

Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel Spring Meeting  
April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Draft Agenda

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Welcome and Introductions (logo selection?)  
Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair

9:15 am Review and Approve Agenda  
Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair

- Finalize Panel Standard Operating Procedures  
Julie Thompson, Panel Coordinator

9:30 am Update on Panel Website  
Ann Faulds, Education and Outreach Working Group Chair

9:45 am Discussion of Reorganized Management Actions from CBP Invasive Species Plans (Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair and Jim Bean, Panel Vice Chair)

- Each Working Group report 3-5 priorities to the Panel
- Select several priorities for the Panel to work on over the next year

Discussion of Panel Funding or other funding sources to Implement Priorities (*then suggest this be continued in the WG discussions*)

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Spotlight on Species-Beach Vitex  
David Nash, North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
15-20 min for presentation  
10-15 min for discussion

11:30 am Discussion of NC invasive species programs (local, state, federal, NGOs); what value the Panel can bring to the state

12:15 pm Lunch

1:15 pm State Updates on AIS activities and State Management Plans; updates from other membership

2:00 pm Introduction to HACCP  
Lisa Moss, USFWS  
15 min presentation  
15 min discussion on Panel hosting a workshop(s)

2:30 pm Update on ANSTF activities  
Scott Newsham, ANSTF Executive Secretary

15 min presentation  
15 min discussion

3:00 pm Break

3:20 pm Discussion of use of NOAA Rapid Response funds  
Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair

Charge to Working Group Break-Out sessions  
Moser and Bean

4:00 pm Working Group Break-Out session

- discuss annual work-plan progress, future actions, project funding needs

4:45 pm Adjourn

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

9:00 am Working Group Report to Panel (15 minutes each)

- Outreach and Education-Anne Faulds
- Policy-Sara Whitney
- Science and Management-Jim Grazio

9:45 am Break

10:00 am Panel Business

- Update on Budget
- Update on NOAA Regional Research Priorities and Environmental Law Institute project funding

Julie Thompson, Panel Coordinator

11:00 am Vote on Panel Projects for Panel Funding and summarize any action items from the meeting (if needed)  
(Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair)

- Review and Comment on Membership List
  - Nominations for new membership
- Julie Thompson, Panel Coordinator

11:30 am Discuss meeting date and location for Fall 2006 meeting  
Fredrika Moser-Panel Chair

11:45 am Adjourn



## Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel Meeting Minutes – 4/18/06 to 4/19/06  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

