

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Update — Kim Bogenschutz

AFWA participated in National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) by assisting with the planning and implementation of the State and Regional Invasive Species Day. The USFWS provided support through AFWA for seven state representatives to attend NISAW. One of the breakout sessions during the State and Regional Invasive Species Day featured a panel discussion on the white paper AFWA's Invasive Species Committee is developing on Management of ANS: Federal and State Government Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities. Three main topics that emerged during the panel discussion were 1) the need for consistent state laws and regulations, 2) identifying additional funding mechanisms other than user fees, and 3) use of the term "nuisance" versus "invasive". The white paper will be completed this summer and submitted to the Directors for approval at AFWA's annual meeting in September.

Larry Riley (Arizona) provided a legislative and regulatory report that included information on EPA NPDES Permitting, development of Clean Boating Act regulations, and the need to develop information for constituents on the need and safety of piscicide use. AFWA's Invasive Species and Angler and Boater Participation Committees will coordinate with the National Association of Boating Law Administrators to engage with the EPA and the US Coast Guard as they continue to pursue development of Clean Boating Act regulations. Multiple AFWA Committees (i.e., Invasive Species, Fisheries and Water Resources Policy, Science and Research, Wildlife Resources Policy Committee, Fish and Wildlife Health) will partner with other organizations to evaluate the safety of piscicides and develop a white paper or fact sheet regarding the importance and safety of these tools.

The Invasive Species Committee submitted a National Conservation Need (NCN) for the 2012 Multistate Conservation Grant Program. The NCN focused on coordination to improve, develop, and/or implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) and containment methods so state and federal agencies can more effectively manage invasive species. The NCN was ranked 7th by the National Grants Committee and fell just below the line recommending the top 6 NCNs be eligible for funding. Development of a containment strategy with an associated economic assessment may be pursued by supporting an intern or graduate student project.

Other Invasive Species Committee tasks include working with the Department of Interior's Tiger Team to develop approaches to streamline listing and associated processes of the Lacey Act, supplying a speaker to address national enforcement issues related to invasive species for a training workshop sponsored by the National Association of Attorneys General, working with the USFWS as they examine the need for a disease/pathogen management plan, and working on biotechnology issues with the Agricultural Conservation Committee.