



## Spring Meeting

*online only*

*April 29-30, 2025*



# NEANS

NORTHEAST AQUATIC  
NUISANCE SPECIES PANEL



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**Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel  
meeting**

April 29-30, 2025

Online only

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025 (all times are ET)**

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

*Jim Carlton, Williams College*

*Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station*

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

***ANS brief updates and Panel business***

- Roll call and declaration of proxy/proxies (email in advance of meeting to [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net)) – Michele L. Tremblay, contractor to the Panel
- Membership updates: welcome to two new members and vote on accepting New Brunswick Invasive Species Council / Conseil des Espèces Envahissantes de Nouveau Brunswick – Michele
- November 2024 meeting summary acceptance – Jim and Greg
- February 2025 mid-term meeting summary acceptance – Jim and Greg
- ANS Task Force business and meeting updates – Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, US Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- NEANS Panel recommendations to the ANSTF (any new since February mid-term meeting) – Jim, Greg, and Michele
- Schedule mid-term Panel conference call in August 2025 – Michele
- Fall venue-based early November 2025 meeting in Augusta, ME – Jim, Greg, Michele, and Maine Panelists and participants
- State Management Plans – Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Invasive Species Council – updates from members present

**10:00 AM Updates from work groups**

Climate Change: *David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection*

Marine: *Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant, and Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency*

Spread Prevention: *Kara Sliwoski, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Ian Pfingsten, US Geological Survey*

*Spread Prevention Work Group Sub-group update on Connecticut River Hydrilla Management Plan: Summer Stebbins, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, and Kara Sliwoski, co-leads*

**Desired outcome:** NEANS Panel members understand work groups' planned activities and progress and how they fit the Panel's mission.

**11:00 AM Spotlight on Species: Zebra Mussels in acidic environments**

*Sarah Cusack, NB Invasive Species Council*

*John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection*

**Desired outcome:** Panelists understand the extent and viability of zebra mussels in New Brunswick, Maine, and other areas with acid soils and discuss plans to coordinate provincial and state efforts.

**12:00 PM Recess until April 30**

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025 (all times are ET)**

**9:30 AM Welcome back**

*Jim Carlton, Williams College*

*Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station*

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

**9:45 AM Roundtable: imminent marine and freshwater species arriving the northeast region of the US and Canada**

*Discussion moderators, Jim and Greg*

**Desired outcome:** Panelists are aware of invasive species that may enter their jurisdictions and can be on alert for early detection and, if needed, rapid response.

**10:45 AM Public comment period**

**11:00 AM Seaplanes as vectors**

*Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies, LLC*

**Desired outcome:** Panelists understand the paper<sup>1</sup> and are able to apply knowledge to their jurisdictional management.

**11:45 AM Other business**

**12:00 AM Action items and wrap-up**

*Jim, Greg, and Michele*

**12:15 PM Adjourn**

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.seaplanesandais.com/phase-iv>



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**Meeting Summary DRAFT | November 20-21, 2024**  
Portsmouth, NH and via Zoom

**NEANS Panelists present:** Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Renée Bernier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Jim Carlton, Williams College; Alicia Grimaldi, US Environmental Protection Agency; Larry Harris, University of NH (ret); Kimberly Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Lauren Kurtz, CT Department of Energy; Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, RI Department of Environmental Management; Don MacLean, US Fish and Wildlife Service for Susan Pasko, ANS Task Force; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; John McPhedran, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Katy Lawson, NYS Natural Heritage Program; Christine Lipsky, National Park Service; Ian Pfungsten, US Geological Survey; Eric Randall, NYS Federation of Lake Associations; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental; Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

**Others participating;** Erin Bjorklund, Invasive Species Action Network; Heather Desko, NJ Water Supply Authority; Sarah Cusack, New Brunswick Invasive Species Council / Conseil des Espèces Envahissantes de Nouveau Brunswick; Sarah Kingsbury, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; John Gosselin, SePro; Mark Heilman, SePro; Lexie Neffinger, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Jennifer Peasnall, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed; Brian Penney, Saint Anselm College; Toni Pied, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Kara Sliwoski, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Dakota Stankowski, ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Summer Stebbins, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; and Michele L. Tremblay, nature resource communications, contractor to the Panel.

