



2011 MAPAIS Spring Meeting May 18-19, 2011

US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Visitor Center
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Attendees

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sarah Whitney | Panel Chair, PA SG | swhitney@psu.edu |
| Lisa Moss | Panel Coordinator, FWS | lisa_moss@fws.gov |
| Jonathan McKnight | MD DNR | jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us |
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| Stanley Burgiel | NISC | stanley_burgiel@ios.doi.gov |
| Matt Shank | SRBC | mshank@srbc.net |
| Susan Park | VA SG | spark@vims.edu |
| Steve Minkkinen | FWS | steve_minkkinen@fws.gov |
| Catherine Martin | DE DNREC | catherine.martin@state.de.us |
| Kevin Heffernan | VA DCR | kevin.heffernan@dcr.virginia.gov |
| Bruce Vogt | NOAA | bruce.vogt@noaa.gov |
| Ray Fernald | VA DGIF | ray.fernald@dgif.virginia.gov |
| Stephen Kendrot | USDA APHIS | stephen.r.kendrot@aphis.usda.gov |
| Doug Holy | USDA | doug.holy@wdc.usda.gov |
| Rob Emens | NCDENR | rob.emens@ncdenr.gov |
| Robert Cox | DE DNREC | robert.coxe@state.de.us |
| Don MacLean | FWS | don_maclean@fws.gov |
| Susan Mangin | ANSTF, FWS | susan_mangin@fws.gov |
| Jil Swearingen | NPS | jil_swearingen@nps.gov |

Action Items

- Panel members interested in helping to update the ANSTF recreational guidelines will contact Sarah Whitney.
- Steve Minkkinen will be the Panel's representative on the Chesapeake Bay Program Fisheries Goal Implementation Team's Blue and Flathead Catfish Workgroup.
- Red eared slider will be added to the Panel's Species of Interest list.

- Megan Hession will assemble a table of information for all past funded Panel projects.
- Panel membership will check the ANSTF Invasive Species Expert database and confirm that their agency is represented: <http://www.anstaskforce.gov/experts/search.php>. The link to the database has also been posted on the MAPAIS website.
- Panel members will submit location and field trip ideas for the Panel's hosting of the spring 2012 ANSTF meeting to Kerrie Kyde and Steve Kendrot prior to the Panel's fall 2011 meeting.

Wednesday May 18, 2011

Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce (ANSTF) Update, Sarah Whitney, Panel Chair; Susan Mangin, ANSTF Executive Secretary

The Task Force is updating its recreational guidelines and would like a volunteer from each Panel to help with this effort. They also recently formed an adhoc committee to work on a pilot award program which would be launched during invasive species awareness week.

The Panel is slated to host the Task Force's spring meeting in 2011 (generally the first week in May). The group will plan field trips and guest speakers to present regional issues to the Task Force. This will be discussed further during Panel business.

Action Item: Panel members interested in helping to update the ANSTF recreational guidelines will contact Sarah Whitney.

Mid-Atlantic Live Vector Management Project Update, Fredrika Moser, Ph.D., MD Sea Grant

Fredrika introduced the Mid-Atlantic Live Vector Management Project to the Panel during the Fall Meeting when the RFP was just being released. The RFP process is complete; a proposal was selected and the project is moving forward. The lead PI is Whitman Miller from SERC. Dr. Miller was a speaker at the 2009 Mid-Atlantic vector management workshop. The project team's composition has a mix of biology and social science experts. Bret Shaw is a communications specialist targeting the behavioral aspects of the project. Jenny Allen is the graduate student assisting with coordination. Panel members can expect to receive emails from Jenny requesting information. Materials used for packing and shipping, as a vector for the movement or transport of invasive organisms will be investigated; the focus being on marine worms. All marine worms used as bait come from Maine and having this well-defined system will help reduce uncertainty in the project. The team is meeting on June 1st to draft a workplan.

Social Marketing Committee (SMaC) Update, Kerrie Kyde, MD DNR

SMaC has been disbanded. The committee was established in spring 2010 and received funds to bring Panel representatives from each state together to develop a social marketing campaign. Kerrie stated there does not seem to be buy-in from the

states and research shows that successful social marketing requires a thorough understanding of what is going on in each state. There may be more interest after the live vector management project, but as of right now the group is dissolved and all funds will be returned to the Panel.

