



Interim Report for USFWS Grant F12AP01037

Report Due: 12/29/2014

Fiscal Agent: Maryland Sea Grant College

A Report to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force for 2014

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Panel (MAP) is to assist state and federal agencies and other stakeholders in developing and implementing strategic, coordinated, and action-oriented approaches for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the mid-Atlantic region. The driving force behind the Panel's mission is to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and communication on AIS issues within the region and beyond.

Funding from USFWS is used to support MAP business, including coordination and logistics for MAP meetings and travel for MAP representation at ANSTF meetings, the MAP small grants competition, and payment for fiscal management services provided by Maryland Sea Grant.

Panel Coordination

The Panel met two times in 2014. The spring meeting was held June 25-26, 2014 in Annapolis, Maryland. A major focus of the meeting was to review the proposals submitted to the 2014 MAP grants competition. Kali Bird, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, updated the Panel on the project "Invasive Species: from the Hudson River to a Classroom Near You" which received MAP funding in 2013. Stas Burgiel from the National Invasive Species Council provided an update on NISC's invasive species climate change work and the Pathways Management Plan and Fredrika Moser from Maryland Sea Grant gave a presentation on the bait vector project they have been working in the Mid Atlantic region.

The fall meeting was held December 10-11, 2014 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The meeting focused on AIS issues of concern in Virginia, with presentations on blue catfish, nutria, snakehead, feral hogs, and *Phragmites*, as well as presentations about issues of regional concern such as hydrilla, AIS in aquariums, and invasive species harvest incentives. An afternoon field trip provided an opportunity for participants to learn first hand about what is needed related to monitoring and eradication of nutria and feral hogs. Sarah Whitney (Pennsylvania Sea Grant) and Steve Minkkinen (USFWS) stepped down as Panel chair and vice chair, and Ray Fernald (Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries) and Mike Allen (Maryland Sea Grant) were elected to serve as chair and vice-chair.

Sarah Whitney, as MAP Chair, attended two ANSTF meetings in Arlington and Falls Church, Virginia.

Small Grants Competition

The Panel has conducted an annual grants competition to fund on-the-ground activities addressing MAP's mission and regional priorities. Since 2007, the Panel has awarded \$318,884 in project funding, and has leveraged over half a million dollars in partner funds.

Three small grants projects were completed this year, including a strategic plan for nutria eradication in areas of Virginia and North Carolina, the West Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan, and an invasive species teacher professional development project led by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem studies. Work continues on three ongoing projects, including an invasive species toolkit for educators, an eDNA monitoring project for *Didymosphenia*, and an invasive species management plan and monitoring application for Bushkill Township. Annual and final reports for individual grants are available upon request.

This year the Panel received 13 grant proposals requesting \$242,884. The Panel decided to allocate \$34,000 to fund three proposals from this year's grant competition:

Characterizing the Invasive New Zealand Mud Snail Population in Central Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State University (PI: Edward P. Levri)	The presence of the NZMS in central Pennsylvania is a cause for concern because of the substantial ecological changes that can occur due to its presence. This proposal outlines work to 1) determine the extent of the invasion in Pennsylvania, 2) determine the diversity and identity of the clones in central PA (US1, US2, US3, or new clones), and 3) conduct experiments to determine if the clones found in central PA possesses characteristics different from other clones of the species that may influence its spread and invasiveness	\$12,000
Engaging Lawyers to Facilitate Access to Private Land for Eradication and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species	University of Mississippi School of Law/National Association of Attorneys General (PI: Stephanie Showalter Otts/Jeanette Manning)	The National Sea Grant Law Center, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Environmental Law Institute (Project Team) propose to work with the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species to improve regional understanding of the strategies available to access private land for eradication and control of aquatic nuisance species and lay the foundation for the collaborative development of guidance for implementation.	\$7,000
Mid-Atlantic Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species	PA Sea Grant (PI: Sara Stahlman)	This project proposes to expand the Pennsylvania field guide to become a regional Mid-Atlantic AIS field guide that will include 20-30 new species of concern from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, as well as Pennsylvania.	\$15,000