Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

Wednesday, April 1st, 2009
Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
DuPont Nature Center, Milford, DE

Attendance

Name	Affiliation	Contact
Jonathan McKnight, Chair	MD DNR	jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us
Steve Minkkinen, Vice Chair	US FWS	Steve_Minkkinen@fws.gov
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Cathy Martin	DE Fish and Wildlife	catherine.martin@state.de.us
Fredrika Moser	MD Sea Grant	moser@mdsg.umd.edu
Julie Slacum	US FWS	julie_thompson@fws.gov
Jil Swearingen	National Park Service	Jil_swearingen@nps.gov
Ashley Walter	PA Dept of Agriculture	aswalter@state.pa.us

Action Items:

- State members need to contact Fredrika Moser if they want to access funds to support a rapid response planning meeting in their state. Fredrika will contact states not represented at April 1st meeting. Interested states are encouraged to contact Fredrika directly, too. See discussion below in "Rapid Response Update" for details.

- Steve and other Panel members are encouraged to identify potential locations offering workshop facilities or space at no charge to the Panel.

- Jonathan McKnight will check the status of the funding match for the 2008 Panel funded project, Tracking Invasive Species in PA, utilizing Imap Invasives capabilities. Project was funded under the assumption that matching funds were in hand; proposal may need to be modified.

- Coordinate mitten crab outreach with Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)**;** contact Carin Ferrante and inquire about missing contacts so that Panel could assist with updating list.

- Julie Slacum will contact Carin Ferrante concerning juvenile mitten crab habitat based on Hudson River experience and the availability of outreach

materials for workshops and individuals working and residing in freshwater regions.

- Julie Slacum will determine whether or not there are remaining funds left in the Penn State University purchase order/account for printing services to support outreach and education.

- Jonathan McKnight will work on the agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and Maryland DNR to transfer and administer Panel funds.

- Lisa Moss will work with Julie Slacum, Fredrika Moser, Jonathan McKnight, Ann Faulds, and Dieter Busch to begin effort to improve proposal ranking process for 2010 RFP.

- Lisa Moss will review the by-laws and propose the necessary changes to be consistent with the Panel consensus of abolishing the current working groups and defining an executive committee.

- Fredrika Moser will inform the Panel on the final regional invasive species workshop date. Please mark your calendars for either November 16th and 17th, or 17th and 18th, and also for the first week in December of 2009. Workshop is anticipated to be one day followed by a one day Panel meeting.

Welcome and Introductions, **Jonathan McKnight, Panel Chair**

Agenda was reviewed and approved by the Panel participants.

Rapid Response Plan update: Fredrika Moser

Maryland Sea Grant developed a rapid response plan for AIS with funding provided by NOAA. It lives on as a template and is housed on the MD Sea Grant and Mid-Atlantic Panel websites. Maryland has completed a template and DE is working on it. A press release was done and there was little response. There will be an article in the Bay Journal. Hard copies of the Maryland version of the plan were also printed and distributed to agency heads in the Mid-Atlantic states and Washington D.C. There is mixed response by the states on whether they will use this template or not; however, it will facilitate discussion among the states on whether they want to use it as a guidance document. There was no interest in doing a mock workshop among the states because very few states have developed a rapid response plan. Fredrika thinks that some of the lack of interest is due to discomfort by biologists in adopting an ICS system for rapid response. We have some funding left ($500) for each state (up to six states) to support holding a meeting to discuss the use of the rapid response plan. Virginia is interested in getting the funds, they will be focusing on rapid response at their April 15th meeting. Maryland and Pennsylvania are also interested in the funding.

Action: State members need to contact Fredrika Moser if they want to access funds to support a rapid response planning meeting in their state. Fredrika will contact states not represented at April 1st meeting. Interested states are encouraged to contact Fredrika directly, too.