**Welcome, introductions by co-chairs, and roll call** – Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation and Jim Carlton, Williams College opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Self-introductions followed. Michele Tremblay called the Panelists roll pursuant to bylaw requirements. A quorum is satisfied.

**Membership updates**

Michele has been working at both local and federal levels to identify Panelists representing NOAA and the Coast Guard, provincial agencies, nonprofits, and Indigenous/First Nations voices.

**Action:** Michele will continue to work with local and federal level agencies to identify Panelist candidates.

**Approval of February 2024 mid-term, June 2024, and August 2024 mid-term meeting summaries**

The November 2023 summary will include the corrected name, *Utricularia inflata*.

Michele corrected one of the co-chair's names in the welcome change to Jim Carlton, Williams College. Kim moved to approve both meeting summaries. Cathy seconded the motion.

**Decision:** The Panel accepted the February 2024 mid-term, June 2024, and August mid-term meeting summaries with grammatical corrections.

**Action:** Michele will make the grammatical corrections to the February 2024 mid-term, June 2024, and August mid-term meeting summaries.

### **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)**

Susan Pasko provided updates from the November 2024 meeting summary with an overview of decision and action items.

Presentation can be found at

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

**Action:** Susan Pasko will upload updates to the Panel meeting forum or provide her presentation file to Michele for uploading to NortheastANS.org.

### **NEANS Panel recommendations to the ANSTF**

Susan will be speaking with the TF co-chairs regarding the NEANS Panel and other regional panels' recommendations for additional funding.

### **Spring 2025 venue-based meeting in Maine**

Slated for April or May (not the week of the 11<sup>th</sup>: ANSTF meeting) 2025

April 28 is the recommended week.

**Decision:** The Panel decided to poll for the week of April 28, 2025 for the meeting in Maine.

**Action:** Michele will poll Panelists for the week of April 28, 2025 for the meeting in Maine.

### **State Management Plans**

Sandra reported that this is a time in between 2024 and 2025 grant years with January or February being the time line for pre-proposals.

### **National Invasive Species Council (NISC)**

There was no one present from NISC to provide an update.

### **Incoming co-chair election and outgoing co-chairs recognition**

Greg Bugbee agreed to stand for election as co-chair. Jim called for nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations. Greg is elected as incoming co-chair.

Jim Straub and Kimberly Jensen were presented with framed certificates to recognize their respect terms as co-chairs.

**Action:** Michele will transmit to Jim Straub and Kimberly Jensen their respective framed certificates.

### **Landing Blitz 2024**

Kara Sliwoski, co-lead, Spread Prevention Work Group, provided an overview of the Landing Blitz results reported to date. The Panel's online data entry tool (shared with marine Rapid Assessment Surveys) is now operational. Ian Pfingsten, co-lead of the work group, led a discussion of the data in the online tool, which is shared with the Climate Change Work Group's efforts for the marine Rapid Assessment Survey. The SurveyMonkey that Michele created when Cathy initiated the program for the NEANS

NEANS Panel, is an easy way for participants to provide their data but does not provide data that can be analyzed easily.

Kara and others shared their methods for conducting boat launch inspections and how the interceptions are conducted, including next steps.

Landing blitzes started about thirty-five years ago in the Great Lakes region. The jurisdictions work with the public on an educational and non-regulatory, non-enforcement basis. There is law enforcement in NYS at particular launches. The Panel discussed modifying its program for season-long data vs. just Blitz period.

**Action:** The co-leads will convene the Spread Prevention Work Group to discuss next steps for Landing Blitz 2025, including an expansion to full season data collection, and the RAS 2025 and data reporting and management.

