

Agenda for April 2007 MAPAIS Meeting

Location: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum

Tuesday, April 24th

9:00 am Announcements and Introductions (Fredrika Moser, Panel Chair)

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

9:25 am Provide Status of Action Items from Past Meetings (Moser and Slacum)

9:50 am Charge to Working Groups

10:00 am Working Group Break-Out

11:00 am Break

11:15 am Discussion of PA Invasive Species Programs

12:15 pm Update on Environmental Law Institute Project

12:45 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Update on Panel website (Ann Faulds, Education and Outreach Chair)

2:00 pm Update on Science and Management Project (Jonathon McKnight, Science and Management Chair)

2:30 pm Update on Policy Working Group survey (Sara-identify someone to do this)

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Membership AIS Activity Updates-State, Federal, and other groups

4:00 pm Update on Budget (Moser and Slacum)

-Discussion on how to use remaining project funds each year (fund state management actions cited in their AIS plans)?

4:30-5:00 pm Adjourn

Wednesday, April 25th

8:30 am Panel Updates (Moser and Slacum)

-NOAA Rapid Response

-Experts Database Needs

-Mitten crab project

- Future meeting with Invasive Species Councils
- Announcement of HACCP meeting in PA
- Update on Federal NAISA legislation
- AIS Databases

9:30 am Working Group Break-out (if needed)

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Working Group Reports

11:45 am Update on Membership/Nominations for new membership (Moser and Slacum)

12:00 pm Unfinished Business and Discuss Dates for Fall Meeting (Moser)

12:30 pm Adjourn

MAPAIS Spring 2007 Meeting Minutes
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, Philadelphia, PA
April 24-25, 2007

Attendance

| Name | Agency | E-mail address |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sara Grise | Pennsylvania Sea Grant | Sng121@psu.edu |
| Dieter Busch | Ecosystem Advisory Services | |
| Tom Smith | VA DCR | Tom.Smith@dcv.virginia.gov |
| Maribeth Hampel | Partnership for the DE Estuary | mhampel@delawareestuary.org |
| Catherine Martin | DE Fish and Wildlife | Catherine.martin@state.de.us |
| Matt Jones | USCG | Matthew.G.Jones@uscg.mil |
| Tim Sinnot | NYSDEC | txsinnot@gw.dec.state.ny.us |
| Julie Slacum | USFWS | Julie_thompson@fws.gov |
| Ann Faulds | PA Sea Grant | afaulds@psu.edu |
| Steve Minkinen | USFWS | Steve_Minkinen@fws.gov |
| Jim Bean | BASF | James.bean@basf.com |
| Ray Fernald | VDGIF | Ray.fernald@dgif.virginia.gov |
| Dave Heicher | SRBC | dheicher@srbc.net |
| Fredrika Moser | MDSG | moser@mdsg.umd.edu |
| Jonathan McKnight | MD DNR | jmcknight@dnr.state.md.us |
| Reid Porter | ELI | porter@eli.org |
| Roxanne Thomas | ELI | Thomas@eli.org |
| Robert Morgan | PA Fish and Boat Commission | |
| Robert Coxe | DE Fish and Wildlife | Robert.Coxe@state.de.us |

Tuesday, April 24th

Welcome and Introductions:

The Panel Chair, Fredrika Moser, welcomed the Panel and thanked Jim Bean for providing lunch and break food. Members and participants attending the meeting introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Agenda:

The agenda was approved by the Panel.

Opening Remarks:

Moser started the meeting by giving a brief overview of what we have accomplished since we started the Panel two years ago. She stated that we didn't have a lot of funding and we didn't have a mandate but we have come a long way because of our common concern about the risks posed by aquatic invasive species. Julie Slacum, the Panel Coordinator has developed a timeline which describes what we have accomplished during the last two years. The timeline was provided to the members.

The following things have been accomplished:

- 1) Created an Executive Committee with a Chair, Vice Chair, three working group chairs, and a coordinator;
- 2) Developed a diverse membership with a core group of people who do a lot of work;
- 3) Gone from a Chesapeake Bay Program Invasive Species Work Group (CBP ISWG) to an eight state regional panel with invasive species experts, go-to people in the states, and a strong communication structure;
- 4) We have done a good job identifying ourselves through our website, brochure, and poster, we now need to discuss how we can be effective;
- 5) We have created a survey which will further help us to define priorities;
- 6) We have built momentum from the CBP ISWG by extracting priorities from single species management plans and using them to help define regional priorities.

Moser provided a quick overview of the Panel's current priorities:

1) promote the development of a national database-right now many different states and organizations have their own databases, it would be more effective if we had one national database that one of the Federal agencies could maintain; 2) connect with IS councils in the region-we are looking for funding to bring together representatives from IS Councils to meet with representatives from our Panel to better understand common priorities and how we can maximize efforts; 3) encourage states to develop an AIS plan-PA, VA, and NY have plans approved by Task Force; DE has a comprehensive state plan; MD, NJ, WVA, and NC need to develop a plan; 4) develop a regional rapid response plan-this would incorporate the Incident Command System used by the Coast Guard and many other agencies; 5) work with the Environmental Law Institute to examine regional coordination under existing state authorities for prevention of aquatic invasive species in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Discussion on Panel priorities:

Dieter Busch stated that the priorities make sense but wondered whether there is an overarching issue that we are not considering. Is the definition of aquatic invasive species too broad? For example, the same species may go unregulated in one state, while in another state it is highly regulated. States need to come to an agreement on these inconsistencies in invasive species management. Ann Faulds stated that states usually focus on species that are already a problem.

