

## **ANSTF/NISC Ad Hoc Working Group on Climate Change and Invasive Species**

The fall 2011 ANSTF recommended the formation of a joint ANSTF/NISC ad hoc working group to look at the relationship between climate change and invasive/aquatic nuisance species to: 1) provide a platform for disseminating existing guidance and resources; and 2) identify knowledge gaps and future research needs. Recent activities include:

- Co-chair changes: due to personnel shifts, Maria Boroja (formerly USDA-APHIS) and Adrianna Muir (formerly Dept. of State) stepped down as co-chairs. In April 2013, Thomas Hall (USDA-APHIS) agreed to serve as a new co-chair along with Stas Burgiel (NISC).
- Group composition: the ad hoc working group includes over 30 individuals from federal agencies, state government, academia, tribes and NGOs.
- Compilation of information: group members were asked to complete a survey describing their expertise and relevant resources, which was compiled as an initial touchstone for discussion.
- Conference call (May 2013): group agreed to use the compilation as well as views provided during a subsequent conference call to develop an outline for a paper to be submitted to ANSTF and NISC. Some key issues raised include: invasive species management to enhance resilience (even in the absence of specific knowledge about climate change), tools for niche modeling of species under different climate scenarios, geographic/ecosystem specificities (e.g., marine, freshwater, Arctic, grassland), and native vs. non-native invasive species.
- Next steps: an outline will be drafted and circulated in early June for comment. This will provide a framework for adding key resources and identifying gaps and areas of contention that will require further attention by the group. Ideally, a rough draft would be available for the fall ANSTF meeting.

For more information, contact Stas Burgiel ([stas\\_burgiel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:stas_burgiel@ios.doi.gov)) or Tom Hall ([thomas.c.hall@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.c.hall@aphis.usda.gov)).

## **ANSTF/NISC/ISAC Prevention Committee**

The fall 2012 ANSTF meeting recommended that the prevention committee provide guidance for pathway management plans and a list of pathways to be considered for plan development. Recent activities include:

- Prevention planning: a concept paper was drafted that looked more broadly at planning to prevent invasive species introductions from the inter-related perspectives of pathways, sites and species. This approach recognizes that different government agencies (state and federal) and organizations operate according to specific authorities or jurisdictions, which may not just be along a particular pathway. Initial comments have been provided and the document is undergoing revision.
- Pathway management: given the specific request by ANSTF, initial discussions with group members support development of a related document focused on pathway management. This would be consistent with the general framework laid out in the prevention planning document referenced above, but include more detail specific to development of plans for managing pathways.
- Pathway diagrams: the group has provided comments on the pathway diagrams developed in 2007, which will be updated.
- Pathway prioritization: given limits of representation within the group, discussions are ongoing about what input to provide ANSTF in order to solicit views on priority pathways that could be the subject of future management plans. This may include provision of the pathway diagrams, a short list of possibilities and/or other possible guidance.
- Next steps:
  - The prevention planning concept paper and the pathway diagrams will be revised over the summer with drafts intended for the fall ANSTF meeting.
  - An initial draft for pathway management plans will be developed for internal consideration by the group (release of a revised draft to ANSTF will pend progress).
  - Information on the process for pathway prioritization will also be provided to ANSTF at the fall meeting.

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