Presentation can be found at

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

### **Marine Rapid Assessment Survey 2023**

Lexie Neffinger, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management and Jim Carlton, Williams College provided an update on the survey in the Gulf of Maine.

Greg asked about a future Panel meeting discussion focused on the parallels between the region's marine and freshwater surveys, invasion stressors, and other ways that programs can learn from each other.

Presentation can be found at

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

**Action:** Michele will add to the May meeting agenda placeholder list the idea of a future Panel meeting discussion focused on the parallels between the region's marine and freshwater surveys, invasion stressors, and other ways that programs can learn from each other.

### **Marine Rapid Assessment Survey 2024**

Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant

Kristin Osborne, Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative of the Massachusetts

Jim Carlton, Williams College Maritime Academy

provided an update on the survey from Rhode Island to New York

Presentation can be found at

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

## ***Field Tour***

### **Field tour report**

Larry provided an update on the field tour yesterday. There was still a lot to see including tunicates and bryozoans. The site has been monitored for about twenty-five years.

**Action:** Michele will send a thank you card to the marina for their kind hosting of the field tour.

### **Updates from workgroups**

#### *Climate Change*

David Wong provided an update on the online database (for marine Rapid Assessment Survey and Landing Blitz) with an online demonstration. One of the next steps is to be able to use the data to create maps of invasive species findings. Another is to work with the contractor to provide a way to upload spreadsheets. Michele is working to get



a quote on annual uploads as well as an additional build to allow for Panel user uploads. Carolina has a student who may have time to work on data management.

**Action:** Michele will continue to work with the contractor to gain quotes for annual data uploads and for an additional build for the Panel to be able to do it themselves.

#### *Marine*

Alicia and Carolina reported on the March 2024 meeting, which was planned for Portsmouth, NH but had to be converted to a virtual one due to lack of travel budgets. The introductions included updates on everyone's programs and activities. The results of the marine survey were presented. The plan is to have at least one similar event each year.

**Action:** Those interested in joining the Marine Work Group should email Alicia, Carolina, and Michele to be subscribed to the listserve.

**Action:** Michele will leave the Marine Work Group March 2024 meeting recording on the website until the end of the year.

#### *Spread Prevention*

Ian and Kara

The January 18 meeting was focused on hydrilla and Landing Blitz, including PSAs, more social media. Landing Blitz online data entry and management. Watch cards were on the agenda with discussions on future production of reprints if there is budget for them. The work group is coordinating with the Marine Work Group for potential spread prevention approaches and priorities.

The sub-work group reported on the *Connecticut River Hydrilla Plan* update. Summer Stebbins and Kara provided updates on the report and partner activities and coordination, including the work from the Connecticut River Conservancy. The discussion included updates from Connecticut (see hydrilla presentation item below) and Massachusetts. There was a discussion of the efficacy of Diquat and Fluoridone treatments, including on application to different parts of the plant, with annual recurrences. There are multiple strains of hydrilla that are present in different areas of the country. David has provided this information in his recently published book. Maine's Fluoridone applications in Pickerel Pond for nine years. Ian provided the NAS (<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/>) map showing regional distribution of species. He uploads iNaturalist data when he reviews it.

Sales of the invasive plants are banned in CT, ME, NH, and VT and for most of the region's states. In NH, it can still be found in stores during inspections.

#### **Boat registration fees, invasive species funding, and US Coast Guard Audit**

Captain Tim Dunleavy (retired) provided brief background on the issue including bill revision to address BoatUS concerns. However, the organization is still voicing concerns to a Senate subcommittee. He added a synopsis of the 11.8.24 letter from Senators Shaheen, Crapo, and Risch, to the Coast Guard. A House Bill could be Tim has been contacted by the Coast Guard regarding the letter. That may be a longer route of resolution. Michele added that she has been meeting with two fisheries nonprofits to see how they can lend their support for the Senate Bill. Twenty-percent of states are affected by this issue. Those states must de-couple (not having a single mandatory transaction) their fee collection to meet federal laws. They will see increased fees due to administration of two, parallel programs, which will result in higher boat registration fees to users. In New Hampshire, the renewal letter (no online tool) will include language that an additional decal for \$3, which is required. New Hampshire's de-coupling option satisfies the Coast Guard. The user can defer purchasing the second decal. Connecticut has online renewal with two separate transactions, which

may result in a loss of revenue.