The Environmental Law Institute will help us to figure out what states can and can't do. We need to come up with a succinct message that all the states can agree upon. Tim Sinnot suggested using a specific species as an example then going broader to address the larger regulatory inconsistencies. Fredrika Moser stated that agency personnel with regulatory knowledge in the different states know what their constraints.

Update on Action Items:

Moser went over the action items from the last two years. She divided them up into different topic areas. The following action items were discussed:

Website: We need to identify someone from the working groups to get information to the Education and Outreach group for the website; Tim Sinnot suggested that each quarter members could generate a news item, the Coordinator could send out a reminder.

Working Groups: The Science and Management Working Group was tasked with developing coarse maps for the seven "species of note" by the Spring 2007 meeting. The

group has developed some demo maps for several species. The Education and Outreach Working Group tasked Ann Faulds to work with Matt Denning of the USCG to develop an “Eyes on the Water” campaign for watermen and boaters. Faulds is working on this and will use Chinese mitten crab for their first effort.

Databases: Fredrika Moser will make a recommendation to the Task Force that they advocate development of a federally funded national database. Rapid Response: A draft scope of work has been created. We may receive funds this year.

ANSTF: Fredrika Moser needs recommendations from Panel members to present at the May 2007 Task Force meeting.

Membership: Julie Slacum stated that we are having a difficult time getting NJ and DC engaged. She has corresponded with Jon Siemen from DC Fisheries. Ira Palmer has retired so Jon has been Acting Director. Once they hire a Director he will have more time to participate in Panel activities. NJ may become more involved through the IS Council and regional panel joint meeting planning process. Slacum also stated that we are having a tough time finding NGOs that want to be members. Someone from the Panel suggested using our new Panel brochure to recruit new members. People that are doing on the ground work should be encouraged to join. Tim Sinnot suggested contacting someone from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Julie (don’t have last name) replaced Russ Mason.

Action: Julie Slacum contact IAFWA to request their participation in the Panel.

Tim Sinnot also suggested looking into whether the Aquatic Plant Management Society has a mid-Atlantic chapter. Dave Heicher suggested contacting the American Fisheries Society State chapters such as the Tidewater, Potomac, Mid-Atlantic. We could write up a short summary of who we are for them to put in their publications.

Update on Policy Working Group Survey: Tim Sinnot

Last fall the Working Group sent out the survey to state agencies. It was a large survey but not difficult to complete. The Policy Working Group provided the membership with a summary of the findings from the survey.

Some of the major findings of the survey are:

- 1) Definition of AIS: similar among states but not totally the same, there is a need to reconcile definitions;
- 2) States Listed Major Pathways: movement of boats, trailers, equipment, gear (from recreational boating, angling, and research); intentional releases/introductions; nursery trade, water garden trade, contamination of trade products; sale of live organisms (pet trade, live fish markets); commercial shipping;
- 3) AIS management plans: 3 states approved under ANSTF (VA, PA, NY), other states have other plans (DE); obstacles to developing plans include lack of staffing and funding;
- 4) All states feel they have adequate taxonomic expertise;
- 5) Resource Issues:
 - a) funding;
 - b) statutes and policies;
 - c) staff;
 - d) increased priorities within agencies;
 - e) enforcement power;
 - f) control methods and technology.
- 6) Top Areas for Possible Regional Efforts:

- a) joint outreach materials;
- b) risk assessment training;
- c) GIS/shared database training;
- d) Educator training;
- e) AIS HACCP training;
- f) Model planning efforts.

We need to have the Policy group give a more detailed analysis of the survey and say if items are ranked or not. Jim Bean thinks that getting more funding is something we can work on by building a constituency that demands funding for the problem.

Education and Outreach Working Group Update on Website: Ann Faulds

Website: The website is pretty much done and about ready to upload, it should be ready to go soon. **Update: The new website went live on April 26, 2007.**

Proposed review process for adding and editing things to the website:

-Lengthy items send to EC for approval in seven days.

-Routine updates, typos, names, meetings, panel updates will be changed by the Panel Coordinator and Ann Faulds using Adobe "Contribute."

Brochure: The brochure is ready to go, Ann is working on getting bids for printing.

There was a big response from the group with regard to comments.

Poster: The poster is almost finished, Ann will ask membership how many they want.

We may do some disposable and some laminated. We will also have a portable display that would be available for shipping.

Discussion of Pennsylvania Invasive Species Program:

Robert Morgan, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Conservation Planning Biologist

Morgan provided a summary outline of his talk: 1) PA AIS plan; 2) PA regulations; 3) AIS species of concern; 4) current AIS efforts and initiatives; 5) data gaps; 5) resource needs.

Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council:

In 2004, the Governor signed an Executive Order, which established an Invasive Species Council. The council's mandate is to be an advisory group to the Governor; develop a state management plan; provide guidance on prevention, control, and rapid response initiatives; and to facilitate coordination among federal, regional, state, and local efforts.