Regional Invasive Species Workshop: Fredrika Moser

The last time a regional invasive species workshop was held (2002), it was to develop six individual species regional management plans. These plans can be found on the MAP website. It was decided that for this new invasive species workshop (planned for fall 2009), the emphasis would shift to managing vectors, focusing on ballast, hull fouling, and live trade. Ballast water is pretty far along and has lessons learned. Hull fouling is still largely unknown and could affect recreational boats. Proposed agenda involves science talks in the morning and panel discussions in the afternoon. Results of registrant surveys reviewed before the conference will frame the afternoon discussion. Travel is an issue for most states. Fredrika asked what the Panel thought about setting aside additional Panel funds to cover some of the participants' expenses, mainly for state agency employees. There is the possibility of free space such as Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD. This workshop is a Panel priority. Julie Slacum suggested using the Oyster EIS as part of the risk assessment talk and as an example of prevention in the live trade discussion. There was a suggestion for circulating the working agenda to Panel members for feedback. Ann Faulds suggested talking about aquatic recreation. Steve Minkkinen suggested preparing a white paper to explain the vectors (e.g. more details on the three issues) and help drive discussions at the meeting.

Action: Steve and other Panel members are encouraged to identify potential locations offering workshop facilities or space at no charge to the Panel.

Zebra Mussels in Lower Susquehanna River: Jonathan McKnight

Last October zebra mussels were discovered in the lower Susquehanna. Subsequently there was a meeting in Annapolis, Maryland to discuss the issue and its implications. This is the first incident of zebra mussels in Maryland. The MD Biological Stream Survey is leading the assessment in Conowingo Pond to determine habitat preference and risk for colonization. There is also a focus on monitoring activity and movement. Ron Klauda is the Maryland ICS commander for this effort. MDNR has signs (Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers) that they will be posting at private and public boat ramps. Steve asked if there was a move towards implementing wash stations. Jonathan stated that there is not, but consideration may be given to putting one at Deep Creek Lake, which is a hot spot for out-of-state anglers. Criteria for successful reproduction has been assembled to determine where the best habitat would be. Zebra mussels are intolerant of salinity past 1 ppt. They fare much better in a low flow environment. Ann stated that it is difficult to detect new occurrences just with the use of plates because doing so diverts efforts to monitor in other areas.

Update on 2007 and 2008 MAP funded projects: Lisa Moss and Jonathan McKnight

- Biological Control of Purple Loosestrife: Walter P. Carson, Steve Hovick and Chris Peterson, University of Pittsburgh and University of Georgia

In 2008, 46 wetland sites in PA and NY were surveyed. Weak environmental correlates with beetle abundance, stronger correlation with number of releases.
Following update provided by Walter Carson:
All soil analyses have now been completed and data analysis has begun. Preliminary analyses indicate that purple loosestrife cover (at all 3 spatial scales) was not related to either the biocontrol release history or to site-specific environmental conditions in wetlands we surveyed. The abundance of the loosestrife biocontrol agent *Galerucella calmariensis* is higher in sites that have had more biocontrol releases or more total numbers of beetles released over time. However, abundances also vary from state to state since biocontrol releases tend to be administered, or at least coordinated, at the state level. We found only weak environmental correlates of *G. calmariensis* abundance, suggesting the beetle abundance may be more closely related to soil pH than to nitrogen pollution, as we had originally predicted. More detailed analyses are currently in progress that will permit more detailed insights into the putative environmental correlates of purple loosestrife biocontrol success.

Fredrika suggested inviting the PIs to the next Panel meeting after the regional workshop. The suggestion was made that Panel coordinator ask PIs for a one pager that we could be posted on the website following project completion.

- Rusty Crayfish in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin: Dr. Thomas Horvath and Amanda Barber, SUNY College at Oneonta, Biology Department

Following update provided by Dr.Thomas Horvath:
The investigators started sampling streams in May 2008. Since that time we have been able to collect crayfish specimens from 45 streams in the Upper Susquehanna River basin covering an area as far west as the Tioughnioga River (Cortland County) and as far east as Schenevus Creek (Otsego County). We have a total of about 150 individual males preserved in alcohol waiting for species identification confirmation from these streams. We have focused solely on tributaries of the mainstem of the Susquehanna River so far. Data from the literature shows that *Orconectes rusticus* (rusties) dominates the mainstem of the Susquehanna (Kuhlmann). Occasional collections by us at accessible points and Paul Lord, working on a NY Department of Transportation project focused on Unionidae, confirm this. Only 2 streams had no crayfish. Most of the major tributaries to the Susquehanna had rusty populations in the downstream sections. Upstream

sections tended to have non-rusty species - both *Orconectes* and *Cambarus* species. Species identifications of non-rusties will be confirmed soon. High water conditions in early summer made collections difficult. Anecdotal information suggests that crayfish are starting to mate in these streams in early August.