ANSTF/NISC Prevention Committee, *Stanley Burgiel, Ph.D., NISC*

The ANSTF/NISC Prevention Committee supports the Task Force through the efforts of three workgroups focused on pathways, risk analysis, and screening. They have created a pathway ranking guide, risk analysis prioritization, and are working with the Mississippi River Basin Panel on a rapid screening approach. Similar to the challenges SMaC faced, the Prevention Committee has trouble getting active participation from all members. Over the next six months the committee will have several brainstorm sessions and work to expand membership. The following were emphasized as needed next steps:

- **Advisory Role:** a forum is needed to provide expertise on issues related to prevention, pathways and risk assessment.
- **Tools and Guidance:** potential tools or guidance have been proposed but currently lack consensus on prioritization.
- **Prioritization:** aside from crosscutting items, tasks will be prioritized according to opportunity and interest of individuals.
- **Participation:** committee/working group members are needed from a range of stakeholders.
- **Strategic Planning:** identified priorities should be integrated into revisions of ANSTF strategic plan and NISC management plan.

Dieter Busch suggested the committee look at restoring ecosystem health as a prevention strategy. Doug Holy suggested the committee reach out to USDA/NRCS and utilize their Invasive Species Compendium tool. The Invasive Species Compendium is a web tool that provides comprehensive cataloged reference work covering identification, biology, distribution, impact and management of the invasive plants and animals from around the globe.

Power Point presentation is available [here](#).

Invasive Catfish in the Chesapeake Bay, *Bruce Vogt, NOAA*

Blue and flathead catfish were introduced to the Chesapeake Bay in the 1960s and 1970s; they are native to the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio River basins. They are large, long-lived, opportunistic predators that occupy the Chesapeake Bay year round. Unlike striped bass, blue catfish do not tend to migrate into other areas. There is potential overlap with Atlantic sturgeon in the occupation of ecological niches and blue catfish may be a predator of sturgeon. There is also speculation of negative impacts on American shad populations. The Chesapeake Bay Program's Fisheries Goal Implementation Team has formed a Blue and Flathead Catfish Workgroup to investigate management implications of these fish. They could be altering trophic structures and compromising the restoration of native species. The Workgroup's goals are to determine invasive status (are they causing ecological harm?), synthesizing the best

available science to estimate population and distribution, explore management options, consider control and surveillance pilots, create a public awareness campaign, and produce ecosystem modeling scenarios showing potential ecological effects of blue and flathead catfish presence/invasion. Matt Shank stated flathead catfish are an issue in the Susquehanna River and encouraged the Panel to pursue a level of engagement with the Workgroup that would in turn assist member states in determining an approach to assessing invasive catfish populations in their jurisdictions. General consensus of the Fisheries GIT thus far considers blue catfish an invasive species and a range of management options should be considered. The workgroup is looking to the Panel for guidance and participation as they explore these aquatic invasive issues.

Power Point presentation is available [here](#).

Action Item: Steve Minkinen will be the Panel's representative on the Fisheries Goal Implementation Team's Blue and Flathead Catfish Workgroup.

MAP Species of Interest List: Discussion and Vote of Red-Eared Slider Addition, Sarah Whitney Panel Chair

At the last meeting the group discussed the possible addition of red-eared slider to the Species of Interest List, and decided to hold the vote at this meeting. Red-eared sliders were introduced as abandoned pets, and are now present in the Mid-Atlantic region, many in Pennsylvania. Rob Emens asked if including species on this list implied any follow up action. The Panel does not want this list to be seen as a proposed regulatory list and is calling for no follow up action. The group voted to include red-eared slider.

Kerrie Kyde raised another topic of concern that the MD Invasive Species Matrix Team is investigating. Carolina Biological Supply and companies like it are transporting species across state lines for classroom raise and release programs. Similarly, Frost Waterfowl Producers is transporting birds across state lines to stock hunting grounds. Kerrie asked what the Panel's role should be in providing guidance on issues like these. Susan said that the ANSTF is looking into these issues.

Action Item: Red eared slider will be added to the Panel's Species of Interest list.

Members Forum, All

- Jil Swearingen (NPS): Created and distributed Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Region publication. Attending the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council annual conference August 3-4.
- Rob Emens (NCDENR): Created a print brochure on aquatic invasive species in NC. NC is a cusp state; it sits on the Mid-Atlantic, Mississippi, and Gulf Panels. They are getting pressure from the Gulf Panel to produce a management plan. Rob asked Mid-Atlantic state representatives their thoughts on management plans. NJ and MD also do not have management plans in place at this time. VA,

PA, and DE attendees said plans are useful documents that can be referenced to bring weight to discussions; the plans are also useful for bringing together multiple agencies. FWS provides approximately \$30,000/year to states/cooperatives for implementation of approved aquatic invasive species management plans (plans can include terrestrial and aquatic species, but for FWS ease in review please create a separate section for aquatic invasive species management).