**In attendance:**

| Name              | Affiliation                         | E-mail   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Julie Thompson    | US Fish and Wildlife                | <a href="mailto:Julie_thompson@fws.gov">Julie_thompson@fws.gov</a>                                 |
| Jim Bean          | BASF                                | <a href="mailto:james.bean@basf.com">james.bean@basf.com</a>                                       |
| Scott Newsham     | USFWS/ANSTF                         | <a href="mailto:Scott_newsham@fws.gov">Scott_newsham@fws.gov</a>                                   |
| Bianca Klein      | USNC New River Air Station          | <a href="mailto:kleinbj@newriver.usmc.mil">kleinbj@newriver.usmc.mil</a>                           |
| Brian Wheat       | Volunteer /NC Cooperative Extension | <a href="mailto:bwheat@ee.rr.com">bwheat@ee.rr.com</a>   |
| Diana Rashash     | NC Cooperative Extension            | <a href="mailto:Diana_rashash@ncsu.edu">Diana_rashash@ncsu.edu</a>                                 |
| Scott Baker       | NC Sea Grant                        | <a href="mailto:bakers@uncw.edu">bakers@uncw.edu</a>   |
| Stacy Samuelson   | USACE                               | <a href="mailto:Stacy.d.samuelson@saw02.usace.army.mil">Stacy.d.samuelson@saw02.usace.army.mil</a> |
| Kellie Westervelt | Partnership DE Estuary              | <a href="mailto:kwestervelt@delawareestuary.org">kwestervelt@delawareestuary.org</a>               |
| Sarah Whitney     | PA Sea Grant                        | <a href="mailto:swhitney@psu.edu">swhitney@psu.edu</a>   |
| Lisa Moss         | US FWS                              | <a href="mailto:Lisa_moss@fws.gov">Lisa_moss@fws.gov</a>   |
| Barnaby Watten    | USGS                                | <a href="mailto:Bwatten@usgs.gov">Bwatten@usgs.gov</a>   |
| Steve Minkinen    | US FWS                              | <a href="mailto:steve_minkinen@fws.gov">steve_minkinen@fws.gov</a>                                 |
| Robert Coxe       | DE NHP                              | <a href="mailto:Robert.coxe@state.de.us">Robert.coxe@state.de.us</a>                               |
| Kevin Heffernan   | VA DCR - DNH                        | <a href="mailto:Kevin.keffernan@dcr.virginia.gov">Kevin.keffernan@dcr.virginia.gov</a>             |
| Jim Grazio        | PA DEP                              | <a href="mailto:jagrazio@state.pa.us">jagrazio@state.pa.us</a>                                     |
| Ryan Heise        | NC WRC                              | <a href="mailto:Ryan.heise@ncwildlife.org">Ryan.heise@ncwildlife.org</a>                           |
| Fred Kern         | NOAA – NOS                          | <a href="mailto:Fred.kern@noaa.gov">Fred.kern@noaa.gov</a>   |
| Jonathon McKnight | MD DNR                              | <a href="mailto:jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us">jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us</a>                           |
| Ray Fernald       | VA DGIF                             | <a href="mailto:Ray.fernalddg@dgif.virginia.gov">Ray.fernalddg@dgif.virginia.gov</a>               |
| Rob Richardson    | NC State University                 | <a href="mailto:Rob_richardson@nesu.edu">Rob_richardson@nesu.edu</a>                               |
| Rob Emens         | NC DENR – Div. of Water Res.        | <a href="mailto:Rob.emens@ncmail.net">Rob.emens@ncmail.net</a>                                     |
| Jennifer Greiner  | USFWS/CBPO                          | <a href="mailto:Greiner.jennifer@epa.gov">Greiner.jennifer@epa.gov</a>                             |
| Brent McCloskey   | CRC / CBPO                          | <a href="mailto:mccloskey.brent@epa.gov">mccloskey.brent@epa.gov</a>                               |
| Fredrika Moser    | MD Sea Grant                        | <a href="mailto:moser@mdsg.umd.edu">moser@mdsg.umd.edu</a>   |
| Steve deKuzluwski | SCDNR                               | <a href="mailto:dekuzluwski@dnr.sc.gov">dekuzluwski@dnr.sc.gov</a>                                 |
| Barbara Doll      | NC Sea Grant                        | <a href="mailto:Barbara_doll@ncsu.edu">Barbara_doll@ncsu.edu</a>                                   |
| Ann Faulds        | PA Sea Grant                        | <a href="mailto:215-806-0894/afaulds@psu.edu">215-806-0894/afaulds@psu.edu</a>                     |

**DAY 1 – Tuesday, April 18th**

**I. Welcome and Introductions** – Fredrika Moser, Panel chair, opened the meeting at 9:00am followed by a round of introductions. Fredrika thanked Barbara Doll and NC Sea Grant, on behalf of MARP, for providing assistance with setting up the meeting location and for covering the cost of lunch.

**II. Review and Approve Agenda** – The agenda was approved with one item being moved until the second day. The Panel’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were discussed for approval on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**III. Update on Panel Website** – Ann Faulds, chair of the Education and Outreach Working Group, gave a brief update on the progress of the Panel’s website. Ann Faulds has hired Jill Benowitz to setup the website but Ann stressed that progress has been slower than expected. Ann also felt that they are a long way from reaching consensus on what the website will look like. Many issues brought up to the Panel were:

- When should the old website be pulled off the CBPO page?
  - The Panel should reach consensus on the new website before the old website is pulled out of the Bay Program.
- Should the Ed/Outreach committee purchase a redirect link (i.e. MARP.org) to connect to the PennState server?
- **Recommendation:** The Policy Working group and the Science and Management Working group need to discuss types of materials and content that should be included on the new website.

**IV. Discussion of Reorganized Management Actions from CBP Invasive Species Plans** – Six species management plans were developed and objectives were setup for each species as well as priorities for the Panel to work on. Prior to the meeting Julie Thompson, Panel coordinator, and Brent McCloskey, Panel staff, broke-out the management priorities into workgroup specific task lists. The Chair, Fredrika Moser suggested that the working groups identify 2 or 3 priority items from the lists for implementation. This would provide a focus for the Panel and some future accomplishments. An ideal situation is for the Panel to complete priority items that would have a regional contribution but would also move the Panel forward and benefit everyone involved.

