



Invasive Species Collaborative Efforts in the Arctic and Pacific

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The Arctic



Courtesy Tricia Wurtz



Invasive Species and the Arctic

1. National Strategy for the Arctic Region Implementation Plan (NSAR IP)
 - Invasive species - International
 - DOI Lead with NISC and ANSTF support
2. Arctic Council – Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora Working Group (CAFF)
 - Arctic Biodiversity Assessment – Ch. 16.
 - Recommendation 9: Reduce the threat of invasive alien/non-native species to the Arctic by.....



NSAR IP : “Identify and Assess Invasive Species Risks and Impacts”

Team: NISC and ANSTF members, State, tribal with goal for each step to determine gaps, how to move forward, reach out internationally.

Objective: Develop, implement and maintain an international invasive species prevention and management plan.

Next Steps:

- Identify and assess pathways, risks and impacts - 2015
- Establish baselines, develop EDRR Plan – 2015
- Develop comprehensive prevention, control and management plan - 2015
- Implement plans through extensive consultation with stakeholders – 2019

Current Status: SOMEWHAT STALLED



CAFF Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

- Chapter 16 - Invasive Species: Denny Lassuy, Patrick Lewis
- Recommendation 9: Reduce the threat of invasive alien/non-native species to the Arctic by **developing and implementing common measures** for early detection and **reporting, identifying and blocking pathways** of introduction, and **sharing the best practices** and techniques for monitoring, eradication and control.
- Implementation Actions:
 - 9.1: Establish expert group
 - 9.2: Indicator and monitoring
 - 9.3: ID and prioritize pathways
 - 9.4: Report on monitoring and control
 - 9.5: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Protocols (CBMP)
 - 9.6: International agreements



Recommendation 1: One USG Arctic Invasive Species Team

- Combine (as appropriate) NSAR IP, CAFF ABA and other Arctic Invasive Species Efforts.
 - More efficient, less redundant
 - Cannot reach out internationally unless our “domestic house is in order”.
 - NSAR IP and CAFF ABA are either identical or complementary.
- Not just CAFF and NSAR IP
 - Arctic Council – Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) – 2013–15 Work Plan
 - Sustainable Development Working Group



Recommendation 2: Reconfigure Working Groups (WG)

- For each Action area (Pathways, ED/RR, Control, etc.) create consistent ecosystem-specific WGs (Marine, Freshwater, Terrestrial) that will then address each Action area.
- Chair of each WG lead development of Action area frameworks to be populated by WG members.
- Convene writing meeting (3 – 5 days) in early 2015 for Pathways and ED/RR.
- Edit and polish drafts, and ensure AK buy-in and endorsement rest of 2015.



The Pacific





The Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii (RBP)

- Previously the MBP
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Covers Entire Region
 - All Ecosystems, Taxa
- Still not released to public
- Fully endorsed by Region
- Commitments by Region
 - Palau - \$1.4M
 - FSM – \$2.4M
 - Guam – Pending fee implementation





Island Global Policy Leadership

- 3rd UN Small Islands Developing States Conference (September, 2014)
- 45th Pacific Islands Forum (August, 2014)
 - Directly tying Invasive Species to:
 - Climate Adaptation/Resilience
 - Sustainable Development
 - Livelihoods
 - Biodiversity
- “Other than climate change, no other issue has greater potential to directly impact our economies, our precious natural heritage, our food security and our ecosystem resilience than do invasive species.”
- Tommy Remengesau Jr., President of Palau.



U.S. Invasive Species/Climate Resiliency Guidance

- White House Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources
 - Strategy 1, Priority Action 4: Fighting the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species
 - Working with International Partners to Foster Resilience in the Arctic, U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States
- White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience
- U.S. Chairmanship of Arctic Council:
 - Address climate change impacts



Request to ANSTF

- Thoughts on combining all US Arctic Invasive Species efforts?
- New Working Group format and Strategy forward (2015)?

- Be a Leader!
 - We need dedicated scientific chairmanship of Marine and Freshwater subcommittees for Arctic efforts.
 - Identify invasive species as the critical, multi-disciplinary issue it is for Arctic and Island issues, climate resiliency, etc.
 - This issue is on the rise



Questions?

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