



NOAA's Update: Aquatic Invasive Species



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NOAA Highlights and Activities

- NCSE Conference: Our Changing Oceans
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- National Ocean Policy
- Chesapeake Bay Executive Order
- NOAA Habitat Restoration Project Solicitations:
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
 - Estuary Habitat Restoration Program
- Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning
- Response to Lionfish Invasion



National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Our Changing Oceans

January 19-21, 2011; Washington, DC

- NOAA organized a Marine Bioinvasions & Climate Panel for the 2011 NCSE conference. Four panelists presented recent findings and explored patterns of invasive species in context of a changing climate.
- The panelists and session participants made recommendations regarding the needs and future directions for invasive species prevention and management. These recommendations included:
 - Reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act
 - Coordinate Vector Management
 - Develop and Implement Effective Management Strategies for Invasive Species
 - Develop a National strategy for Monitoring
 - Expand Educational and Outreach Programs
 - Fund Research Programs Focused on Species Movements
 - Increase Coordination to Enhance Capacity to Detect, Respond to, and Manage Invasive Species.
- For a complete description of the recommendations, visit:
<http://communities.earthportal.org/ncseoceans2011>



National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Feb. 28 – Mar. 4, 2011, Washington DC

- State, federal, tribal and local officials, along with representatives of private sector and environmental groups, during this week to find ways to prevent and control invasive species.
- NOAA/USFWS hosted a reception at the National Aquarium, which focus awareness on the recent lionfish invasion in Atlantic and Caribbean waters.
- NOAA also organized two panel sessions held during the State and Regional Invasive Species Workshop:
 - **Federal Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Issues.** Speakers include Susan Mangin (Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force), Gary Croot (U.S. Coast Guard), Robin Danesi (Environmental Protection Agency), and James Morris (NOAA)
 - **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP): Invasive Species Applications:** A brief description of the steps necessary to develop and implement a HACCP plan, emphasizing the benefit of this tool to aid in the prevention of invasive species during natural resource management activities.



NOAA Actions: National Ocean Policy

- Established by Presidential Executive Order on July 19, 2010
- Nine National Priority Objectives that embrace coordination and integration among all levels of government to address pressing issues such as climate change and ocean acidification. A strategic action is being developed for each one of these objectives.
(For details visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>)
- Invasive species components are being incorporated into these strategic action plans:
 - Identify and prevent high-risk introductions of non-native species
 - Increase research capacity to document economic and ecological impacts
 - Establish interagency partnerships to bring together expertise, strengths and resources to control existing populations



NOAA Actions:

Chesapeake Bay Executive Order

- Established by Presidential Executive Order on May 12, 2009
- The EO directs NOAA to respond to the impacts of climate change, accelerate habitat restoration, support living resources, and expand monitoring/observations to inform decision making to protect the Bay.
- Action RH.10 direct federal agencies to “Combat Invasive Species that Threaten Habitat.”
- To achieve this goal, NOAA is working closely with other Federal agencies to:
 - Research and indentify ways to interdict the live bait pathway of invasion
 - Implement actions in the snakehead action plan
 - Continue to eradicate nutria populations and monitor wetland recovery
 - Develop and implement EDRR plans
 - Control invasive vegetation on lands supporting endangered / threatened species
 - Manage invasive species on flood risk management / reservoir projects



NOAA Actions:

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency through President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- In 2010, NOAA has awarded \$9.2 million to nine projects throughout the Great Lakes Region.
- In 2011, NOAA received 22 proposals, requesting a total of \$15.5 million in GLRI funds. Projects selected will be within an U.S. Great Lakes Area Of Concern and contribute to delisting targets for fish and wildlife habitat related Beneficial Use Impairments (including invasive species removal).
- NOAA is anticipates awarding up to \$5.5 million. Announcements will be made by Summer, 2011.
- Selected projects will include a Special Award Condition for Invasive Species: including development of an HACCP plan & post-project monitoring
- NOAA has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to focus on climate change and making habitat restoration projects "climate smart."



NOAA Actions:

Estuary Habitat Restoration Program

- On behalf of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council, NOAA Fisheries Service will provide federal assistance to estuarine habitat restoration projects.
- Selected proposals will focus on the potential impacts related to climate change as they relate to the viability of the proposed restoration. This may include the reintroduction of native species or control of invasive species by altering conditions so they are less conducive to invasion.
- The Council anticipates up to \$7 million may be available for estuarine habitat restoration; awards are expected to range between \$100,000 and \$1 million.
- NOAA received 34 proposals, requesting a total of \$18 million; in which 8% (\$1.5 million) was directly related to invasive species management.



NOAA Actions:

Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

- NOAA has assisted in updating and revising the Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning process to increase its benefit to preventing the spread of invasive species.
- The revised HACCP planning process includes a stronger emphasis on risk assessment in order to identify high-risk activities and focus attention on actions needed to reduce the movement of potential invasive species.
- NOAA will continue to offer HACCP training sessions to staff and grant recipients.
- Development and implementation of HACCP plans are currently required for all habitat restoration projects funded by the GRLI. NOAA expects to extend this requirement to projects within other regions.



Marine Invasive Species: The Lionfish



The Indo-Pacific lionfish has become widely established within Atlantic and Caribbean waters and poses a significant threat to native coral reef communities. NOAA is responding by:

- Drafting a Lionfish Action Plan for Understanding and Mitigating Lionfish Impacts on U.S. Marine Habitats. The purpose of this document is to identify priorities for NOAA to better understand the impacts of the lionfish invasion and develop management guidance for local control.
- Collaborating with intergovernmental partners, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative and the United Nations to advise countries in the Wider Caribbean Region of the threat of lionfish.
- Leading an international effort to develop a best practices manual. Anticipated completion Summer/Fall 2011.
- Expanding it's "Eat Lionfish" campaign which promotes lionfish as a sustainable seafood choice.
- Producing a series educational materials on how the public can assist with early detection, advice for treating lionfish stings, and how to report sightings.

• More information is available at:

http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/stressors/lionfish_outreach.aspx