
Ian, Jim, and Michele

12:30 PM Adjourn

Join Zoom Meeting with one click

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9958018452?pwd=bnJnMF1BdlZZUzJWMzNXVHk3b0lFQT09shorturl.at/fAUX8>

Meeting ID: 995 801 8452

Passcode: K0BkWP

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdrJ1oet4z>



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Meeting Summary DRAFT | May 23 and 24, 2023
The Hotel Providence, Providence, RI and online meeting

NEANS Panelists present: Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Renée Bernier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Greg Bugbee, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station; Jim Carlton, Williams College; Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Management Council; Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, RI Department of Environmental Management; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency; Larry Harris, University of New Hampshire; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Christine Lipsky, National Park Service; Aude Locket, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Ian Pflingsten, US Geological Survey; Toni Pied for John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

Others participating; Aimee Agnew, US Geological Survey; Lauren Bissonnette, University of Rhode Island; Ann Bove; Contractor and Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds; Margot Burns, Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments; Richard Burroughs, University of Rhode Island; Riley Doherty, CT Department of Environmental Services, Agricultural Experiment Station; Rhea Drozdenko, Connecticut River Conservancy; Christine Dudley, RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife; Sean Duffey, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jeremiah Foley, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Keith Hannon, Aliko Fornier, Connecticut River Conservancy; US Army Corps of Engineers; Mark Heilman, SePro; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Susan Pasko; Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Judy Pederson, MIT Sea Grant; Ben Sperry, US Army Corps of Engineers; Summer Stebbins, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station; and Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the Panel.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs and roll call – Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation. Michele Tremblay called the roll.

ANS updates and Panel business:

- Michele provided membership updates. She and Christine have worked with contacts for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. So far, none have invasive species in their portfolios. Scott Decker, NH Fish and Game has retired (he notified the Panel at the 11.2022 meeting). The position was posted and the hiring process is ongoing. Michele continues to work on provincial membership from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Québec. She is also working on contacts from Environment Canada, which may be from Parks Canada. The US Coast Guard remains a significant gap. Ian, Jim, and Michele are working on leads from First Nations/Tribes and discussed participating in

meetings reciprocally. Kim Jensen provided her contact from the Abenaki Nation. Cathy provided contacts with gardening groups.

- The November 2022 meeting summary was accepted.
- The February 2023 meeting summary was accepted.
Decision: The November 2022 and February 2023 meeting summaries were accepted.
Action: Susan will provide a written update on the Panel's forum.
- ANS Task Force business and meeting updates: Susan was not able to provide updates but can post them to the May 2023 meeting forum.
- NEANS Panel recommendations to the ANS Task Force. There were none presented. The Panel can consider recommendations during its August mid-term meeting. Those recommendations can be presented at the Task Force's October 2023 meeting.
Action: Panelists are asked to submit their recommendation drafts for considering by the Panel during its August 2023 mid-term meeting. Michele will provide a reminder with the Task Force's template
- Schedule mid-term Panel meeting in August 2023.
Decision: The Panel will convene its mid-term meeting in August 2023.
Action: Michele will work poll for the weeks of August 14 and 21, 2023.
- Schedule fall 2023 meeting: The Panel will not be able to meet in conjunction with its hosting of the ANS Task Force meeting in October. Options include a venue-based in Maine (next in rotation), an online meeting. If the latter, the Panel can meet in Maine in May 2024.
Decision: The Panel will convene online in November 2023.
Decision: The Panel will convene in Maine in May 2024.
Action: Michele will poll the Panel for dates in November 2023 for an online meeting.
- State Management Plan update: Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, provided an update on state in her region. State and programmatic contacts can contact her with questions.
- There was no one available to provide a National Invasive Species Council update.

Highlights from Rhode Island

Kevin Cute, RI Coastal Resources Marine Council

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2023-meeting-presentations-2/>

Roundtable updates from NEANS Panel representatives

<https://www.northeastans.org/forum/may-2023-meeting-updates/>

Work Group work plans and budgets presentation

For all work group work plan requests, their total exceeds available funds by \$7,309. There is a balance of \$1,734.85 in the dedicated fund for Rapid Assessment Survey from 2019. \$500 is budgeted for website work.

- Ballast Water State Plan Implementation – There was no Ballast Water work plan.
- Climate Change – Judy provided an update of the Climate Change Work Group's work to date and their request for database assistance in the amount of \$4,000.
- Marine – Alicia presented the two work group's work plans for the Rapid Assessment Survey, the first is for the northern part of the region for \$20,000; and the second, for the southern area at \$25,000 in 2024. There is \$1,734.85 left from the 2019 RAS.
- Spread Prevention – Cathy presented the Spread Prevention Work Group's activities. No funds are requested due to all being provided pro bono by the Panel contractor.
- Website – This request is not from a work group. The funds requested are budgeted.