Logistics: The Council is made up of 7 state agencies and 10 at-large members. The Department of Agriculture chairs the council and coordinates the council. The Council meets on a quarterly basis. The Council is known as the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council or Governor's Invasive Species Council. Members of the Council include the Department of Agriculture (chair), DCNR, DEP, DOH, DOT, Fish and Boat, and Game Commission. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat lead the aquatics side. At-Large members include Penn Ag Industries, Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership, PA Farm Bureau, and others. The At-Large membership was designated as to involve trade groups in the process.

PA Invasive Species Management Plan:

The management plan is complete and was approved by the Governor and approved by the ANSTF. They are now entering the implementation phase.

Statutes:

PA Fish and Boat Statute

Pennsylvania law broadly defines “fish” to include all fish, fish bait, amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic organisms. There are not a lot of statutes to work with on the aquatics side. Currently 10 aquatic species are designated by PA as illegal to transport, possess, or introduce. Staff and law enforcement enforce this policy by tracking distribution of species, conducting on-site inspections, coordinating with other regulatory agencies, and through public education. At this time PA LE is limited in scope.

The logo of the PA Fish and Boat Commission is a trout. The focus of the agency is the “game fish” industry and the Commission’s funding is from licensing fees. Throughout the state government there is not much interest in AIS, however, the recent Executive Order and newly approved state management plan are putting AIS on the radar screen. AIS species of concern in the PA code include: purple loosestrife, phragmites, Japanese knotweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, hydrilla, northern snakehead, black carp, bighead carp, silver carp, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, round goby, tubenose goby, European rudd, and rusty crayfish. The Carp issue needs attention immediately!! Asian Carp are near PA, if they come in it could be a major issue. The Fish and Boat Commission doesn’t think that snakehead will be a problem but this is based on anecdotal information on bass and snakehead interaction. The red eared slider is also being considered for the state’s prohibited species list. Species that are the highest priority in the state are: zebra and quagga mussel, round goby, snakehead, red-eared slider, and rusty crayfish. There are some studies being conducted on the red eared slider and on rusty crayfish distribution. The Fish and Boat Commission is not funded under state tax dollars so they can’t fund research directly on endangered species and AIS. They have to get funding from outside sources.

Current AIS activities and initiatives in PA:

- education initiatives for Waterways conservation officers;
- information dissemination and public education programs targeting invasive species;
- have a state snakehead management plan;
- DEP zebra mussel monitoring plan;
- Hydrilla monitoring project in planning stages;
- increased monitoring of AIS in PA’s Lake Erie’s waters.

Data Gaps:

-The Fish and Boat doesn’t have money to support research. They need data on AIS distribution, population numbers, and competitive interaction between non-native and native species. They need this information for the regulatory process. They need high quality basic and applied research coordination with priorities of state agencies.

Current money:

State Wildlife Grants (\$50-100K)

Wild Resource Conservation Fund (\$30-40 K)

Sea Grant (\$10-15 K)

They have very little money, so there is very little response from the regulatory agencies.

This completed Bob’s talk which was followed by discussion.

Bob Morgan: Fish and Boat Commission has not been interested in responding to zebra mussel and the recent quagga mussel invasion. It’s going to take a disaster to get funding.

Julie Slacum: There used to be National Sea Grant Research and Outreach funds but that program money is drying up. Slacum questioned the state having a northern snakehead management plan and suggested that they coordinate with USFWS on the Northern Snakehead National Management Plan.

Fredrika Moser: How does something get listed?

Bob Morgan: To get something listed, it has to go through the Fish and Boat Commission's commissioners, which is a lengthy process. If we can get commissioners focused it can go well but they are private citizens and mostly business men, so they have a business outlook. If listing a species could affect a business enterprise they are cautious about moving forward too quickly with a listing.

Jonathon McKnight: Do you have areas of PA where there aren't any red-eared sliders?

Bob Morgan: Three quarters of PA is not infested, we are trying to get research done to keep it contained but the pet industry has a huge lobby.

Tim Sinnot??: Is the pet industry represented on the At-Large membership in PISC?

Bob Morgan: I'm not sure.

Ann Faulds: Composition of the At-Large membership was hotly debated.

Bob Morgan: We think it would be very valuable for the Fish and Boat Commission to have a position totally devoted to AIS issues.

Ann Faulds: That will go nowhere if your administration is not interested.

There remains a lack of commitment from PA administrators as to how aggressively they want to address the invasive species problem. For example, although Asian carp is on the border of PA, there is no support for seriously addressing the problem. Although, a management plan exists for Asian Carp when the IS council went to ask the Governor for a line item to get funding to support management efforts it was denied.

Prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed-Read Porter, Environmental Law Institute

The Environmental Law Institute has an invasive species program, which has produced a number of publications since 2000. ELI is currently working on a project, which examines regional cooperation for the prevention of aquatic invasive species in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Current efforts of the states are focused on existing threats. Less is done on the prevention side. ELI believes that prevention is the most cost effective way to address invasive species. Keller et al. (2006) documents prevention efforts in New Zealand. Environmental challenges to prevention in the Chesapeake Bay include: ballast water, aquaculture, and horticulture. There are multiple tributaries so there can be coastal spread of species. Legal challenges include multiple sources of legal authority (federal, state, and regional), which leads to potential tensions and synergies between jurisdictions. Also, not all states share the same interests (e.g., headwater states versus coastal states). Types of regulations that deal with prevention include:

Prohibitions (clean or dirty list), permitting (licensing and import permits for captive wildlife and aquatic organisms and permitting for aquaculture facilities), Regulations (facility design standards and pathway specific provisions). Maryland's regulatory authorities include: Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Department of Agriculture. There is a state invasive species council but it does not have regulatory authority. Virginia's regulatory authorities include: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Department of Agriculture,

and the Virginia Invasive Species Council. Pennsylvania's regulatory authorities are Department of Agriculture, Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council. There are many agencies with regulatory authority which makes AIS prevention legally complex. There are also diverse species and pathways. A unified action is needed to address these challenges. The Chesapeake Bay Commission consists of VA, PA, MD, and EPA but doesn't have regulatory authority. The Chesapeake Bay Program consists of MD, VA, PA, EPA, DC, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. GAO has questioned the Bay Program's effectiveness. However, the Bay Program did establish an invasive species work group and proposed this regional panel. ELI has come up with some recommendations to deal with prevention on a regional basis. Their preliminary recommendations include: 1) the states develop state management plans; 2) the invasive species councils establish contact with each other independently or through the Chesapeake Bay Commission; 3) regional leadership-establish AIS prevention workgroups that would continue to identify gaps in state laws and regulations; 4) encourage harmonization of legal authorities; 5) minimize duplication of efforts; 6) develop a MOU on prevention with headwater states similar to the water quality MOU through the CBC, 7) Improve legal authorities-encourage states to harmonize lists; 8) support federal ballast exchange efforts; 9) institute regulations regarding boat washing; 10) strengthen permitting, licensing, and facility design standards to avoid enhanced risks from aquaculture and other pathways; 11) seek funding for research and opportunities for information sharing (e.g., risk assessment, pathway analysis, impacts of predicted changes in ecosystems).

Dieter Busch: For listing it would be useful for someone to come up with a generic matrix that provides guidance for the states to list undesirable species. This would help address the problem of states agreeing on what species to list.

Read Porter: ELI will include a chart which details what species are listed for each state. What Dieter is suggesting he thinks would be difficult to do.

Action: Include state prohibited species list on our website when ELI has completed their project.

Ann Faulds: Some argue that is why a vector management approach is more effective towards prevention.

Read Porter: Most states have laws regarding release of aquatic invasive species but enforcement of this is an issue.

Tim Sinnot: Most people don't know about the laws.

Fredrika Moser: Will you examine listing versus prevention through pathways?

Read Porter: Listing is how it works in most states and they mainly utilize "dirty lists."

Dirty lists are ineffective in stopping introductions. ELI's position is that a "clean list" is better because there is a screening process before import but few states do this.

Pennsylvania does this for some aquaculture species. There should be support for states to incorporate "clean lists."

Jonathan McKnight: When the states make the effort to focus on prevention, the interest falls back to species they are actively managing. So does ELI have a suggestion for dealing with this? I hope you will address the problem of states not getting credit or being encouraged to move forward on their efforts at prevention. Why, when everyone can agree on the importance of prevention, it is so difficult to practice it in management or regulations?

Dieter Busch: Did you think about the big picture of ecosystem health with this project? We should use this more to convince states to focus on prevention.

Read Porter: We should have put something in the report about promoting healthy ecosystems.

Ann Faulds: Have you spoken with the Sea Grant Law Center? I think they are conducting a similar study and may have some funds available for your work.

Roxanne Thomas: We tried to get funding from them.

Tom Smith: For the states, it would be useful if you provided an in-depth review of existing laws and made recommendations for strengthening laws. Virginia identified this as an action in their state management plan.

Read Porter: No, we aren't going to do that. We are more focused on cooperation at an interstate level.

Roxanne Thomas: The study will address how existing state authorities are playing out on the ground.

Dave Heicher: From a regulatory standpoint, Susquehanna River Basin Commission has not been involved with AIS. They were involved when states in the Susquehanna River Basin were considering the introduction of sterile grass carp for aquatic weed control. SRBC can have a regulatory role if it involves a withdrawal of water. They will be updating their management plan, and would like to include AIS more comprehensively.

Update on Science and Management Project-Jonathan McKnight

McKnight spoke about his mapping project where the working group put together a list of AIS in the Mid-Atlantic region. They started with seven databases and had 1,642 records and approximately 700 species. They narrowed down the list to 47 species of concern and ended up using seven of those species for map demos. These maps will spatially represent where the species are in the region. McKnight stated that he felt that these maps would help us to identify ourselves as a region. They produced their maps by developing a grid based on Bailey's ecoregions and using the coastal plain physiographic region. McKnight explained that their intent was not to produce a detailed GIS layer with point data it was to use a gradient or polygon. They came up with the following provinces for mapping purposes: Northern mountains, Atlantic Coastal Plain north and south tiers, Great Lakes Coastal Plain, Ohio Hills, Piedmont, and the Central Appalachians. McKnight showed maps that the working group had created for Chinese mitten crab, *Codium fragile*, zebra mussels, and hydrilla. Ray Fernald has volunteered to have his staff put the maps in Arc View format. McKnight passed around a survey form which will be sent to the different states to get information on presence/absence in the different geographic areas to develop the maps for each species. The maps could be put on the Panel website and the group could potentially map all 47 species.

