Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA
November 6-8, 2007

Draft Agenda
(As of 10/29/2007)

November 6, 2007 - Tuesday

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 - 8:35 Welcome

Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA

8:35 - 8:50 (#1) Introductions, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

8:50 - 10:15 (#2) Climate Change and Invasive Species

Session Moderators: Sharon Gross and Cindy Kolar, USGS

Species composition of aquatic communities will likely respond to changes in water temperature, flow and moisture regimes, and habitat alterations with continuing changes in the Earth's climate. Several studies have projected range shifts of ANS north and to higher elevations with climate change and a higher likelihood of overwintering by southerly invaders. There is also likely to be a change in the nature of biotic interactions between native and non-natives species. These population and community changes will create new challenges for agencies charged with the prevention, early detection and rapid response, and control and management of ANS. Our topic of focused discussion for this meeting will be developing strategies to anticipate, identify and address these new challenges.

In the morning session, we will hear presentations on the adaptability of incorporating the implications of climate change into current state ANS management plans, the vulnerability of northern ecosystems to invasive species as the climate changes, and ongoing and future research examining interactions among climate change, ANS, and flow regime management. The afternoon will consist of breakout groups where we will begin to discuss how climate change will affect the prediction and mapping of ANS, management strategies, and research needs.

(1) A Primer on Global Climate Change

Looking to have either another speaker from the EPA Global Research Program or another agency/academic institution. USGS and EPA

(2) Link between climate change and invasion risk in Alaska

Denny Lassuy, Invasive Species Program Manager, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK

10:15 - 10:45 BREAK

10:45 - 12:00 (#2) Climate Change and Invasive Species (cont.)

(3) Predicting potential effects of climate change on invasive species distributions

Patrick Shafroth – U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center

(4) Climate change and effects on aquatic ecosystems

Britta Bierwagen, Global Change Research Program, U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development

(5) Panel Q & A

As time allows, panel members will respond to questions from attendees. (Some questions will be prepared ahead of time in case they are needed to jumpstart the discussion.)

(6) Review the process for the afternoon breakout sessions. See suggested focus questions on following page.

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 - 2:30 (#3) Breakout Sessions (3 topical groups)

2:30 - 3:15 (#3) Return to Plenary

Groups report on their discussions, get feedback and plan for second session.

3:15 - 3:30 BREAK

3:30 - 4:30 (#3) Breakout Sessions (cont.)

4:30 - 5:00 (#3) Return to Plenary

Groups report on their discussions and make recommendations for follow-on actions

5:00 ADJOURN FOR DAY

Climate Change and Invasive Species

Possible Focus Questions for Breakout Sessions

1. What is the scientific basis for expecting changes in human mediated invasion rates of aquatic ecosystems in North America that can related to climate shifts?

2. Indentify ANS implications of climate change and possible management strategies.

3. If climate shifts make North American aquatic ecosystems more suitable for new invaders, what can we do about it that we are not already trying to do?

    a) Should the Task Force suggest policy adaptations to account for this?

    b) Do anticipated climate changes modify priorities with regard to prevention, early detection/rapid response, monitoring, or control?

    c) Can we predict what the likely invaders would be and where they would invade?

    d) Are there preemptive measures that the Task Force should advocate and prepare for now.

4. Identify actions to minimize the risks of the management strategies.

5. What is being done at the state and regional levels in response to the predictions of significant climate change?

6. What research is needed?

7. Develop recommendations for federal agency action (policy/programmatic).

8. What are Federal agencies doing to reduce climate change on a daily basis as part of their operations and procedures?

November 7, 2007 - Wednesday

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 Reconvene

8:30 - 9:15 (#4) Committee Matters

ANSTF (Introduced by Scott Newsham)

Standing committees have been relatively inactive over the last year, primarily due to the absence of direct tasking from the ANSTF. Is this structure still valid or should ad hoc groups be formed as needs are identified? What direction can the ANSTF provide for the committees? Are committee membership rosters current?