- **Task to the Chairs** – coordinate with your working group and come up with a game plan on how to move forward! There is a need to define regional coordination because many states have different regulations. Examples of regional coordination would be: mapping location of species; developing species lists, designating who can access the databases and populate the data; etc. Chairs and WG members were tasked to look in general at these management action plans and determine where there was overlap with the WG priorities and select a few key management priorities that seemed achievable and could accomplish the most. Many management priorities deal with more than one species. For example, a common management action theme may be, “control and prevention or control and spread of ANS.”

**V. Spotlight on Species – Beach Vitex** – *David Nash, North Carolina Cooperative Extension* – To highlight an invasive species issue important to North Carolina, David Nash was invited to talk about “Beach Vitex” (*Vitex rotundifolia*) an invasive plant that is expanding its range in dune ecosystems in North Carolina. Beach Vitex is commonly known as Kudzu of the South because it can grow 10 to 12 feet a year and its runners may reach 60 feet. Though it is non-native to southern states, it is native to the Pacific Rim. Beach Vitex out competes native dune plants and forms monocultures. It is a fast growing and prolific seed producing plant and has formed a tolerance against drought and salt. Beach Vitex is invasive because it crowds out native dune vegetation such as sea oats, bitter panicum, seashore elder, and saltmeadow cordgrass which are excellent plants for trapping sand for dune building. A Beach Vitex Taskforce was formed to represent both NC and SC goals to control its growth. The Taskforce tracks documentation of Beach Vitex locations; coordinates seedling removal and education activities; promotes safe and environmentally friendly methods of eradication; conducts ecological and regulatory assessments; restoration of dunes with native grasses; and explores funding opportunities for cost share with property owners. To find out more information on Beach Vitex and other the Taskforce activities please visit ([www.beachvitex.org](http://www.beachvitex.org)). You can also contact David Nash at: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, New Hanover County Center, 6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403 or by phone (910-452-6393) or email at ([david\\_nash@ncsu.edu](mailto:david_nash@ncsu.edu)) for more information.

**VI. Discussion of NC invasive species programs (local, state, federal, NGOs) and what value the Panel can bring to the state**

- **Rob Emens**, coordinator for the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ aquatic plant control program, Rob deals mainly with invasive hydrilla and alligator weed. Rob’s program includes himself and a summer technician. They do a lot of field work and experimentation with biocontrol organisms. Examples of bio-

control are the weevil from Brazil and the flea beetle. Before they can experiment with biocontrol organisms, the organisms must be approved through the USDA.

- **Diana Rashash, NC Cooperative Extension**, works with volunteer groups, garden groups, city, county, state, and a Marine Corps base to control alligatorweed. She has an IPM grant to bring in flea beetles for control in Oslo County.
- **Bianca Klein, New River Air Station**, stated that mapping is key to the control of invasive species. Volunteers, such as Brian Wheat from the NC Cooperative Extension, are equipped with GPS units to track the invasive species locations. The Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) has a very strong group located in NC. This may be a possible group for the Panel to coordinate with; the Panel may be able to help with meeting some of the group's objectives.
- **Ryan Heise, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**, works for the Aquatic Non-Game Program. The Program requires a permit for stocking aquatic organisms into NC waterways. They implement actions identified in the state wildlife action plan. Some of the actions identified in that plan address invasive species. The plan is on their website. They have added species to the prohibited species database, which includes certain types of fish, crawfish and some snails. The NCWRC has protocols established for detecting an invasive species and game wardens actually have a plan-of-action if an invasive is spotted. Education is key for spotting invasive species. Many programs train game officers on what and how to spot.
- **How can MARP bring value to the states?**
  - Many of NC's programs started with volunteers who were dedicated to linking folks together across different watersheds. Volunteers, such as Brian Wheat, have been able to lobby for funds from the state and are involved with taking legislators out in the field to river sites where invasive species are a problem. The Panel may be able to help with local organizations and their coordination efforts regarding invasive species. MARP may be able to help fund local organization programs.
  - It would also be helpful to obtain information regarding the economic analysis of nuisance species. North Carolina published a report entitled, "Economic and Environmental Impacts of North Carolina Aquatic Weed Infestations" in 1996.
  - Developing networking capabilities with other states to share information such as control techniques for a certain species. Identify state and federal programs that provide funds for invasive species control.