Steve Minkinen: We need to time stamp these maps. They could be useful in prioritizing Panel projects.

Fredrika Moser: On the survey form, could you give them the opportunity to give more detail if they want to?

Jonathan McKnight: We won't be able to utilize more detail because we are only looking at presence/absence in the different geographic areas. The survey form and mapping was intended to be simplistic so that we can get feedback.

Fredrika Moser: It will be important to establish a database for the information you receive from the survey.

Tim Sinnot: These maps will be useful, they will give a quick identification of what is where, if someone wants information at a finer spatial scale they can go to the USGS site. We should add a link to that site for people to go to if they need to. We don't want to get into the business of having to manage a large database.

Ray Fernald: This is the level of detail that schools would use and could be an incredible educational tool.

Fredrika Moser: We need to make a disclaimer that these maps are not quantitative (e.g., based on multiple points) but qualitative.

Roxanne Thomas: You should establish a date for getting the survey back from each state each year.

Action: One person from each state complete the survey form for the seven species (Need someone from NJ, NC, DC, WVA).

Action: Science and Management Group document methods for selecting the 47 species, produce maps for at least seven species with a written explanation, and post on the web after Panel approval.

The following people agreed to fill out the survey: Jim Grazio-PA, Tim Sinnot-NY, Jonathan McKnight-MD, Catherine Martin-DE, Tom Smith-VA

State and Federal Updates-

Matt Jones, US Coast Guard

Moser and Slacum requested that Matt Jones give a quick overview of the Incident Command System, which must be incorporated into our regional rapid response plan. Jones stated that ICS was originally developed for firefighters. When a lot of agencies are working together, there needs to be defined roles and responsibilities. There needs to be a contingency plan where everything is defined (what agency is taking the lead for what). This system can be used for small to large scale incidents. It is important to know the ICS structure, know the terminology, and see how the support system works. There is web based training through FEMA. Jones suggested taking the ICS100 and ICS200 level training. He stated that the system does work.

Jonathon McKnight: I have seen the system work at its best and worst.

Tim Sinnot: The Northeast Panel did a mock rapid response.

Matt Jones: The Coast Guard does drills and exercises throughout the year and could probably incorporate us into an exercise.

Action: Julie Slacum look into whether the ICS100 and ICS200 level course are free through FEMA. Work with the Coast Guard during our regional rapid response planning to develop or participate in an ICS drill.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Dave Heicher

There has been a confirmed sighting of quagga mussels in Clover Creek Quarry (this is in the Susquehanna basin). SRBC's interest in that area is with sediment and nutrients in the Morrison Cove Area. However, we don't have the regulatory authority to respond because it is in a private quarry.

Update: Julie Slacum spoke to Jim Grazio (PA DEP). Jim stated that the PA Fish and Boat Commission cannot take enforcement action against the quarry owner because it is private property. There are no plans for eradication, no outlet stream from the quarry, and the divers are still using the quarry.

Ann Faulds: It took almost a year to confirm that these were quagga mussels because it is in a private quarry and we haven't confirmed whether the quarry is isolated hydrologically. There is a good chance that the introduction was intentional. This is the second diving quarry that has been contaminated. Sea Grant plans to do outreach aimed towards the diving community.

Julie Slacum-Jonathan McKnight, aren't you concerned about this? Why won't PA deal with this?

Ann Faulds-The state agencies are overworked. Fish and Boat Commission has the authority to go on the property but there is no regulation against the quarry owner having quagga mussels in their quarry.

Jonathan MacKnight: That is a cop-out.

Fredrika Moser: Can SRBC write a letter?

Jonathan McKnight: Draft a letter to the PA governor from the Panel with a copy to the Commission (CBC-Ann Swanson, cc: Kane, O'Malley, PISC (chair or co-chair).

Action: Julie Slacum work with Dieter Busch to draft this letter and get it reviewed by the Panel. Make sure to include that quagga and zebra mussels have major economic impacts where they are introduced and cite the Executive Order language of PISC.

Update on Action: After speaking with the Executive Secretary of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the letter would have to come from one of the states. Julie Slacum will work with Jonathan McKnight from Maryland and Tim Sinnot from New York to see if their agency heads would be willing to sign off on such a letter to the governor of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant-Ann Faulds

PA DEP has handed over the Zebra mussel monitoring program to Pennsylvania Sea Grant. Sea Grant is trying to revitalize it and will work on a monitoring program to detect adult mussels. They are working on training, which they will get some advice from VA on how to get people to monitor. They will be putting existing records into GIS and will put that into Google earth.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation-Tom Smith

In 2003, the Virginia Invasive Species Council was established. In 2006, when legislation was back up for renewal, the Invasive Species Council dissolved. Governor Kane recently signed an Executive Order which re-established the Invasive Species Working Group. They will have a meeting on June 15th. Key issues in Virginia with the Invasive Species Council: the website has been updated, there is an Invasive Species list, there are education efforts underway, there is a legal review, there are early detection programs out there in VA, and survey protocol for agencies to use. The state's AIS plan was approved by the ANSTF in February 2007.

Phragmites-they have been mapping on the Eastern shore of VA by flying surveys.