The letter can be found at

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

### **Roundtable**

As the Panel agreed, no notes are taken during this agenda feature. Panelist and ANS friend updates can be found at

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

### **Hydrilla in the Connecticut River watershed**

Greg Bugbee opened his presentation with acknowledgment of the importance of the NEANS Panel's work nearly ten years ago with federal legislators, funding, and soliciting US Army Corps of Engineers as an important collaborator.

Presentation can be found at

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

### **VT Department of Conservation herbicide discussion**

**Action: Those who have them will upload their herbicide information, education, and outreach materials to Panel@NortheastANS.org.**

### **Other business**

There was no other business

**Action:** Michele will

### **Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

There being no other business, Ian moved to adjourn. Kim seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.

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

**Zoom (group only—no personal or status messages) chat on next page**

## November 20, 2024

08:45:36 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Good morning. Would you please let me know your name and affiliation? Thank you.

08:52:22 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Good morning and welcome, Kim.

08:53:30 From Kimberly.Jensen to Everyone:

Good morning Michele! Sorry I wasn't able to be in person. I hope it's a lovely time

08:53:44 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Good morning et bienvenue, Renée.

08:55:23 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:

Thanks Michèle. Good morning everyone!

08:58:00 From Eric Randall to Everyone:

Michele, I will joining via ZOOM or phone throughout the day. first hour or so will be over the phone. sorry I am not in NH! Best wishes for a great meeting

09:00:06 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Good morning NEANS!

09:07:10 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Good morning, Jim!

09:07:33 From Cathy McGlynn NYSDEC to Everyone:

Good morning!

09:08:32 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

Morning all!

09:29:55 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

On behalf of the Control Subcommittee, I will be sending out the draft Control Plan Guidance and a reminder to review to the ANSTF about the Control Plan Guidance soon. Comments will be due by the end of January.

09:55:22 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

And Jim isn't going anywhere .... I need him for my Control Subcommittee!

09:59:45 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

The NH Lake Host Program would have data from that reporting period, just a matter of asking them. If you'd like NH data, reach out to barvidson@nhlakes.org

10:00:37 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

That is what Susan Pasko was talking about.

10:03:41 From Kara Sliwoski to Everyone:

Reacted to " The NH Lake Host Pr..." with ❤️

10:12:27 From Cathy McGlynn NYSDEC to Everyone:

Hi Kara, I've asked Scott Jamieson to share all the NYS data for that time period. Cathy

10:12:41 From Kara Sliwoski to Everyone:

Replying to "Hi Kara, I've asked ..." thank you!!

10:20:52 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

Not sure if Canadian data is of interest or not, but the Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) local chapters in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are starting to collect this type of data. Some national parks in Nova Scotia are considering collecting boater movement data for park visitors and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Quebec has done boat movement surveys for Lac Temiscouata. I can provide their contact information if NEANS is interested in it.

10:21:44 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Canadian data ALWAYS welcomed. We have province and multi-jurisdictional

fields available.

10:22:43 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

I have to step out for a while, but feel free to follow-up with me if you'd like a run down of Atlantic Canadian data and their owner's contact info. My email is Sarah.Kingsbury@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

10:26:09 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

Signing off for the day, will sign in tomorrow morning when we're back to freshwater/general topics.

10:27:14 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Have to jump to another meeting and will be back in 30-60 minutes

10:35:09 From kevin cute to Everyone:

I'm signing off at 2:00 p.m. to attend a USCG VIDA State Coordination meeting. I'll be rejoining everyone tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m.