- Cathy Martin (DE DNREC): A snakehead has been identified in the Nanticoke. The Delaware Invasive Species Council will hold their annual meeting in October.
- Ray Fernald and Kevin Heffernan (VA DGIF and DCR): DGIF reorganized this year which may give Ray more time to devote to invasive species work. Kevin is revising VA's management plan, and has been doing aerial Phragmites surveys. There was some difficulty determining native vs non- native Phragmites in an area in the Back Bay watershed. Dennis Whigam and Melissa McCormick at SERC are doing genetic testing and they may have found a hybrid.
- Jonathan McKnight and Kerrie Kyde (MD DNR): MD has banned the use of felt soled waders in an effort to stop the spread of didymo. MD has also adopted a "do not plant" list – species on the list will no longer be planted on DNR land or used in DNR funded or managed projects.
- Steve Kendrot (APHIS): The nutria project is transitioning from initial knockdown to mop up, verification, and eradication. The main challenges he is facing now are detection tools and landowner access.
- Matt Shank (SRBC): The Susquehanna has been named Most Endangered River by American Rivers. Marcellus Shale is presenting special challenges with water withdrawals and transfers taking place around the watershed.
- Doug Holy (USDA): Doug is looking to serve as a conduit between managers and the USDA, and ensure that support is being provided where it is needed. He suggests Panel members take advantage of each state's USDA technical committee meetings.
- Sarah Whitney (PA SG): Working with Great Lakes Sea Grant Network on outreach to tournament anglers and outreach to boaters and anglers on AIS prevention. Over the winter PASG developed AIS biosecurity training for all PA Fish and Boat Commission employees (online if the employee works exclusively indoors, in-person if the employee touches water), working to expand this effort to other state agencies.
- Steve Minkinen (FWS): Updating the national control plan for snakehead fish.

MAP Funded Projects Update, *Lisa Moss FWS*

- Early Detection and Rapid Response Action on Phragmites – *Kevin Heffernan, Natural Heritage Program, VA Department of Conservation & Recreation, VA*
Mapping of the Upper Piankatank is complete; it is pretty pristine and did not have as much phragmites as other areas. They found 18 patches totaling 12-15 acres. They will work next year on advising landowners on treatment, and begin treatment where possible. They will use aerial treatment on large patches, and backpack sprayers on small (< 1 acre) patches.
- Chinese Mitten Crab Monitoring Network and Web-based Reporting System, *Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, MD*
To date there have been 166 live crabs reported and confirmed in the eastern United States. The Mitten Crab Watch website has officially been launched and will facilitate the expansion of efforts to track the distribution and status of the Chinese Mitten Crab: <http://mittencrab.nisbase.org/>
- Nutria Removal at Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve, *The Nature Conservancy, NC*
NHW is a National Natural Landmark and a Globally Important Bird Area. Nutria populations were mapped and trapping efforts focused on points of entry in and around the preserve, and where signs of activity were observed. Though a quarterly monitoring approach and continued scouting of areas is being planned, it was determined the preserve is not the most suitable habitat for nutria. The group has done extensive outreach involving landowners in surrounding areas and officials in local municipalities, and is finalizing an educational brochure which will be distributed in the area.
- Development of PA Invasive Species Field Guide, *Pennsylvania Sea Grant, PA*
The 60+ species profiles are complete. Content editing and design work reviews are now occurring. When the guide is complete, it will serve as a consistent resource for identifying and reporting AIS in support of PA's AIS management plan strategy for a coordinated early detection system.
- Creating Water Gardening AIS Prevention Training in PA, *Penn State Cooperative Extension, York County*
A camera and accessories were purchased for capturing invasive organisms in local ponds and waterways. Research and preparation of publication materials is underway. Talks on invasives in water gardening are planned for a public education event in August.
- Water Chestnut Eradication in the Sassafras and Bird Rivers, *Maryland DNR*
Tandem kayaks, vests, and a rack for transport have been purchased– all of which will be used to aid in monitoring and removing water chestnut from targeted areas. Removal will begin June 1 and continue through August 2011.

Several Panel members agreed that a table of past projects with PI, title, timeline, and amount of funding received would be helpful to have on the Panel website.