## VII. State Updates

- **NJ** – No updates
- **WVa** – No updates
- **NY** – (Tim Sinnot) ANS management in NY was essentially on hold since Summer of 2003, when the State Legislature passed a bill creating a State Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF). The purpose of the ISTF was to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the future of ANS management. The Director of the Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources put our existing ANS Management program on hold so we would not be initiating actions that were inconsistent with recommendations of the ISTF. A little background – NY had the first, ANS Task Force approved ANS Management Plan. It was approved in March 1994. When the ANS Task Force released guidance for State Management Plans in March 1998, NY found that their plan was inconsistent with the guidance and had to be revised. The Draft revised plan was finished in Nov 2002 and completed internal review in June 2003. It was ready to go out for public review in June 2003 when the ISTF was created, and work on the draft revised ANS plan was put on hold. If anyone wants a copy of either plan, contact Tim Sinnot.

In December 2005, the ISTF completed its work, and a final report was completed. A copy of the report is available at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/habitat/istf/istfreport.html>. As a result of the report, the legislature allocated \$3,000,000 in the SFY2006 budget to invasive species in the State's Environmental Protection Fund. Unfortunately, the legislature did not provide any guidance for how the money should be used. The ISTF is meeting presently to make decisions as to what sort of state SANS management should be created, and how the money should be distributed amongst various agencies. Unfortunately, no one at any executive level has made a commitment to utilize the money for staff. Lack of staffing is the single biggest impediment to a fully functional

NAS management program (Even though Tim is the state ANS Coordinator, it is only a part-time job; his primary responsibility is ecotoxicology and risk assessment).

So, in one regard, the state has taken a giant step forward in providing funds to ANS. They still have not made an executive policy decision to actively manage ANS in New York or to adopt recommendations as to how an ANS program should be staffed.

The program recommendations being prepared by the ISTF will address terrestrial invasive species as well as aquatic.

In April 2005, the State Legislature allocated \$1,000,000 for a grant program for eradication of aquatic invasive species. It is Tim Sinnott's responsibility to manage this program. To accomplish that, a team from the Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources, Division of Water, Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials (Pesticide Program), and Divisions of Environmental Permits was assembled in June 2005 to prepare the request for proposals (RFP). The RFP was approved by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) in November and released to the public. Applicants could only be municipalities and Not-For-Profit Corporations. The deadline for submission of proposals was 28 Feb. 06.

- **MD** – (Jonathan McKnight) Maryland is using Landowner Incentive Program money to control invasive species on private lands. About a half of the \$750,000 MD received for this program will go toward invasive species control. To be eligible for the funds, there must be a tie-in with endangered and threatened species. Maryland Department of Natural Resources is moving aggressively to implement the state and regional Mute Swan management plan and they encourage other states to start control efforts. The species is no longer listed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act so they are now under state authority.
- **PA** – (Jim Grazio) PA has recently added rusty crawfish to the state's blacklist. In October the PA Sea Grant organized a workshop to help send along recommendations to the state invasive species council for developing a state management plan; the proceedings document is now available. The state's invasive species council includes 7 state agencies and 10 at-large members. The council was formed by executive order but received no funding and has been bogged down in the development of bi-laws. The council would like to make high level policy recommendations and would serve to provide a tool for coordination among different agencies involved in the control of invasive species.
- **VA** – (Kevin Heffernan) – VA's invasive species council was created by the 2003 State Legislature and the Secretaries throughout the state head the council. The council has created an advisory committee of about 25 people that include members from TNC, Dominion Power, Universities, etc. This group has worked on creating a state management plan and in December it was finalized. The state has also launched an invasive species website and it can be accessed at ([www.vaspecies.org](http://www.vaspecies.org)). When the council was formed the legislation attached a "sunset clause" for the council to disband in June 2006. They are hoping to get an Executive Order to continue operations.
- **VA** – (Ray Fernald) Zebra Mussel update – Zebra mussels were discovered in Milbrook Quarry in 2002. The state was unable to go in and control the population due to an uncooperative landowner. The Department of Game and inland Fisheries put together an Ad hoc committee to look at options for control. The quarry is 12 acres and 100 feet deep and is used by divers. Legislation was passed in Virginia that allows access on private lands to control invasive species. The Department couldn't use internal funds for eradication, they had to find outside funding sources. They injected 174,000 gallons of 12% potassium for over three weeks during the winter to eradicate the zebra mussel. They deployed 180 biassays at different depths to determine if mortality had occurred. Eradication efforts had a cost of approximately \$365,000 and another \$50,000 for water quality monitoring. They received \$300,000 through the USDA WHIP Program and \$100,000 for USFWS through a State Wildlife Grant. An official press release announcing eradication was sent out in May 2006.
- **DE** – (Robert Coxe) – Zebra mussels, purple loosestrife and phragmites are top priorities for Delaware. They are interested in producing identification cards for outreach and to map where invasives are found. The University of Delaware is releasing a bio-control insect for the mile-a-minute plant invasion.