Northeast Landing Blitz 2022 update and 2023 plans

Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/northeast-aquatic-invasive-species-landing-blitz/>This page includes the embedded video branded for the Panel. The video has been posted to the Panel's social media including its YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts. Agencies and other organizations can share those links or can share directly from the Landing Blitz page. The Blitz this year will happen June 30 – July 9, 2023. <https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2023-meeting-presentations-2/>

Action: NEANS Panelists and other organizations can share their images, videos, media releases, and other resources for posting on the Landing Blitz page by sending them to Michele.

Action: NEANS Panelists and other organizations can share the video and other resources to their social media from that of the Panel.

Panel funding discussion and decisions

Kim moved to fund the Climate Change Work Group in the amount of \$4,000 for database work. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Alicia moved to fund the Marine Work Group Rapid Assessment Survey 2023 work plan in the amount of \$20,000. Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kim moved to fund the Marine Work Group Rapid Assessment Survey 2024 work plan in the amount of \$19,425.85. Alicia seconded the motion. The motion carried. The amount of \$5,574.15 that was not funded from the \$25,000 request can be reconsidered in a subsequent fiscal year.

The Spread Prevention Work Group work plans required no funding due to pro bono work by the contractor.

There was consensus that the \$500 currently budgeted for website maintenance would be spent for this purpose.

All funds must be encumbered by 9.2024 with payments made by 12.2024. The preference would be to make payments shortly after 9.2024 or earlier. This will allow for funding decisions should not all monies be spent.

US Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Connecticut River Hydrilla Research and Demonstration Project

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2023-meeting-presentations-2/>

Action: Michele will request via Panel@NortheastANS.org who wishes to be part of a new listserv for Connecticut River hydrilla outreach collaboration.

Action: Michele will create and populate a new listserv for Connecticut River hydrilla outreach collaboration.

Spotlight on Species: Regional Policy Alternatives for Control of Ballast Water Invasive Species

Lauren Bissonnette and Richard Burroughs, University of Rhode Island

Action: Kevin, working with Michele, will solicit Northeast contacts for a group to work collaboratively to implement VIDA planning and implementation.

Action: Northeast VIDA planning and implementation will be a discussion item on the fall online NEANS Panel meeting agenda.

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2023-meeting-presentations-2/>

Water chestnut: A demonstration project to showcase community based management in an environmental justice area, and discussion on prioritizing early detection sites

Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, RI Department of Environmental Management

<https://www.northeastans.org/index.php/home-page/meetings-and-panel-information/docs/meetings/may-2023-meeting-presentations-2/>

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force October 2023 hosting by the NEANS Panel

Michele requested donations from agencies and other organizations for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force welcome gift bags. She will be sourcing bags in early June so will need to know by the end of the month what configuration, e.g., size, shape, to order, based on donations. Other local gifts such as maple syrup or anything with a northeast flavour can be donated. The gifts do not all need to be AIS related. Mailing to PO Box 3019, Penacook, NH 03303 or via ground (address upon request) are appreciated.

There is the possibility of a federal government shutdown. Michele and Susan have discussed this scenario. The timing challenges of travel approvals for the week of October at the very start of the federal fiscal year are problematic. Moving the meeting space to the free hosting at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station is a good strategy for financial considerations as well as possible shutdown.

It may be challenging for NEANS Panelists to participate but having an online fall meeting will be helpful for budget considerations and travel approvals. The Task Force will not be within reach for NEANS Panelists for at least six years so this is an important opportunity.

NEANS Panel recommendations for the October Task Force meeting will be considered and decided upon at the Panel's August mid-term meeting.

Action: Those willing to donate to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force gift bag should send their donations to Michele by the end of May (or let her know what they will donate for bag size specification).

Public comment period

Aimee Agnew, US Geological Survey, provided an overview of overlaying occurrence data and is soliciting data not included in iMapInvasives and other existing repositories. The objective is to make the process automated vs. requiring manual updates.

Action: Panelists may contact Aimee Agnew at aagnew@usgs.gov to be part of the US Geological Survey occurrence data project, and of working groups and listening sessions.

Action: Aimee Agnew will frame her "ask" for data and data needs and post it to Panel@NortheastANS.org for direct reply.

There being no other business, Kim moved to adjourn. Ian seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications (contractor to the Panel)



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Meeting Summary DRAFT | August 23, 2023
Online via Zoom

NEANS Panelists present: Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Greg Bugbee, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station; Larry Harris, University of New Hampshire; Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandy Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Christine Lipsky, National Park Service; Aude Lochet, Lake Champlain Sea Grant; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Ian Pflingsten, US Geological Survey; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental Services; and Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Others participating; Riley Doherty, CT Department of Environmental Services, Agricultural Experiment Station; Mike Greer, US Army Corps of Engineers; Daniel McCaw, Penobscot Indian Nation; Kara Sliwoski, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Summer Stebbins, CT Department of Environmental Services Agricultural Experiment Station; Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications, contractor to the Panel; Kerry Wixted, AFWA.

Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs and roll call – Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation. Michele Tremblay called the roll.

Recommendations to the ANS Task Force

Michele did not receive any proposed recommendations. The Panel agreed to update the funding inflation recommendation and submit it to the Task Force for its fall meeting. Cathy moved to submit the revised recommendation. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: Michele will update the Panel's funding recommendation to the ANS Task Force using the 7.2023 today's dollars rate of \$119,972.92 (US Department of Labor website) and submit it to Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary to the Task Force.