10:53:54 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Welcome back, Zoomers. Please take a moment to provide your name and affiliation in the chat. Thank you.

10:54:12 From Aude Lochet to Everyone:

Aude Lochet, Lake Champlain Sea Grant

10:54:19 From David Wong - MassDEP to Everyone:

David Wong, MassDEP

10:54:26 From Kara Sliwoski to Everyone:

Kara Sliwoski, MA DCR Lakes & Ponds

10:54:30 From Mark Heilman to Everyone:

Mark Heilman, SePRO

10:54:31 From Brian Penney to Everyone:

Brian Penney, Saint Anselm College

10:55:50 From Kimberly.Jensen to Everyone:

Kim Jensen, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

10:57:56 From Judith Pederson to Everyone:

Judy Pederson, Research Affiliate MIT Sea Grant College Program

11:26:20 From Cathy McGlynn NYSDEC to Everyone:

Hi All,

11:26:37 From Cathy McGlynn NYSDEC to Everyone:

I need to jump off for a call. I will see you tomorrow. Enjoy the field trip!

11:33:48 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:

Just wondering when the 2023-24 RAS reports will be out and if they can be shared via the NEANS panel announcements? Thanks.

11:33:52 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

Can you repeat again or type in the chat, the tubeworm that was found?

11:34:06 From Katy Lawson, NYSDEC/NYNHP to Everyone:

ficopomatus enigmaticus

11:34:33 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

Replying to "ficopomatus enigmati..."

Thank you!

11:34:57 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

Reacted to "Just wondering when ..." with 🙏

11:35:34 From Kimberly.Jensen to Everyone:

I have to jump off as well. Thank you!!! Enjoy the sites!

11:37:09 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Thank you Jim ... I will rejoin tomorrow morning! ... Have a good trip!!!

11:37:18 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:  
e-see you tomorrow! Thanks for the interesting presentations.  
11:37:22 From David Wong - MassDEP to Everyone:  
Thank you, all!  
11:37:23 From Aude Lochet to Everyone:  
Thank you! Have you a good trip!  
11:37:25 From Mark Heilman to Everyone:  
Enjoy the afternoon. Back on tomorrow!  
11:38:03 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:  
Have a great field trip! Thanks for the knowledge sharing.

### **November 21, 2024**

08:31:37 From Don MacLean to Everyone:  
Good morning NEANS!  
08:31:56 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:  
Good morning, Don. So glad that USFWS can be here.  
08:34:19 From Don MacLean to Everyone:  
Don MacLean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, AIS Program  
08:34:26 From Don MacLean to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Good morning, Don...." with ☐  
08:35:14 From Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant to Everyone:  
Good morning All, Carolina Bastidas- MIT Sea Grant  
08:35:56 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:  
Which invasive bryozoans were present?  
08:37:12 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:  
Juxtacribrilina mutabilis? S. japonica?  
08:37:38 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:  
Good to know about B. neritina. Thanks!  
08:49:38 From Katy Lawson, NYSDEC/NYNHP to Everyone:  
council is waiting for the quote for the final approval of the budget, to determine if it's affordable. we can create a username for the student that we can do now so she can access the online tools. The big question is the quote for whether we can upload data.  
08:51:32 From Judith Pederson to Everyone:  
Thank you David  
09:01:57 From Jim Straub-DCR MA to Everyone:  
Phase II will be surveying the tributaries of the CT river.  
09:28:32 From Jim Straub-DCR MA to Everyone:  
Typical!!! NH always giving MA new AIS!!!!  
09:28:45 From Kara Sliwoski to Everyone:  
Waterwheel was also found in Stearns Pond in Andover, MA this year - though appears to have been established there for a bit as it was observed to be widespread  
09:29:12 From Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Typical!!! NH always..." with  
09:34:24 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:  
Sorry, back now if there were questions on the NH updates I provided. Also, NH/VT did hydrilla surveys in CT river between our two states and found nothing by way of hydrilla.  
09:46:43 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:  
Thank you, Tim!  
09:51:29 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

Is Susan Pasko with us still? She was going to take lead through her avenues, but I have not heard an update for awhile.