- **USGS** – (Barnaby Watten) – USGS will be hosting the international conference on invasive species this year in Florida and already has 100 plus speakers. The date for the conference is May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. USGS will be spending \$150,000 on snakehead research.
- **USFWS** – (Steve Minkinen) – USFWS has collected many snakeheads in the Potomac River and they assumed that they were all freshwater species but now they believe that snakeheads have some tolerance to salinity. They can tolerate up to 18ppt for extended time periods in lower temperature. They are now unable to make assumptions about them not moving out of freshwater rivers and into the other rivers via the Bay. USFWS is hoping to have a working draft for a National Management Plan for snakehead in the very near future.
- **NOAA** – (Fred Kern) – The NOAA Annapolis office is in their third and last year of administering a research grant program for *C. ariakensis*. National Sea Grant is funding research on lionfish, green crab, and several species of tunicate. The RFP for that program closed on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2006. Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York Sea Grant have all funded some projects having to do with aquatic invasive species research and outreach will be published sometime soon in the Federal Register.

### VIII. Introduction to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)

- **Lisa Moss, US FWS** – HACCP was originally developed by the food industry to prevent contamination and was further modified for implementation in the resource management realm. It is now used as a proactive tool to help prevent or control the spread of non-target organisms and has been structured to address potential pathways for undesired introduction (identify the hazard, determine the pathway and identify and then implement control). How are HACCP plans developed? 1) Identify your activities (who, what, where, when, why) and; 2) Identify potential hazards. A total of 23 states have a total of 111 HACCP plans (within CB, only NY has plans and no other state located in the mid-Atlantic area has plans). The website for HACCP is: <http://www.haccp.nrm.org>. (*SEE ACTION ITEMS FOR HACCP TRAINING*)

### IX. Update on Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)

- **Scott Newsham, ANSTF Executive Secretary** – ANSTF's website is now back online. The website has been revised and now has links to the Regional Panels. ANSTF meeting announcements will be posted on the website along with the agenda and supporting materials. The next ANSTF meeting is in May. The Task Force is looking to make itself more relevant. It is evaluating where they will go within the next few years as well as revising its strategic plan. The ANSTF's focus is at the federal level. This past year they received 1.075 million federal dollars for the development of management plans nationally. They had supplied funding for 19 plans at an average cost of about \$55,000. Scott Newsham is the first full-time Executive Secretary. Jonathan McKnight, MD DNR, will be the Chair for the Control Committee and will be present at the May ANSTF meeting. It is anticipated that the committee will provide oversight and guidance in the development of new management plans, monitor the implementation of the established plans, and coordinate with the other ANSTF standing committees (Research, Detection & Monitoring, Prevention, Education/Outreach) A taxonomic expert's database is being created by USGS. Regional Panel input is needed. ANSTF is operationally trying to make a sound, solid organization but has said many times that the real work gets done at the regional panel level. Scott then discussed the ANSTF annual report. The last version was released in 1994. He has given the regional panels a template for our annual reporting which includes a brief summary of accomplishments and a short summary of what is going on with the Panel for the ANSTF Annual report. The goal of the panel report is to get key issues out that need to be addressed at the national level as well as get an idea of how much each Panel is spending on projects so that Congress can see that more funding is needed to continue. ANSTF would like to see each state's management plan for invasive species and comment on them before they go to the state governors for approval. Scott suggested looking at Hawaii's state management plan because it is a good example of what ANSTF is looking for. California is hoping to have their state plan done by summer 2006. Scott suggested that the Panel should make recommendations to the ANSTF at any time, not just in conjunction with the annual report and these recommendations should come in the form of a letter from the Chair and decided on by the Panel with proper voting procedures. ANSTF's Fall