Update on NEANS Panel hosting of ANS Task Force

The Task Force may have to cancel the October meeting due to the possible federal government shutdown. Having a meeting in the early part of October does not provide sufficient notice for those who have made travel arrangements. Susan Pasko and Michele have been in frequent contact. Options include rescheduling to November 2023 or May 2024. May is the month when other Panels, including the NEANS Panel, have hosted the Task Force. There was consensus that November 2023 was not sufficient time to put together a new hotel block and ask people to make travel arrangements. There is a large amount of funding coming to the Connecticut River so the need for ANS Task Force members (who do not make those funding decisions), does not have the urgency or value once thought. John moved to empower the planning group (including Susan Pasko) to make the cancellation decision for the October meeting. Larry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Action: The ANS Task Force planning group is authorized by the NEANS Panel to make decision(s) on the October 2023 meeting relative to notification about the possible government shutdown. The decision may need to be made no later than 9.15.23. This planning group may be able to conduct this process via email.

Action: Michele will work with Greg Bugbee and Jim Carlton to cancel any arrangements made to date for the field tour.

Panel fall 11.3.23 online meeting plan

The Panel reviewed the draft that Michele developed based on required business and requests. The Panel agreed that the draft was full and optimistic with the ninety-minute time frame. The agenda includes election of an incoming co-chair. Jim would like that person to represent marine interests but it is not a requirement. Those standing for election are required to be a Panelist.

Panel spring meeting in Maine

Michele contacted (last corresponded on 6.23.23) John McPhedran and Toni Pied, ME Department of Environmental Protection to learn what spaces might be near presenters or be venue preferences. Since then, Michele has been part of an email string with invasive species professionals from Maine (Denise Blanchette, MEDEP), New Brunswick, and Québec who are interested in a possible area meeting, possible an adjunct to the Panel meeting. It is not clear right now what location would best serve these interests. Some New Brunswickers may drive but others may fly from Saint John, Fredericton, or Moncton. For those in Québec and parts of New Brunswick, the Portland Jetport might offer more convenience than driving. Depending on the ANS Task Force possible rescheduling, this might conflict with the NEANS Panel spring meeting. No plant related field tours but will be closer to others, e.g., NB, QB, Penobscot Indian Nation for presentations and dialogue.

Action: Michele will continue the process to locate a venue for the Maine meeting and provide date recommendations for polling.

Public comment period

There was no comment from the public.

Other business

Christine mentioned that the Task Force notice of funding opportunity for early detection/rapid response. Michele forwarded the notice to Panel@NortheastANS.org. National Park Service is planning to submit an application. She solicited ideas for marine species. Michele suggested forwarded her query to MarineWorkGroup@NortheastANS.org.

There being no other business, Cathy moved to adjourn. Larry seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications (contractor to the Panel)

Regional Panel Recommendation Submission Form

- To be completed by the Regional Panel -

Regional Panel(s): Northeast Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

Date Submitted: 8.28.23 (will revise for January 2024 meeting with updated inflation statistic)

Recommendation to the ANS Task Force

What: The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel recommends that the Task Force identify additional funding for regional panels.

Who: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

How: Internal sources, coordinating with other federal agencies, and Acts of Congress or riders to current bills

Timeline: Within three years

Background Information: In applicable, *state key facts and pertinent information that has led up to the recommendation.*

Since the first regional panel was formed in 1990, funding has been flat at the authorized \$50,000. This static funding means that the six regional panels' buying power is reduced significantly. In today's dollars*, panels would be receiving \$120,796.31 to keep up with inflation. Currently, panels struggle to afford their core service of regional coordination, including conducting one or two meetings and attending two of the ANS Task Force meetings each year with \$50,000. In the past, panels have been able to fund projects with their annual coordination grant, despite heroic cutting measures that are negatively affecting some panel's operations.

In the past few years, State Management Plan funding has been appropriated above the authorized amount. These SMP funds support a variety of important programs and projects. As a parallel, regional panels' appropriated funds should be raised above the current authorized amount of \$50,000.

The collective work of the regional panels is a significant part of the ANS Task Force's work plan and accomplishments reported to Congress. It should be supported with sufficient funding to keep up with inflation and to continue and broaden its work.

* <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=50000.00&year1=199001&year2=202309>
from January 1990 to September 2023

Link to ANS Task Force Strategic Plan: *State the goal(s) or objective(s) in the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan that would be supported by the recommendation.*

Relevant ANS Task Force Strategic Plan goals

1. Coordination
2. Prevention
3. Early Detection and Rapid Response
4. Control and Restoration
5. Research
6. Outreach and Education

List of Attached Documents or Images (optional):

Final Task Force Resulting Action:

Action: *Describe action to be taken and timeline for completion. If the recommended approach from the regional panel is not being implemented, include justification for modification.*

No Action: *Include justification if no action will be taken.*