09:53:53 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Thanks, Kim ... That is what I was just typing.

10:04:21 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

that's okay Michele! ... ty

10:29:18 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

USFWS is working on a seaplane risk assessment as we speak.

10:30:51 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

The Panel had a succession of two engaged seaplane association representatives. We will need to re-engage very soon.

10:48:18 From Don MacLean to Everyone:

Could not hear that last person's question

10:49:32 From Kimberly.Jensen to Everyone:

The question was whether the cocktail of herbicide was effective

10:55:00 From Eric Randall to Everyone:

We have been researching the efficacy of Underwater drones in the western Finger Lakes for monitoring for Hydrilla and others. we have a "grabber" on the AUV but have encountered some serious problems with utility. The thrusters stir up significant cloudy mud once you approach the target. Big problem is that tethered AUV's can't utilize GPS/GIS direction underwater. We are working on modifying the unit so that we can use a "dip-pole" handle to refine both video and harvest of samples. Any advice or thoughts are welcome

11:00:28 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:

Apologies to those joining just now. We are ahead of schedule so presentations were moved up.

11:06:16 From Kara Sliwoski to Everyone:

Kim - would something like a repository of herbicide data/reports/etc. be helpful?

11:09:09 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

There was a lot of fish "ich" in the region this year, including in lakes without any herbicide treatments at all.

11:19:20 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

We're still getting pushback about PFAS in herbicides, particularly ProcellaCOR, despite repeatedly showing the chemistry that it's not long-chain/persistent PFAS compounds. Different type of complaint, but it's out there.

11:19:33 From Eric Randall to Everyone:

Perhaps NEANS could develop a BMP primer based on "good Science" and the process that those who have engaged the public with the need to use chemical treatment. The ACE did a nice job with control in the western Erie Canal and the folks at Cornell and DERC have engaged the public positively with invasions in Cayuga Lake. Zealots will never be convinced that their ox is not being skewered, but good science should carry the day.

11:20:11 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

Reacted to "Perhaps NEANS could ..." with

11:21:37 From Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant to Everyone:

Reacted to "Perhaps NEANS could ..." with

11:23:26 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:

Cathy, can you share that around to our group (eswag bag and link to recording)? Sounds useful for all of us.

11:23:38 From Aude Lochet to Everyone:

Reacted to "Perhaps NEANS could ..." with  
11:35:07 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:  
Thanks all! Happy Thanksgiving!  
11:35:21 From Renee Bernier to Everyone:  
Thank you NEANS Panel! Good meeting!



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**Meeting Summary DRAFT | February 7, 2025**  
via Zoom

**NEANS Panelists present:** Carolina Bastidas, MIT Sea Grant; Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Jim Carlton, Williams College; Mike Greer, US Army Corps of Engineers for Mike Vissichelli; Kimberly Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Sandra Keppner, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Lauren Kurtz, CT Department of Energy; Aude Lochet, Lake Champlain Sea Grant; Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, RI Department of Environmental Management; Catherine McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program; Zach Ladin, National Park Service; Katy Lawson, NYS Natural Heritage Program; Ian Pfungsten, US Geological Survey; Eric Randall, NYS Federation of Lake Associations; Amy Smagula, NH Department of Environmental; Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; and David Wong, MA Department of Environmental Protection.

**Others participating;** Stevie Benson, NH Department of Environmental Services; Sarah Kingsbury, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Riley Doherty, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Samantha MacQuesten, NJ Department of Environmental Protection; Lexie Neffinger, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Toni Pied, ME Department of Environmental Protection; Kara Sliwoski, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Dakota Stankowski, ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Summer Stebbins, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; and Michele L. Tremblay, natureresource communications, contractor to the Panel.