Methodology: We listed every tributary to the Susquehanna River and to the East & West Branch Delaware River in New York found on the Gazetteer maps. From this list listed the streams in random order from each watershed to come up with a priority list. These streams were then sampled through the summer months 2008 until 45 streams were sampled. In each stream, 3 sites are searched corresponding to a downstream, midstream and upstream location. Actual sites were determined by access. Crayfish were collected by hand over a 30-60 minute period at each site. Only a few representative males were collected from each site for species identification and archiving. Physical data collected at each site included streambed composition, general flow conditions and water depth at mid-channel.

Fall 2008: Collections in the West Branch and East Branch Delaware River basin will continue through the fall 2008. Trapping on lakes and ponds will begin on 12 September. Literature searches still need to be conducted. A GIS database will be created to present the data.

- Tracking Invasive Species in PA: Jeffrey Wagner, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Initiation of tracking efforts in 2009, still looking for some other sources of funds. Will be using ImapInvasives, developing an on-line, GIS based map display and query tool with a common database structure that can be shared by different users and agencies.
Following update provided by Jeffrey Wagner:
Current Goals (2009):

- Develop an on-line, GIS-based map display & query tool with a common database structure that can be shared by the different users and agencies participating in this project
- Provide a simple, easy-to-use invasive species map display, query, and reporting capability for casual users.
- Enhance the initial map display and query tool to be a modular, fully-functional tool to serve the needs of volunteers and professionals working to manage invasive species
- Provide on-line capabilities such as: Map display, database queries, report generation (including custom Early Detection Lists), Spatial analysis, on-line data entry with a password, data upload from WIMS and other compatible databases, digital photo images incorporated in invasive species records, automatically-generated Early Detection Email Alerts.

Action: Jonathan McKnight will check the status of the funding match for the 2008 Panel funded project, Tracking Invasive Species in PA utilizing Imap Invasives capabilities. Project was funded under the assumption that matching funds were in hand; proposal may need to be modified.

- Maryland DNR Invasive Species Matrix Team: Susan Widman and Kerry Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Following update provided by Susan Widman:
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) applied for a grant of $7500 for invasive species posters in 2008 as part of its public outreach campaign on invasive species. MDNR received $1000 for invasive species posters. The Department was able to print 200 rusty crayfish posters on a hard plastic at a cost of $8 a poster. The MDNR Fisheries Service provided an additional $600 towards the printing of the 200 posters. As required by law, MDNR used the Maryland Correctional Enterprises to print the posters.

The public outreach campaign followed the discovery of the invasive Rusty Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in the upper Monocacy River and in Conowingo Lake in the Susquehanna River in 2007. In 2008, Maryland Department of Natural Resources banned the catch, use, and possession of all crayfish species in these river basins. The intention of this regulation was to contain the rusty crayfish and prevent the further transfer of this species in angler's bait buckets to other portions of the Middle Potomac and Susquehanna River basins, and to other Maryland watersheds.

In 2008, signs announcing the crayfish ban were printed and posted to increase public awareness of the new regulation. These signs were placed along the Monocacy River at all public access points located from the Potomac River confluence to the State Line. Signs were posted at all public fishing areas, boat ramps, county parks, and within the Monocacy River National Battlefield. Crayfish ban signs were also placed at all public access points along the Susquehanna River in both Cecil and Harford counties. Areas posted were located along the shoreline of Conowingo Lake and the free-flowing portion of the river from the Conowingo Dam to Havre de Grace. Extra signs have been given to regional fisheries managers as replacements for posted signs stolen or damaged over time. The posters have resulted in calls from the public and a general increase in public awareness of the rusty crayfish invasion in these two river basins.

- Survey and eradication of water chestnut on Delmont Lake: Kelly Germann, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, PA

Funding was received in October 2008 and due to time of year, work has not begun on this project. Survey cannot be conducted until plants leaf out in early May. Project lead will work with the Boy Scouts to determine if water

chestnut pathways to introduction and the creation of educational materials for public boaters.

- PA Early Response Exercise: Sarah Whitney, Pennsylvania Sea Grant

Following update provided by Sarah Whitney:
We are making progress on completing the rapid response plan, which means that we are now able to start thinking about planning the mock exercise. Tentative plans are to hold the workshop this fall, either in State College (central location within state) or Harrisburg (where agencies are headquartered, may give us increased attendance). That should give us enough time to write up our finding before the grants ends in March 2010.

