

## ANSTF Meeting Presentation Information

**1) Name and affiliation of presenter:**

Page Valentine, U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole, MA

**2) Background information about presentation**

Georges Bank is a large shallow sand and gravel bank that bounds the Gulf of Maine on the east. It lies in both US and Canadian waters, and is a major New England fishing ground. Since 2003, large areas of gravel habitat have been overgrown by the invasive colonial tunicate *Didemnum vexillum*, which has aggressively colonized temperate regions around the world, including the US northeastern coastal region. So far, the species has affected 400 km<sup>2</sup> of gravel habitat on the bank. Temperature requirements for sexual reproduction limit the potential area of colonization to approximately 1/3 of the bank surface.

**3) If the presentation supports a decision, what is the decision point to be considered by the ANSTF? None**

**4) Does the subject matter relate to an objective(s) identified in the 2007-2012 ANS Strategic Plan? If so, explain. No**

**5) What is the ANSTF role(s) regarding the subject and decision points? None**