meeting will be held in DC and the next Spring meeting will be held outside of DC (most likely in PA in conjunction with the Great Lakes Panel).

- **Steve deKuzluwski, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**, provided a brief update about the Gulf and South Atlantic Panel. They are conducting a nonindigenous species pathway analysis for each state in the Panel. USGS is doing the work for them. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies have completed their pilot communications plans for aquatic invasive species. South Carolina was one of the states picked for this project. There will be a Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Norfolk, VA in November 2006. Tom Wilcox from VA DGIF is the contact. There will be a special session on invasive species.

#### **X. Discussion of NOAA Rapid Response Funds**

- **Fredrika Moser, Chair of MARP** – MARP has received \$20,000 from NOAA to develop rapid response plans. The Great Lakes and Western Regional Panels came up with rapid response plans by looking at case studies and evaluating the successes and failures of the rapid response actions in these case studies. Based on that the Panels developed rapid response plans and a list of “lessons learned” from these case studies. Does MARP want to create a general plan or a more specific plan? Other Panels seem to have workshops to begin preparations for a plan or a model guidance plan. North Carolina is one example of a state where there are various rapid response teams setup throughout the state (i.e. for diseases that troops overseas might bring back such as foot and mouth disease, etc.). MARP needs to make it as easy as possible for state agencies to implement rapid response (i.e. provide tools to state agencies). An ideal document for MARP to create would be a list of agencies who can be contacted in case of an invasion. We need to identify a line of communication. MARP can use the NOAA money to develop a line of communication and an invasion scenario test plan in which we could include the test plan results into the overall rapid response plan. This will help us identify what works and what doesn't. Julie will create a scope for the development of a “line of communication” document. (*SEE ACTION ITEMS FOR SCOPE OF WORK*)

### **END OF DAY ONE**

#### **DAY TWO – April 19<sup>th</sup> 2006**

#### **XI. Panel Business – Budget Breakdown**

- **Panel Funds:** 2004 budget carryover (\$19,721) - 2005 funds (\$50,000) – Total (\$69,721)
- **Expenditures:** Salary for Coordinator (\$25,000) plus (\$5,000) overhead to house money at NFWF
- **Travel for 2005:** (\$1,393)
- **Projects:** website (\$5,736) – Panel outreach (\$5,000)
- **Remaining Funds:** (\$27,592)
- **2006 FUNDS:** will be receiving them shortly

#### **NOAA Regional Research Priorities**

- Julie Thompson, Panel Coordinator, provided an update on what the Panel came up with for regional research priorities for the 2007 NOAA Sea Grant ANS Research Program. An RFP for that program will be published in the Federal Register shortly. The Panel came up with the following 5 priorities for NOAA:
  - 1) Evaluate existing, and develop new, control options for Mid-Atlantic region priority species, including mute swan, phragmites, purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, nutria, and water chestnut
  - 2) Identify AIS and their vectors that pose the greatest risk to the Mid-Atlantic region.
  - 3) Evaluate ecological, economic, and societal costs incurred by not investing in eradication of a species in the early stage of its invasion. Determine critical factors necessary to evaluate the efficacy of implementing rapid response under different conditions.
  - 4) Evaluate the effectiveness of control programs implemented by local watershed organizations and NGOs.

- 5) Determine if differences exist in invasion success between a healthy, functioning micro-ecosystem and a stressed ecosystem.