- AIS Prevention signs for Pennsylvania Waters: Sarah Whitney, Pennsylvania Sea Grant

Will implement approach like Maryland (Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!), 550 different boat ramps, moving forward with design, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will provide additional funds.
Following update provided by Sarah Whitney:
After working with PA DEP, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and PA DCNR, they are quite excited about the project and very interested in having the signs at boat launches across the Commonwealth. After much haggling regarding printing prices and materials, we now have a contractor in place and are ready to move ahead on the actual design of the signs. During our conversations with DCNR and FBC, they determined that it will be much more feasible to only have one sign that highlights the steps boaters can take to "clean their gear" and "stop aquatic hitchhikers", and warns of the impacts of AIS, rather than a customizable sign with stickers for the specific AIS at that location. This direction is fine with me, as it still achieves the primary grant objective of having signs at as many boat launches as possible with the same message and graphics. DCNR has agreed to contribute an additional $4,000 to purchase signs, and FBC has said they would contribute funding as well. Both agencies will donate the posts and staffing to install the signs. With their additional funds, we should be able to purchase over 550 signs.

Invasive Species Early Detection Mapping System: Jil Swearingen
Jil presented on a project she is working on with Chuck Bargeron, Information Technology Director, and others at the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (CISEH). She helped them apply for funding through the National Park Service for development of an Early Detection Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) for the mid-Atlantic region. CISEH recently developed a similar system for the Southeastern states that is widely applauded. Funding was approved at $53,000 total for a 3-year project to start Oct. 2009. Invasive plants will be the primary focus of the mapping system but it is open to all invasive species, aquatic

and terrestrial. To jumpstart the project, the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council is about to award Bargeron/CISEH an additional $3,000 for a pilot study focusing on wavyleaf basketgrass that will start immediately (May 2009). For purposes of the project, the mid-Atlantic region includes the District of Columbia and the states of DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, and WV. The EDDMapS uses a more simplistic GoogleEarth based mapping program than the GIS and ArcInfo based "iMapInvasives" system developed for The Nature Conservancy which is being used by some natural heritage programs. Jil and Chuck are currently working on the implementation plan for the project which will be finalized in May. The next steps will include development of a website for the project and a priority list of plants, gathering and importation of existing species occurrence data from various sources, and establishing expert contacts for coordinating and checking data. A vigorous effort is being undertaken to establish cooperative relationships with the iMapInvasives developers and others to allow for data sharing in all directions. This system is necessary for early detection of new species introductions and spread of existing priority species and will allow for rapid notification and response. It is also very useful for planning and management of established species and for tracking of control efforts. If eradicated, a location can be identified as an eradicated area or removed from the map. Once in place, the system will allow individuals to enter species location information online by downloading from a GPS unit or by entering data by hand onto a report form.

Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crab: Kevin Kalasz, DE Division of Fish and Wildlife

Kevin talked about shorebirds in Mispillion Harbor. Delaware Bay is an important shorebird stopover. 80-90% of species depend on Delaware Bay. They come to the DE Bay in the spring to feed on horseshoe crab eggs. Drastic declines in red knot have occurred in recent years which are believed to be linked to a decline in horseshoe crab eggs, due to the harvest of horseshoe crabs for bait. ASMFC did pass regulations to manage harvest of horseshoe crabs. However, due to the slow maturity of the crabs we didn't see the impact of harvest until 7-8 years later. Mispillion Harbor has high egg counts. There is a need to maintain and enhance beaches to protect the shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. There is also the need to reduce human disturbance, predator disturbance, and erosion. There is a significant amount of research and monitoring in May and June with the use of many volunteers.

Lunch break

Discussion of Fall 2008 Meeting Action Items:

We are fulfilling last Fall's action item of dealing with the Rapid Response Plan by providing funds to each state to sit down and discuss the model plan. We are dealing with the regional workshop and will continue to work on it with the goal of a fall or winter 2009 workshop. Information was provided to Greg Ruiz regarding

fish blockages for Chinese mitten crab. Marek Topolski (Maryland DNR) drafted MAP priorities using the ELI recommendations We discussed MAP funds being housed at CRC, it will now be housed at Maryland DNR.