They worked with USFWS last fall to control 2,100 acres of phragmites. They are conducting landowner education workshops about phragmites and how to manage it.

For their mapping they are going to have on-line results of detailed aerial surveys. They plan to do aerial surveys next in the Rappahannock

Ray Fernald, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

VA DGIF worked with USFWS and Sea Grant to produce "Don't Dump Bait" and "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" signs to post at boat ramps. Brian Watson has been giving talks on the zebra mussel eradication project all over the nation. The agency is continuing to

monitor Milbrook Quarry and Broad Run after the zebra mussel eradication. They have another eight months of monitoring. To date, there has not been much of a change in biology of the quarry. Over the first summer, there was an increase in the potassium level in the bottom of the quarry. They think either the zebra mussels sunk after they were treated and there was no thermocline or once the thermocline set up zebra mussels settled to bottom and as that flesh decomposed it released potassium into the water column. During the fall, the potassium mixed throughout the water column. There is no evidence of leakage into Broad Run. VA DGIF continues to add species to the NIS list, they just started a new regulatory cycle and may add some new species to the list. They have recently prohibited the import and sale of crayfish for bait. They have put in a request for a full time invasive species position.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Jonathan McKnight

There have been no more sightings of Chinese mitten crab in Maryland. Maryland has promulgated a new regulation which lists 22 aquatic species as prohibited, which bans the sale, import, and transport of these species in Maryland. Mute swan control has been effective; numbers have decreased from 4,000 to 1,400. The nutria eradication project continues with trappers conducting ground reconnaissance around the main control area. The eradication zone is 32,000 acres and there has been incredible wetland recovery. The wetland seed bank and soil is still present in areas that were damaged by nutria grazing. The project has cost \$5.5 million.

Julie Slacum: Phragmites-USDA NRCS, USFWS, and Maryland DNR have a partnership. USDA contributes funding through their Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The partnership accomplished 2,000 acres of control on the eastern shore of Maryland in 2006.

Jim Bean: BASF started a grant program last year for invasive plant control projects. Last year they had \$200,000 and this year they will have \$300,000.

Jonathan MacKnight: The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is also an avenue for control funds.

MDNR received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative grant to train volunteers to identify and control purple loosestrife via mechanical control. The state will also put beetles out for biological control.

USFWS-Steve Minkinen

The USFWS sent a draft of the National Northern Snakehead Management Plan to the USFWS Washington Office. Once they are done reviewing it and changes are made the plan will go in the Federal Register for public comment.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control-Catherine Martin

Delaware continues to have a Phragmites control program, also using WHIP and LIP funds. The Delaware Invasive Species Council held invasive plant forums for industry and conservation groups. These groups ranked education, voluntary actions, and regulation as most important for prevention of invasive plants. The Board of the Invasive Species Council will write a grant to develop an Invasive plant atlas for DE. The atlas will tie in with the University of Delaware, state agencies, and NGOs. It will map where the plants are and would establish a MOU between agencies to push the topic into the political arena so they can get an Invasive Species Coordinator for the state.

BASF-Jim Bean-In the beginning of May there will be a Coalition for Invasive Plant Control webcast that will feature how NY successfully secured funding for invasive species control.

New York Department of Environmental Conservation-Tim Sinnot

The Nature Conservancy has been the biggest mover and shaker on getting invasive species money for the state. Legislation was passed to create a task group and produce recommendations. Once they made the recommendations, the state could either put up or shut up. The state now has an invasive species grant program. In 2005, they received one million for an eradication program. The program required a 2 to 1 match. They received 43 applications and gave out 32 grant awards. The average grant size was \$32,000 and the most prevalent species were Eurasian watermilfoil, phragmites, water chestnut, and purple loosestrife. Major methods of control were herbicides and hand pulling.

In 2006 they received 3.25 million with 1 million for eradication, \$300,000 for a database, \$300,000 for education and \$300,000 for research. The remainder is for the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species management, which will involve citizen groups in monitoring. In 2007, NYDEC received 5 million, with 2 million going for terrestrial and aquatic eradication programs. This eradication program now requires a 1:1 match, and a minimum grant of \$7,000. The deadline for grants is June, 2007. They now want to encourage rapid response on small scale projects. NY hired a full time Invasive Species coordinator, Leslie Supernaut. She will probably participate on the Northeast Regional Panel.

Wednesday, April 25th

Update on Budget-Julie Slacum

Carryover of 2004-2006 funds was \$89,113.30. Expenditures in 2006 were \$49,557.76. We will also be receiving 2007 funds this summer. This would provide us with over \$60,000 to use for small scale projects. Fredrika Moser would like to establish a limited RFP so that the process of spending the funds is more transparent. The proposals will be 2-3 pages, and will include a budget.

Action: Julie Slacum needs to get the Draft RFP out to the Executive Committee during the first two weeks of May.

Discussion of RFP:

Fredrika Moser: Once the RFP goes out, the due date will be one month later, preferably in the beginning of June. There will be a review process and we might include outside reviewers.

Jim Bean: For our BASF grant program, we spent a lot of time answering questions. You may want a conference call to deal with the questions.