DAVID REID (NOAA/GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL LABS) HAS PREPARED AN UPDATED VERSION OF "THE PROTOCOL FOR EVALUATION RESEARCH PROPOSALS CONCERNING NONINDIGENOUS AQUATIC SPECIES" (1994). *HE WOULD LIKE A GROUP TO REVIEW AND COMMENT BEFORE FORMAL SUBMISSION FOR ANSTF APPROVAL.*

(#5) Experts Database

Regional Panels / ANSTF (Introduced by Scott Newsham)

With over 575 experts registered, the Experts Database is off to an excellent start. Each Regional Panel is asked to briefly update the ANSTF on their regional efforts to register experts and give general feedback on the database itself.

9:15 - 10:00 (#6) Regional Panel Issues/Recommendations

Regional Panels / ANSTF

Regional panels are provided an opportunity to present emerging issues/concerns at the regional level and associated recommendations to the ANSTF.

Note: An unresolved issue from the May 2007 meeting is the request by the Western and Mississippi River Basin Panels that the ANSTF needs to respond to the request that ". . . the ANSTF recognize this pathogen [VHS] as an ANS and as a severe threat to the natural resources of North America." This will be addressed.

10:00 - 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 (#6) Regional Panel Issues/Recommendations (cont.)

11:30 - 12:00 (#7) Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States

Greg Conover, Chair of the Asian Carp Working Group, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carterville National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

The final draft plan was provided to the ANSTF on October 15, 2007. The plan and a summary of the major revisions, including the handling of unresolved issues, were posted on the ANSTF website.

GREG CONOVER WILL PRESENT THE PLAN IN ITS FINAL FORM AND THE ANSTF WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE THE PLAN.

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 - 1:50 (#7) Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States **(NEXT STEPS)**

ANSTF (USFWS will facilitate discussion)

Now that years of hard work have provided a management plan, what organization and process will be put in place to monitor the plan's implementation? This is related to the Control Committee's work to develop an implementation tracking and reporting process for ANSTF approved management and control plans. While the committee's recommendations will be presented in Spring 2008, it is suggested that an interim process based on past experiences be established.

1:50 – 2:20 (#8) Common Carp Management Plan

Dr. Peter Sorensen, Dept. Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology University of Minnesota

Building on his research, and programs in Australia and New Zealand, Dr. Sorensen will present a case for ANSTF support of a management and control plan for common carp in the United States. (See abstract on e-agenda)

2:20 - 2:30 (#9) Nutria Management Plan

Steve Kendrot, Chair of Nutria Management Plan Committee, USDA / APHIS Wildlife Services, Cambridge, MD

Paul Heimowitz, Vice-Chair of Nutria Management Plan Committee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR

The ANSTF authorized development of a Nutria Management and Control Plan at its May 2006 meeting. Steve Kendrot (USDA/APHIS) volunteered to lead this effort and held the first meeting of the working group this past August. He will update the ANSTF on the outcomes of that meeting and the proposed timeline for completion of the plan.

2:30 - 3:00 (#10) State Management Plans

Idaho Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan

Amy Ferriter, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Fred Partridge, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The ANSTF reviewed and commented on the Idaho plan in August. The limited comments were incorporated and the final document submitted with a cover letter from

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on September 10, 2007.

AMY FERRITER WILL PRESENT THE PLAN VIA TELECONFERENCE AND THE ANSTF WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE THE PLAN.

Rhode Island Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

Kevin Cute, Coastal Resources Management Council, Rhode Island

The Rhode Island plan is modeled after the Massachusetts management plan and is undergoing a review by the ANSTF members. Some comments have already been provided to the state for consideration. Rhode Island hopes to receive ANSTF 'conditional' approval of this plan at this meeting. This would allow the plan to be funded in FY-08 as long as the document is revised to address any ANSTF concerns and a formal submittal letter is received from the Governor of Rhode Island with the final plan.

KEVIN CUTE WILL PRESENT THE PLAN AND THE ANSTF WILL BE ASKED TO CONDITIONALLY APPROVE THE PLAN.