(SEE ACTION ITEMS)

### **Environmental Law Institute (ELI) Project**

- The Environmental Law Institute is developing a draft document that focuses on, opportunities for regional invasive species cooperation in the Chesapeake Bay and Florida. This document will address: 1) regional monitoring and surveying; 2) regional database development and mapping; 3) regional education and outreach efforts; 4) risk analysis and pathway analysis; 5) rapid response action plans; 6) invasive species management plans; 7) invasive species councils; and 8) invasive species laws and regulations.
- It is not too late to provide comments to ELI. Please get your comments to Julie and she will relay them to ELI. We can expect a draft publication to be completed by late summer or early fall.
- Please visit the weblink below to view the ELI draft opportunities document:  
[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/marp\\_04-18-06\\_Handout\\_21\\_7150.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/pubs/calendar/marp_04-18-06_Handout_21_7150.pdf)

### **Standard Operating Procedure Discussion**

- Comments on SOPs – The Panel decided that the SOPs were as good as they could be and that they provide as much guidance as is needed. It was also discussed that any changes to the SOPs can occur at a later date. A motion to approve the SOPs was made by Jim Bean and was seconded by Fred Kern and approved by consensus of the Panel.

### **Membership List**

- Julie updated the Panel on membership status. Across the board membership is good with federal participation being the strongest. We now have a Coast Guard representative (Lt. Roger Smith). Most state representatives are active and we have alternates for many of them. DC has been very unresponsive and NJ's, Lisa Barno, has been active but is restricted by travel. Jonathan McKnight motioned to make DE Estuary representative, Kelly Westervelt, a member of MARP and Jim Grazio seconded the motion. The Panel voted and the motion was revised to invite the partnership of DE Estuary as a member of MARP. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has stated that they do not have time to participate in MARP. Julie stated that we also need to contact TNC, Audubon Society, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Ducks Unlimited for possible partnerships with MARP. Dieter Busch, a former USFWS employee who now works for a private consulting firm, would like to become a member of MARP but the Panel decided that they would like him to be present at a Panel meeting before he can be nominated.

## **XII. Working Group Updates**

- Education and Outreach Working Group (Chair, Ann Faulds) – approved by Panel to continue as chair
- Policy Working Group (Chair, Sarah Whitney) – approved by Panel to continue as chair
- Science and Management (Chair, Jonathan McKnight) – motion by Jim Grazio to nominate Jonathan McKnight as new working group chair. The motion was seconded by Jim Bean and approved by the group.
- The Panel decided that the working groups need to have a more focused approach with a clear strategy and timeline laid out so that accomplishments can be made before the next Panel meeting in Fall of 2006. The Panel supported the following approach for each working group: (1) List priorities with one primary and at least one secondary; (2) Develop implementation plan with specific tasks for members, time commitments and budget needs; and (3) Lay out a timeline (ideally April to September and '06 to '07).
- **Science and Management Working Group** (Jonathan McKnight) – (1) The working group will work with FWS to review the snakehead plan as it becomes available and (2) the group will put together a comprehensive list of

species found around the region that are being tracked and what is known about the species (i.e. native, unknown, invasive, etc.). The idea of this exercise is not to produce an official document but instead to look scientifically at the whole spectrum (i.e. what are the species in are area, what species do states have in common, etc.). They then would like to develop criteria to see what species should be on the list but the main criteria would be what is being tracked in each state and what are they worried about. The timeline for this project would be from April 2006 until the Fall 2006 Panel meeting. (3) The group would also like to begin preliminary stages of drafting a database of species experts that will help with developing a rapid response communication link for the states.

- **Policy Working Group** (Sarah Whitney) – (1) The working group would like to increase the membership of the Policy group and they would like to request the help of the Panel in doing so. (2) They will identify and create a survey for the states to complete that would list the top priority species. Ideally the survey would be completed by Fall 2006 and would include effort from all working groups. The survey objective can be found in MARP’s annual report. (3) Identify command and control in each state which would be a good lead into the proposed rapid response plan – with this information they can address policy issues and model plans and create some type of policy guidelines. (4) To receive input back from the ELI project that is underway which would include legal perspective and incorporate their findings into policy. Maybe fund a graduate student to help write up the survey. The Panel decided that it would be in its best interest to use funding to develop a survey along side the rapid response effort to get products moving forward and on the ground.