Tim Sinnot: The Policy Working Group has come up with three ideas for funding. One would be to summarize some key points from the state survey and graphically illustrate those points. An intern could do this. We would then produce a document similar to the Great Lakes Panel's "Biological Invasions" report with the intended audience being policy-makers. The second project would be to pull together a status and trends of ballast water in the Mid-Atlantic.

Fredrika Moser: You would have to talk to SERC. What is the product and why would you be generating it?

Tim Sinnot: You could mail it to legislators in each state.

Another project would be for every state to identify 1-2 interstate issues that MAPAIS could use to bring the parties together and facilitate discussion.

Tim Sinnot: Also, one of the Panels used project funding to purchase watch cards.

Fredrika Moser: I would think something like a facebook page might generate more interest, for a specific demographic than watch cards.

Jonathan McKnight: The Science and Management Working Group would like to obtain some funds to get SERC to review protocols established by MARAD for scaling to remove potential AIS from the ghost ship hulls before they are moved out of the ports.

Update: Jonathan McKnight found out that this analysis has already been conducted and reviewed by VA DEQ and SERC.

Ray Fernald: This is really important to the states and would serve as a model for all the other states that have ghost fleets.

Tim Sinnot: It would be useful even if you come up with questions for the states to ask when trying to come up with a problem formulation for a risk assessment.

Julie Slacum: We need to decide whether or not we require the working groups to apply for project funds through the RFP.

Action: Working Group proposals due May 21st to Julie Slacum.

Updates-Julie Slacum

Regional Rapid Response-When NOAA gets their budget worked out for 2007, we should get \$20,000 to do a plan. The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force wants us to use the Incident Command System in our plan. Fredrika Moser would like to seek the assistance of a retired Coast Guard employee to assist with the development of our rapid response plan. His name is Tim Dean. If no one in the Panel wants to take the lead on the rapid response plan, Maryland Sea Grant will coordinate it. The plan may involve planning a mock invasion.

Ann Faulds: Sarah Whitney is putting in a proposal to do a mock invasion in Pennsylvania.

Action: Ask Coast Guard to give a presentation on ICS at our Fall meeting.

Matt Jones: Bob Ward out of Philadelphia Coast Guard could assist us with performing an ICS exercise.

Fredrika Moser: It will be important that the plan identify challenges such as funding and jurisdictional issues. MOUs may have to be established between the states.

Experts Database-Julie Slacum

Slacum talked about the National Experts Database that USGS has developed. She has received Tier 1 names from PA, NY, NJ, DC, DE, and MD. She still needs names from WVA and VA:

Action: Tom Smith, Ray Fernald, and Jim Hedrick provide Tier 1 expert names for VA and WVA.

The next step is to work on Tier 2 experts. Sara Grise, from Pennsylvania Sea Grant has started working on this for PA.

Action: Julie Slacum will see what Sara Grise has done for Tier 2 so we don't duplicate her efforts.

ANSTF Request to Panel-Julie Slacum

The Task Force would like to send a letter to the state governors to recognize and express appreciation for state efforts to address aquatic invasives to date and encourage future efforts in this area.

Action: MD, VA, WVA, and NJ provide information to the Task Force for their letter to the governors. Provide the following information:

1) Name and mailing address of the governor, 2) Name and associated agency of regional panel representative on the Panel, 3) One or two major state AIS initiatives or action that might be worked in the text.

Chinese mitten crab project-Julie Slacum

SERC started survey work last Fall. They did some trapping in the Patapsco River. Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) organized some trawling at North Point, the mouth of the Middle River, and the mouth of the Back River last Fall. MDNR also looked for mitten crabs during their winter trawl survey and spring-summer juvenile seine survey. No mitten crabs were detected during these monitoring efforts. Based on their ecology in their native environment and on the West Coast, they migrate downstream at this time of year, so this would be a good time to monitor. SERC is coming up with a monitoring plan for this spring and summer and they will reconnect with the groups that will be out on the water, and they will schedule some more extensive trapping, seining, and trawling in the Patapsco, and Gunpowder. They have developed a draft watch card and are working on a distribution list. Once the watch card is finalized, Panel members wishing to distribute in their state can request cards. Other outreach may include, posting an article in the Waterman's Gazette. Someone in the Panel suggested doing an article in National Fisherman.

Ann Faulds: The Education and Outreach Working group looked at the card. We feel like it is a bit long and there is no number to contact if you find one.

Julie Slacum: I will give you Carin Ferrante's contact information. She is the person from SERC working on this.

Action: Ann Faulds contact SERC to provide them comments on the watch card.

Update: Ann Faulds contacted SERC on April 27, 2007. SERC will incorporate comments during the next printing due to time constraints with getting the first version out.

Action: Request that SERC give a presentation at the Fall 2007 meeting.

SERC took tissue samples from the two crabs found. The haplotypes are ones that are common in Europe, which suggests they are coming from Europe or Asia and not the West Coast.

Future Meeting with the Invasive Species Council-Julie Slacum and Fredrika Moser:

Julie Slacum and Fredrika Moser would like to write a grant to find money to hold a joint meeting between the regional panel and representatives of invasive species councils throughout the region. Right now we are in the process of sending a short survey to each invasive species council to get a better understanding of how each council operates, what their focus is, and what they would find valuable in a joint meeting.

Fredrika Moser: Would the state invasive species councils find it valuable to have a joint meeting? Our idea is that we would pay for travel, limit the numbers, but invite the right people from each state, and develop an agenda that is interesting to them.