**Full Panel meeting: welcome, introductions, by co-chairs and roll call at 9:00 AM –** Kim Jensen, VT Department of Environmental Conservation and Jim Carlton, Williams College opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Michele Tremblay called the roll. A quorum is satisfied.

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recommendations**

Susan Pasko reported that there will be significant budget restraints in the coming years, which means no increases for the invasive species programs. She said that the US Fish and Wildlife Service continues to request increases in their submission to the President's budget. It is good to keep the discussion moving and that awareness continues for the need for increased budget. Panels or their fiscal agents should work with their partners to find ways to increase financial resources. Meg said that it is important to demonstrate need and continue to submit the funding recommendation. Panels cannot lobby at the federal level themselves—not with Congress and not with other agencies.

Meg said that Michele has been working with the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers on a proclamation and to prioritize funding. She wants to continue to update and submit the funding recommendation. Susan recommended working with MICRA and AFWA. She recommended what will be done with the



funds. Michele suggested that verbiage for hydrilla, the marine Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS), and other northeastern priorities be added to the funding recommendation. Separate but linked recommendations. Kevin re: coordinate all panels have other fiscal agents or NGOs that might be able to help. Michele provided an update on the panels-only listserve and how they are coordination of funding recommendations. Other panels have used the NEANS Panel's funding and other recommendations for their own. Meg is comfortable with the funding recommendation that the Panel has submitted in the past.

Kim suggested that Michele provide a log of her discussions and correspondence with AFWA, NAISMA, and others involved in the effort that was recommended by the ANSTF in response to the NEANS Panel's funding recommendation. These relationships and communications have been long-term (years before the May ANSTF meeting) and organic. Documentation of them may be time-consuming so the Panel should decide if they are requesting this additional contract deliverable.

Meg made a motion to submit the hydrilla recommendation. Eric seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Meg made a motion to submit the funding recommendation. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Decision:** The Panel is submitting the hydrilla coordination and funding needs.

**Decision:** the Panel is submitting the panel funding recommendation.

**Action:** Michele will update the hydrilla coordination and funding needs, and the panel funding recommendations and provide drafts for comment to the NEANS Panel.

**Action:** Meg will provide additional verbiage for the hydrilla recommendation.

### **VIDA ANS Response Framework Workgroup: Kevin Cute presenting as the potential representative Meg is serving on the group for the Lake Champlain Basin Program.**

Meg moved to nominate Kevin Cute to represent the Panel. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Decision:** Kevin Cute is the NEANS Panel representative to the VIDA ANS Response Framework Workgroup

**Action:** Michele will inform Susan Pasko that Kevin Cute will represent the NEANS Panel on the VIDA ANS Response Framework Workgroup.

### **Update on FY grant 2025 grant, budget, and contracting process**

Ian provided an overview of actions to date. The Panel does not draft or approve the budget. It is done with a smaller group. Michele outlined the budget process. Ian Pffingsten will convene the NEANS Council Executive Committee on 8.29.24 to review and discuss the grants and expenditures to date. The reason why the process is later than usual is because there are outstanding reimbursements and grants payments from NYS Department of Environment Conservation and CT Sea Grant are not yet received. The ANS Task Force grant funds through the US Fish and Wildlife Service FY18 year 5 of 5 is encumbered fully. The NEANS Council credit card, which is carrying a balance with hotel and food charges is due in full at the beginning of November. Until then, the 0% introductory rate that Michele negotiated with her own credit rating is in effect.

### **Fall meeting in Maine: planning including venue and agenda requests**

John secured the Portland Water District meeting room but its capacity is no more than 30#, which could be insufficient for Panelist' and observers' needs. Michele is waiting on CBEP, UMaine, Wells NERR, or Augusta state offices. She had contacted nearly 40#

venues to date. There are restricted funds available for meetings but they are insufficient for even one event at a hotel unless there were no beverages provided (food and drink cannot be brought into hotel rooms).