- **Education and Outreach Working Group** (Ann Faulds) – (1) The development of the new website is top priority for the group. The group decided that the “splash” page or main page of the website would include MARP history, home, contact, mission statement, calendar, current events, Panel members and working groups. The biggest section of the site to be populated would be the aquatic invasive species of the Mid-Atlantic region. (2) Implementation of website: The group plans to have a mock-up in about a month and have a secure site to access to take Panel comments. The goal of the group is to have this site completed by Fall 2006. A concern of the Panel is that there is not a specific timeframe associated with completing the website. A motion was made by Stacey Samuelson for the Panel to establish a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> for a draft framework of the website for review. The Panel would like to see the website finalized and up and running by the Fall 2006 meeting.

*(SEE ACTION ITEMS – WORKING GROUPS TO LIST PRIORITOTIES and TIMELINE BY MAY 19<sup>th</sup>)*

### **XIII. LOGOS**

- No final approval was made regarding the logo contest. The Education and Outreach Work Group will continue to move forward with the logos and a Panel vote will be made in the near future.  
*(SEE ACTION ITEMS)*

### **IX. Fall Meeting**

- Dates to be voted on by Panel for Fall 2006 meeting are as follows: September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> or September 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. The Fall meeting will be in a central location and the Spring meeting will be moved around the region.  
*(SEE ACTION ITEMS)*

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 am**

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Priorities**

- **Workgroup Chairs** to give list of actions/priorities/timelines to Julie Thompson. Due May 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Each **Working Group** to identify a coordinator for providing feedback for content that should be included on the new website (WG chairs – Ann Faulds, Sarah Whitney, Jonathan McKnight). Due May 19<sup>th</sup>
- **Julie Thompson and Fredrika Moser** work with Pam Fuller and WG Chair Jonathan McKnight to coordinate database development.
- **Julie Thompson** to draft letter to send to CBP stating that MARP would like to add the northern snakehead to the 6 species of concern. Complete in one month

### Rapid Response

- **Julie Thompson** to form committee to create a scope-of-work for rapid response plans. On-going.

### Economics

- **Rob Emens** to send Brent McCloskey North Carolina's Economic Report (paper copy only) **(COMPLETED)**
- **Brent McCloskey** to post NC Economic Report on MARP website – **(ON HOLD)**
- **Julie Thompson** to recommend economic analysis for AIS to the ANSTF

### ANSTF

- **MARP members** to submit recommendations for the ANSTF to Julie Thompson prior to the annual report. On-going

### HACCP

- **Julie Thompson and Ann Faulds** to look into potentially hosting a HACCP workshop in PA. Julie will look into the Panel hosting a workshop at the SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in November, 2006; make inquiries with individual state agencies on interest of having the training. On-going

### Information Exchange

- **Jennifer Greiner** to send out an informative update on the Land Owner Incentive Program via web posting and listserv
- **Jim Bean** to work with the Exotic Pest Plant Council (EPPC) to engage them in MARP activities
- **Brent McCloskey and Jennifer Greiner** to send NOAA ANS RFP to LRSc and STAC members. Two weeks

### Membership Needs (On going)

- **Julie Thompson and Jonathan McKnight** to solicit participation from DC for MARP membership
- **Julie Thompson** to work with Kellie Westervelt to solicit participation from New Jersey
- **Julie Thompson** to contact Reggie Parrish from the Anacostia Watershed Association, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Audubon Society, CBF (Don Bowell), and TNC (Larry Masters)
- **Julie Thompson** to work with Steve Minkinnen on regional membership
- **Julie Thompson** to contact Dieter Busch regarding attendance at the Fall meeting for possible membership
- **Rob Emens** to contact Greg Lutz from the National Aquaculture Association
- **MARP Members to provide suggestions for possible economists to join the MARP membership.**
- **Expand participation in the Policy Working Group**

- **MARP Members** to review membership list and verify that your information is correct and/or make necessary changes and submit feedback to Julie Thompson.
- **MARP Members continue to recruit members for the MARP.**

**Logos**

- **Rob Emens** has a deadline of May 3<sup>rd</sup> to submit additional logos to the Education and Outreach Working Group (Ann Faulds)
- **Education and Outreach** group must pick the top 3-4 logos (Ann Faulds); **Julie Thompson** to send out email vote for logos Complete by second week in May.

**Next Meeting Date**

Julie Thompson to get a Panel vote on meeting dates for Fall 2006. The dates discussed were September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> or the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> . Complete first week in May.