

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
Nov 3-5, 2015**

Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species
Submitted by: Ray Fernald, Chair & Mike Allen, Vice-Chair

Key ANS Activities from May 2015 through November 2015

Major Accomplishments

The spring meeting was held June 30, 2015 in Annapolis, MD. The meeting focused on ongoing and completed work accomplished by our small grants competition awardees. The panel reviewed completed work on environmental DNA monitoring of Didymo and the development of an invasive species management plan and app for Bushkill Township, PA. Additionally, current grantees updated the panel on an education campaign led by Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the “Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species”, and a project with the National Sea Grant Law Center about AIS eradication on private lands. The panel also deliberated and made decisions on the spring 2015 Small Grants competition as well as the budget for 2015-2016.

The Panel has conducted an annual grants competition to fund on-the-ground activities addressing MAP’s mission and regional priorities. Since 2007, the Panel has awarded \$318,684 in project funding, and has leveraged over half a million dollars in partner funds. Work continues on an invasive species toolkit for educators (finishing Dec. 2015), the Mid-Atlantic Guide on Aquatic Invasive Species, and a study to characterize populations of the invasive New Zealand mud snail in central Pennsylvania (summaries provided below). A final report was received from the National Sea Grant Law Center for the project “Engaging Lawyers to Facilitate Access to Private Land for Eradication and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species” which will be discussed by Fernald at the all-panel meeting. One new project was funded and started in October 2015

Current Small Grants Portfolio

Engaging Lawyers to Facilitate Access to Private Land for Eradication and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species	National Sea Grant Law Center (PI: Stephanie Showalter Otts)	The National Sea Grant Law Center, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Environmental Law Institute (Project Team) propose to work with the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species to improve regional understanding of the strategies available to access private land for eradication and control of aquatic nuisance species and lay the foundation for the collaborative development of guidance for implementation.	Final Report Sept. 2015
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: An invasive species toolkit for educators	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (PI: Kerry Wixted)	Invasive species of plants, animals and pathogens affect our everyday life, but often in ways that are not readily apparent to the public. This project will develop comprehensive toolkits which teachers and other educators can use to deliver classroom lessons and exercises that fit their needs, meet educational requirements, and reach target age groups in order to teach about the basic tenets of the problem and about	Funded through Dec. 2015

		specific aquatic invasive species and other invaders, and to motivate students to take action in their communities.	
Characterizing the Invasive New Zealand Mud Snail Population in Central Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State University (PI: Edward P. Levri)	The presence of the NZMS in central Pennsylvania is a cause for concern because of the substantial ecological changes that can occur due to its presence. This proposal outlines work to 1) determine the extent of the invasion in Pennsylvania, 2) determine the diversity and identity of the clones in central PA (US1, US2, US3, or new clones), and 3) conduct experiments to determine if the clones found in central PA possesses characteristics different from other clones of the species that may influence its spread and invasiveness	Funded through Sept. 2016
Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species	PA Sea Grant (PI: Sara Stahlman)	This project proposes to expand the Pennsylvania field guide to become a regional Mid-Atlantic AIS field guide that will include 20-30 new species of concern from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, as well as Pennsylvania.	Funded through Sept. 2016
Training and Evaluation of Dogs for Early Detection of Nutria (<i>Myocastor coypus</i>)	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (PI: Todd Engelmeyer)	This project will be a pilot program for training dogs to detect nutria on the edges of their range in Virginia.	Funded through Sept. 2016

Panel Recommendation to the ANSTF

The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species recommends that the ANSTF restore funding and support for the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Program, which has demonstrated marked successes on the Delmarva Peninsula.