Tom Smith: For VA, the three most active people on the council are already represented on MAPAIS.

Fredrika Moser: There is interest at the national level (NISC and ANSTF) in a meeting like this.

Tim Sinnot: This would be enormously useful in NY.

Ray Fernald: At the secretary level, they will only participate if there are other secretaries present.

Tim Sinnot: For NY they don't have an invasive species council they have a Task Group, so that is who you should contact.

Fredrika Moser: Julie Slacum and I will continue pulling information together from the invasive species councils and then look at the value of putting together a meeting.

Announcement of HACCP Workshop-Julie Slacum:

Ann Faulds and Julie Slacum will be assisting the USFWS Great Lakes Fisheries Office in giving a workshop on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) in Philadelphia, PA on May 24 and 25, 2007. The HACCP process helps participants to identify risks and develop procedures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species through their work.

The Panel discussed not using the acronym HACCP to recruit more participation in these workshops. One that was planned in Virginia in 2006 was cancelled due to a lack of participants. Ann Faulds stated that she tried to focus on not using acronyms for the flyer for the training in May but USFWS did not incorporate her suggestions.

Reauthorization of NAISA-Julie Slacum

Slacum passed around a summary of NAISA 2007. The bill includes supporting the development of AIS state management plans. Members seemed doubtful that the bill would pass this year.

Development of a National Database-Fredrika Moser

Development of a national database is a Panel priority. It has been frustrating because everyone wants it and needs it but it would need Federal funding.

Tom Smith: Nature Serve would be a good place to create an AIS database but funding is still an issue.

Working Group Reports:

Policy Working Group-Tim Sinnot:

The Working group would like to compile the results of the survey and give results back to the state contacts. The results would include some key points of the survey that would be graphically illustrated. The group suggested that the Panel work on outreach for dive shops in Pennsylvania. The group recommended that states focus on general guidelines and outcomes rather than specific language for states' statutes and authorities. The group would like to develop a manifesto like the CBP 1993 Introductions Policy that the states could adopt for aquatic invasive species. The group would like to ask each state to identify 1-2 interstate issues that MAPAIS could facilitate. The group would also like to have an intern work with SERC to develop a status and trends report for ballast water in the Mid-Atlantic.

Science and Management-Jonathan McKnight:

The group will submit a project proposal for evaluating procedures for scaling of ghost vessels by MYRAD. They will help populate the Experts database. They would like to

get the Panel to endorse giving an award to someone that is doing something significant for AIS. This would include a press release and award. MDNR would help financially.

Action: Submit nominations for award at Fall meeting.

Action: Invite someone from Department of Agriculture to speak about the Emerald Ash Borer rapid response using ICS at the Fall meeting.

Education and Outreach-Ann Faulds:

The group discussed ideas for promoting an “Eyes on the Water,” campaign. They would use mitten crabs for their first effort. The campaign would involve training Coast Guard personnel that board vessels. They would receive watch cards to distribute. Training would occur through a webcast. After the mitten crab, they could go from there with additional species.

-Catherine: Think about state LE, Coast Guard may not board commercial fishing boats often, we need to think about the target audience and who is going to reach the audience.

Ann Faulds: We took a quick look at the watch card SERC produced for mitten crab and it needs to be shorter for waterman. A more detailed fact sheet could accompany it or provide a link to the web.

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers-Fredrika Moser and Ann Faulds

There were several comments by Panel members during the Panel brochure and poster review process that the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers logo needed to be on the brochure and poster.

Julie Slacum: We discussed endorsing the campaign at our first meeting but the Panel did not make a decision.

Fredrika Moser: Does the Panel want to endorse this campaign?

Ray Fernald and Catherine Martin: Virginia and Delaware have just used the logo on their outreach materials.

Tim Sinnot: New York is a member and they have had no problems just using the logo.

Jonathan McKnight: Each state should decide whether they want to join the campaign or not.

The Panel agreed to go forward with this printing without the logo and include the logo for future printings.

Action: Julie Slacum will look into signing up for the campaign so we can get the logo for future printings of the brochure.

Update on Membership/Nominations for Membership-Julie Slacum

Slacum announced that Fred Kern from NOAA had retired. Jay Lewis out of the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory will be his replacement. Jay has a similar background to Fred. There were no nominations for new membership.

Fall Meeting Date-Fredrika Moser:

The next meeting will be in Annapolis, Maryland on September 18-19, 2007.

Julie Slacum stated that she might try to hold it at SERC in Edgewater, MD.

Moser asked whether the Panel would prefer to have one meeting a year. The Panel members decided that they would like to continue with two meetings a year format.

Recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force-Fredrika Moser:

Moser stated that she would be at the ANSTF meeting in Erie, PA on May 8-10. The Task Force has asked the Panels to make recommendations at these meetings. She asked the Panel if they had any recommendations that she could relay. The following three issues were identified by the Panel members:

- 1) Recommend that the Task Force write a letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania about lack of response to the quagga mussels in the Clover Creek Quarry.
- 2) Funding for Invasive species council and regional panel joint meeting.
- 3) Federal funding for the development of a national database for aquatic invasive species.

Moser asked members to email any additional requests they might have before the next meeting.