Action Item: Megan Hession will assemble a table of information for all past funded projects.

ANSTF Invasive Species Database-Survey for the Update/Expansion, *Lisa Moss FWS*

The ANSTF Invasive Species Database puts individuals in contact with local professionals who can provide assistance in invasive species issues including species identification, preventative operations, control techniques, monitoring, outreach, and local legislation. There are currently 290 experts in the database – organized into 2 tiers; tier 1 experts have general knowledge, and tier 2 experts have specialty expertise. The ANSTF recently sent a survey to update, refine, and build out the database. Some meeting participants questioned if resource managers would be more likely to use this database or Google to find invasive species contacts. The survey that was distributed seemed to be aimed at recruiting tier 2 experts and may miss tier 1 experts who can point you to the tier 2 contacts. Susan will bring these comments back to the ANSTF. In the meantime, Panel members will check the database and confirm that experts within their agency are represented. Rob Emens suggested linking to the database from the Panel's website to increase exposure.

Action Item: Panel membership will check the ANSTF Invasive Species Expert database and confirm that experts within their respective agencies are represented.

Panel Business

MAP Hosting ANSTF 2012 Spring Meeting, *Sarah Whitney Panel Chair*

Kerrie Kyde and Steve Kendrot will chair a subcommittee to lead the planning effort. The meeting will take place over two days and have 50-60 attendees. The spring meeting takes place during the first week in May (or as close as possible to that date). The Panel is responsible for organizing meeting logistics (selecting a venue and several hotels in the area), as well as finding speakers to highlight regional topics of interest, and organizing field trips. Planning should begin NLT six months before the meeting. Kerrie Kyde and Stephen Kendrot ask that the Panel submit ideas for meeting locations ASAP. These must be places that are close to an airport and field trip opportunities.

Action Item: Panel members will submit location and field trip ideas for the Panel's hosting of the spring 2012 ANSTF meeting to Kerrie Kyde and Stephen Kendrot prior to the Panel's fall 2011 meeting.

Fall Panel Meeting, *Sarah Whitney Panel Chair*

Panel has not held a meeting in NY and not in WV since 2005. The National Conservation Training Center in WV was suggested as a good meeting spot.

Action Item: Lisa Moss will check NCTC pricing and availability for a Panel meeting in October.

MAP Awards, Jonathan McKnight MD DNR

Jonathan McKnight chaired the selection committee for the first annual Rachel Carson Award for Excellence in Invasive Species Management. This year there were four nominees – the New Jersey Conservation Foundation won for their work eradicating bighead carp from a former aquaculture pond and working to eliminate the only invasion of Asian pond mussel in the United States to date. The Foundation was notified and is now planning the best time and place to give the award. VA DCR's Natural Heritage Program and the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy received Certificates of Merit. Jonathan is looking for another person to work on this committee for next year. Rob Emens volunteered.

Budget Update, Jonathan McKnight MD DNR

Each regional panel receives \$50,000/year from the ANSTF. The MAP is unique in that it farms the majority of its funding out through the annual small grants competition. MD DNR has handled the Panel's finances in the past, but will not be able to continue after this year. The group must either find someone else in the membership to take this responsibility, or hire a third party. Jonathan noted that this is a time consuming job, especially when there are many small grants to oversee instead of a few large ones.

This year the Panel had \$4,000 carried over from last year's funding in addition to this year's \$50,000. The Panel has up to \$54,000 to put towards grants proposals. The Panel can also choose to save some operating funds, which could be put towards the ANSTF 2012 Spring Meeting, hiring financial help, or revamping the Panel website.

Thursday May 19, 2011

2011 Small Grants Competition Proposal Selection, All

This year the Panel received 13 proposals from teams across the Mid-Atlantic region, from VA to NY, requesting a total of \$189,158.00. All eligible proposals were thoroughly reviewed and ranked based on specific elements of project impact, research, and applicant suitability. Full proposals, summaries, and ranks were provided to all Panel members and meeting attendees were encouraged to review these materials in advance of the meeting.

In order for the Panel to make official proposal selection decisions a quorum is needed. There were not enough members present on Day 2 of the meeting to make a quorum, so the Panel could not make official proposal selections. Instead Sarah Whitney created the Proposal Selection Subcommittee which included all Day 2 attendees. This group discussed proposals and made recommendations on which proposals to fund to the Panel, which the Panel agreed to officially vote on via email following the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.