3:00 - 3:30 BREAK

3:30 - 3:50 (#10) State Management Plans (cont.)

California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

Susan Ellis, California State Invasive Species Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Game

The California plan is considered by some as the most comprehensive state plan received to date. Three years in preparation, it includes a well-developed appendix on rapid response. The draft plan was submitted for ANSTF review and comment in August 2006, with the ANSTF's primarily editorial comments provided at the end of September. The current document addresses those comments and includes extensive implementation and funding tables not in the original draft.

While the plan is pending Governor Schwarzenegger's signature, California requests ANSTF 'conditional' approval of this plan at this meeting. This would permit the plan to be funded in FY-08 once a formal submittal letter is received from the Governor.

A REPRESENTATIVE FOR CA DF&G WILL PRESENT THE PLAN AND THE ANSTF WILL BE ASKED TO CONDITIONALLY APPROVE THE PLAN.

3:50 - 5:00 (#11) State Management Plans (SMP) - FY-08 Allocation of Funds

ANSTF / Regional Panels

An action item from the Spring 2007 meeting was a request for the Regional Panels to develop recommendations to the ANSTF regarding the following:

1. The usefulness of existing SMP guidelines and how they could be improved.

2. How the current process might be modified to improve interstate/regional cooperation (if that is even desired).
3. Alternative SMP funding approaches (or is the current "1 plan = 1 slice of the pie" preferred?).

The Task Force will attempt to reach consensus on how the current SMP development process can be improved and how these improvements could be achieved; whether interstate/regional efforts are desired and what might need to be changed to encourage that; and a recommendation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on how the anticipated $1,075,000 in state/interstate management plan funding should be allocated.

IF THERE IS CONSENSUS THE SMP GUIDELINES NEED REVISION, AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE FORMED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY THE SPRING 2008 MEETING. SUGGEST THE ANSTF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CHAIR THE GROUP.

A RECOMMENDATION IS REQUIRED REGARDING THE ALLOCATION OF STATE/INTERSTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN FUNDS.

5:00 ADJOURN FOR DAY

November 8, 2007 - Thursday

8:00 – 8:30 Registration

8:30 Reconvene

8:30 - 10:00 (#12) Ballast Water Management

The ANSTF will receive updates from the following agencies on their ballast water management related activities of the past year.

U.S. Coast Guard

Commander Vickie Huyck, Chief of Environmental Standards, U.S. Coast Guard

(1) Development of a national treatment standard;

(2) Ballast water treatment technology, testing protocols, and the Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program (STEP); and

(3) International developments as they might apply to the United States.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Dean Wilkinson, NOAA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Marilyn Katz, EPA

Particular focus on activities in light of the court ruling directing EPA to regulate discharges from vessels that are incidental to their normal operations.

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

Dr. Jennifer Boehme, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

This presentation will demonstrate the wide scale applicability of chemical tracers for ballast water management enforcement. SERC has gathered data from a broad geographic area in the Pacific Ocean, including transects between Australia and New Zealand, a significant coastwise swath between Washington and southern California, and 8 significant ports in Asia and the western U.S.

10:00 - 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 11:00 (#13) Response to Quagga Mussel in Western States

Larry Riley, Wildlife Management Division, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Tina Proctor, Western Regional Panel Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver CO

Susan Ellis, California State Invasive Species Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Game

Federal and state perspectives on the recent response to infestations of quagga mussels in the lower Colorado River. What is going well and where is there room for improvement? Are all the necessary federal players engaged?

Columbia Basin Quagga/Zebra Mussel Response Exercise

Paul Heimowitz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR

Brief report on the October 23-24 response exercise in the Columbia Basin.

11:00 - 11:30 (#14) Revisit Earlier Items

As needed.

11:30 – 12:00 Public Comment / Review of Action Items / Discuss Next Meeting*

* Date and location of next meeting still to be determined. Late April or early May is normal time frame. South Atlantic or Gulf Coast has been suggested.

12:00 ADJOURN MEETING