Panel Membership Updates:

Chinese mitten crab, Jonathan McKnight

25 crabs, all the juveniles from the Hudson River, haven't heard anything yet this year. Following update below provided by Carin Ferrante from SERC:

We are working on an updated newsletter now probably for release in the next couple weeks but just to share with the group…….

Most of the activity has been in NY and NJ…..no crabs in MD or DE since June 2007.

The numbers:

Males	25
Females	18
TOTAL	43

MD Females	2
MD Males	4
DE Females	1
DE Males	3
NJ Males	3
NJ Females	0
NY Males	15
NY Females	15
TOTAL	43

In NY the majority of the crabs are from very northern Hudson River freshwater streams/tributaries and generally caught by 2 groups that are focusing their efforts in a few areas where they accidentally ran across mitten crabs while researching eels. A concentrated effort turned up hundreds of sheds and more than 25 live crabs. Recently, a crab turned up in a fyke net in Navesink River , NJ which is relatively close to the other NJ crabs in Raritan Bay and Toms River . So it seems that there is definitely a growing population of mitten crabs in the Hudson River, the genetics on the crabs we checked, matched the European strain of mitten crab- meaning most likely transported through shipping, the shipping pattern on the east coast leads to Europe- the shipping pattern on the west coast leads to Asia . So Greg believes it could be another big season here in the Chesapeake Bay . We are gearing up to send out a spring update and spark some press interest in the next few weeks. Also we have been involved in many outreach activities trying to network with the freshwater stream monitoring groups and hopefully encourage those groups to be on the lookout this season. Hopefully things will remain quiet around here but that remains to be seen- meanwhile we'll continue tracking the reports along the east coast and monitoring efforts locally. Info through July can be found on our website: http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine_invasions/index.jsp . Over the next few weeks we hope to have the current info added to the site. We are in a transition

period here, since having a baby I am only working part time and some of my responsibilities are being re-distributed. The Mitten Crab Network will eventually transition over to a new coordinator Darrick Sparks sparksd@si.edu , so please bear with us.
Action: Julie Slacum will contact Carin Ferrante concerning juvenile mitten crab habitat based on Hudson River experience and the availability of outreach materials for workshops and individuals working and residing in freshwater regions.

Northern snakehead, Steve Minkkinen
We are finding them near Great Falls. We have even found them as far as Colonial Beach, which means they can move to more saline waters. We have been getting some funding so we have been able to do some surveys on the Potomac. Looking at food habits, growth rates. Averaging 10-11 pounds. Initiating creel surveys and fish tagging to get better estimates on numbers. Continuing to do telemetry. Population robust in Potomac. In the middle of an eradication program in Arkansas. Think they eradicated in Hudson. There is a concern that there is a demand for them in the Asian market and there will be an interest in harvest.

Nutria, Steve Kendrot
National Management Plan on hold. Eradication project is on-going. More difficult to trap in the upper Choptank. During the summer time the tides fluctuate drastically so you can't look for tracks, scat. Lots of spatterdock. Easier to work in this area in the winter. September to January they are unable to access due to duck hunting. Mike Haramis from USGS has been working on a telemetry study, he designed a collar. They collect data for 2 weeks and then trap the area. They have gotten some really good movement data that they will use to help inform trapping efforts on the Choptank. Last spring put on a workshop for some groups in helping to identify nutria.

Eyes on the Water Campaign, Ann Faulds
Wanted to do this with mitten crabs but we think SERC has the sightings covered with their efforts. Catherine thinks we need to get information from SERC on juvenile habitat (what to look for) so that we could move forward with outreach efforts in that area. Ann suggested that we work with SERC to make sure their contact lists are current and comprehensive.
Action: Work on mitten crab outreach with SERC, contact Carin Ferrante, ask her who she thinks she isn't contacting so the Panel could help with updating list Suesquehanna River Basin does subbasin surveys on Susquehanna, and could probably incorporate looking for mitten crabs as part of that.
Action: Julie will contact Carin to see what to look for in juvenile habitat based on experience in Hudson, do they have any outreach materials for the freshwater folks, workshop, etc..

Action: Julie Slacum will determine whether or not there are remaining funds left in the Penn State University purchase order/account for printing services to support outreach and education.

Oyster EIS, Julie Slacum
Draft EIS released in Fall. Public meetings were held in VA in MD. Most of the public and the scientific community were against the introduction of non-native oysters to the Bay. Corps has announced that are going with the natives only alternative. They will permit small scale research projects that the scientific, federal and state agencies agree need to be conducted but will not permit large scale industry trials.