The Panel reviewed the agenda and made revisions, which will be reflected in the next draft. The consensus was to proceed with distributing the agenda once a venue is secured.

**Action:** Michele will continue her venue search and finalize the agenda in collaboration with presenters and the Panel co-chairs and immediate past co-chair.

### **Schedule February 2025 mid-term meeting**

Meg said that the last week of February is school vacation week in VT. NYS said that the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> is their school vacation period.

**Decision: The Panel is scheduling the meeting now.**

**Action: Michele will Doodle for the weeks of February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (except for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>).**

**Action: Michele will work with the co-chairs and immediate past co-chair to select a February date for the Panel's mid-term online meeting.**

### **Public comment period**

There was no public comment.

### **Other business**

Jim Straub reported that there is another lake in Massachusetts with zebra mussels. Most had thought that the ambient water chemistry, such as calcium or pH, was not able to support the species. He wondered if there were researchers asking those questions or had the information. This research or lack of it would be part of the "Spotlight on Species: zebra mussels in acidic environments" discussion.

Mike Vissichelli, USACE is partnering with USGS on a study where there are zebra mussels in Pennsylvania (now two lakes). Kim provided information about VT risk assessment work.

There being no other business, Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:19 AM.

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

**Zoom (group only—no personal messages) chat on next page**

11:04:33 From Samantha MacQuesten to Everyone:  
I am a fisheries biologist with NJDEP, and am NJ's new AIS Coordinator

11:33:36 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:  
Is the US moving towards hull fouling regulation and treatment? This is quickly becoming a hot-topic in Canada and we've started a small pilot project looking at hull fouling of AIS on marine recreational vessels. So, I'd be interested on presentations on that.

11:45:09 From Mike Greer to Everyone:  
Hey I heard water soldier was found in NY

11:46:02 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:  
I can share a few slides about water violet but it probably will be an array of presenters

11:48:17 From Lexie Neffinger - MA CZM to Everyone:  
It could be nice if we can develop an document from that session to share out with the list serv summarizing the new/emerging invasions that links to sources (if available)

11:49:08 From Amy.P.Smagula, NHDES to Everyone:  
Maybe a slide deck with notes on each slide to share...photos would be useful with notes, maps, etc. Those of us that share species updates can contribute to a joint slide deck.

11:50:45 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:  
On the topic of new species, just wanted to provide an fyi that we've detected Japanese wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) in Halifax Harbour (Nova Scotia, Canada). As far as we know, this is the first discovery of the species in northeastern coast of North America.

11:52:12 From Michele L Tremblay to Everyone:  
RE: Lexie's suggestion: I can make a page to host the document at NortheastANS.org

11:52:30 From Ian Pfingsten to Everyone:  
I was able to grow aldrovanda (waterwheel) from turions in Gainesville, FL that I picked out of Powwow Pond, NH. I will let y'all know if they last the full growing season

11:55:29 From MModley to Everyone:  
USFWS and USGS would be great partners to talk about eDNA to set the technology stage

11:56:09 From Ian Pfingsten to Everyone:  
Dr. Maggie Hunter (USGS) is a good resource for eDNA research as well

11:56:32 From Kara Sliwoski, MA DCR to Everyone:  
Replying to "I was able to grow aldrovanda (waterwheel) from tu...":  
If so, let me know as i'm planning to send some to NC State for Dr. Richardson's lab and they mentioned they've had challenges in the past growing and keeping them alive

11:57:12 From MModley to Everyone:

Is it valid, yes. Then you have to move to the next step of if it is politically, economically and technically feasible to take the next step. The results have to be weighed

11:57:25 From Sarah Kingsbury-DFO AIS Program-MAR to Everyone:

We do! It was a busy fall because of our single eDNA "inconclusive" detection in an ecologically significant area. Luckily, the response didn't cost us a ton of \$\$\$.

11:58:37 From skeppner to Everyone:

Aaron Malloy (USFWS) geneticist