Virginia DCR/Phragmites, Kevin Heffernan:
State invasive species task group will be updating their state management plan. Delay in aerial mapping of phragmites due to aviation incident.

Pennsylvania, Ashley Walter
We are trying to finalize our comprehensive invasive species plan. Our invasive species council website is our next priority. We want to have a list of species like the Oregon website.

NOAA, Thomas Greig
NOAA budget in 2009-lost ballast water line item, 988k for AIS
Got 500K to fund 2008 RFP for AIS, criteria to evaluate proposals had regional panel priorities as part of it; funded 1 research project and 1 outreach project

Delaware, Catherine Martin
Invasive Species Council had a short workshop on identifying invasive species for homeowner associations; produced a booklet entitled, “Mistaken Identity”

Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Dave Heicher
For the first time since 1987 we have updated our management plan. It was approved in December. There is a section on invasive species and there are some action items. There is also some monitoring for invasive species. A big issue for our regulatory program is shale formation that has natural gas. They are drilling a mile underground for this. SRBC is making sure that they do not take water out of one stream and put it in another.

Budget and Administration: Lisa Moss
After constant expenses (webhosting and domain name and travel for Chair and Coordinator), the Panel has approximately $47,523 to spend on projects. Money will be housed at MDNR for the time being.
Action: Jonathon McKnight will work on the agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and Maryland DNR to transfer and administer Panel funds.

Discussion of 2009 Panel RFP, Lisa Moss

Eight proposals submitted:

1. Pilot Project for Data-Driven Nutria Study and Removal from Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve: Aaron McCall, The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina Chapter

2. Fine-Scale Web-Based AIS Database and Mapping: Jeffrey Campbell, Ph.D.,UMBC, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education

3. Coordination of Regional Monitoring Network and Implementation of Web-based Reporting System to Determine Status of the Chinese Mitten Crab *(Eriocheir sinensis)* in Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, and the Mid-Atlantic Coast: Gregory Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

4. Estimating risk of fish invaders in the mid-Atlantic region: Dr. Paul Angermeier, Va Tech, Dep't of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences

5. Using GIS to assess aquatic invasive plants in Chesapeake Bay: Dr. Junmei Tang, Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

6. Implementation of AIS Biosecurity Protocols to Protect PA Waters: Robert Morgan, PA Fish and Boat Commission

7. Aquatic Invasive Species Field Guide for Pa: Sara Grise, PA Fish and Boat Commission & PA Invasive Species Council membership

8. Outreach Regarding Va's Phragmites Invasion: Kevin Heffernan, Paul Clarke, Rick Myers. VA Dep't of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage

The Panel discussed each of the proposals to determine which would be funded. **Action:** Lisa Moss will work with Julie Slacum, Fredrika Moser, Jonathon McKnight, Ann Faulds, and Dieter Busch to begin effort to improve proposal ranking process for 2010 RFP.

Discussion of 2009 Priorities:
Focus on ELI priorities- rapid response plan and regional workshop partly address these. Need to engage more with CBP (Jonathan), need to discuss as Executive Committee and communicate these priorities with ANSTF and other regional panels

Working Groups:
Panel abolished working groups and will form ad hoc groups as necessary with a time frame for sunsetting.

Executive Committee will consist of the current chair, vice chair, past chair, vice chair, current coordinator and past coordinator
Action: Lisa Moss will review the by-laws and propose the necessary changes to be consistent with the Panel consensus of abolishing the current working groups and defining an executive committee.

Website:
Panel is pleased with the content overall, but would like to see one page summaries of projects the Panel funds through RFP after projects are completed.

Next meeting:
Will be the day after the regional invasive species workshop. Tentatively scheduled for the week of November 16th or first week of December. Speakers and venue will drive the date. Location TBA but will be in vicinity of Annapolis and Baltimore areas.
Action: Fredrika Moser will inform the Panel on the final regional invasive species workshop date. Please mark your calendars for either November 16th and 17th, or 17th and 18th, and also for the first week in December of 2009. Workshop is anticipated to be one day followed by a one day Panel meeting.

Internet conferencing:
Would not be effective or practical for future Spring and Fall Panel meetings, but possibly has potential for short (several hour) meetings as needed.

Adjourn