

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

**MONDAY
MAY 12, 2008**

SUMMARY

The Committee met in at the National Park Service (Alaska Regional Office), 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, at 8:30 a.m., Dr. K George Beck, ISAC Chair, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

PETER ALPERT	University of Massachusetts
DR. K. GEORGE BECK	ISAC Chair/Colorado State University
DR. GARY M. BEIL	Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
E. SHIPPEN BRIGHT	Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute
TIMOTHY CARLSON	Tamarisk Coalition
EARL CHILTON II	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JANET CLARK	Center for Invasive Plant Mgmt., Montana State University
DIANE COOPER	Taylor Shellfish Farms
DR. LUCIUS ELDREDGE	Bishop Museum
MILES FALCK	Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
CHRISTOPHER FISHER	Colville Confederate Tribes
AMY FRANKMANN	Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
ANN GIBBS	Maine Department of Agriculture
CATHERINE HAZELWOOD	The Nature Conservancy
DR. JEROME JACKSON	Florida Gulf Coast University
JOHN KENNEDY	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
MARILYN LELAND	Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council
ROBERT MCMAHON	University of Texas at Arlington
CHARLES O'NEILL	New York Sea Grant Program
JEFFREY D. SCHARDT	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DR. CELIA SMITH	University of Hawaii
DR. JEFFREY STONE	Oregon State University
JOHN PETER THOMPSON	ISAC Secretary/Behnke Nurseries
JENNIFER VOLLMER	BASF Corporation
KEN ZIMMERMAN	ISAC Vice Chair/Lone Tree Cattle Company

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

DR. JOSEPH CORN
DR. JAMIE REASER

University of Georgia
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

NISC STAFF PRESENT:

KELSEY BRANTLEY
PHILLIP ANDREOZZI
CHRIS DIONIGI
RICHARD ORR
LORI WILLIAMS

ISAC Coordinator/Program Analyst
NISC Pacific Regional Coordinator
Assistant Director (Domestic)
Assistant Director (International)
Executive Director

NISC POLICY LIAISONS PRESENT:

GORDON BROWN
PAUL HOFFMAN

U.S. Department of the Interior
DOI, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance,
Accountability, and Human Resources

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. K, George Beck (Dr. Beck) called the Advisory Committee to order, asked for introductions, and called for the approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections to the minutes. The minutes were approved.

NISC STAFF REPORTS

Lori Williams, NISC Executive Director

Ms. Lori Williams (Ms. Williams) reported that the comment period for the National Invasive Species Management Plan ended March 13, 2008. The next draft is expected to be ready for review in June. NISC staff will schedule a Washington meeting of the full NISC during the summer to finalize the National Invasive Species Management Plan.

Ms. Williams noted, in terms of ISAC's elections, that NISC is in the process of selecting 12-13 ISAC members. Mary Josiah, NISC Administrative Assistant, will be leaving the staff and moving to Wales in June 2008; and Phillip Andreozzi, NISC Program Specialist and Pacific Regional Coordinator, is serving a two-year detail in Guam in support of the NISC Pacific Initiative.

Ms. Williams also reported that staff is working on the mock version of the newly reconstructed NISC web-site which will soon be ready for input. She also drew attention to legislative activities going on at the national level regarding ballast water as well as aquatic and terrestrial animals.

Mr. Richard Orr reported that NAFTA/CEC (Commission for Environmental Quality) has been working on an assessment of invasive species that can be used by three countries. The final publication is anticipated by the end of August, 2008.

Mr. Richard Orr reported that North American Plant Protection Organization is working on developing standards for plants. The standards are in the final draft stage. They are currently going through country clearance. The standards are expected to be published by the end of October 2008.

Mr. Phillip Andreozzi reported that since his move to Guam eight months ago, he has been helping with outreach regarding Brown Tree Snake and other invasive species issues. This work has been at the request of the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit. Recommended actions are given directly to Chief Executives twice a year. The population in Guam is expected to increase considerably due to the U.S. military expansion, and there will be unbelievable amounts of construction and traffic as a result of the population increase. Therefore, the potential for invasive species spread will greatly increase. We are looking to an early response plan to address bio-security protocol throughout the island.

INTRODUCTION TO ALASKA

David Wigglesworth for Mark Begich, Mayor of Anchorage

Tim Hudson for Hans Neidig, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior

Ken Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

*David Wigglesworth, Creeks Community Development Manager
(speaking on behalf of Mark Begich, Mayor of Anchorage)*

Mr. Wigglesworth welcomed attendees. He stated that Alaska needs more education, and local organizations and that help from ISAC (or the individual organizations represented on ISAC) as well as federal government representatives is welcome. Anchorage is the 65th largest community in the United States. It is a major transportation hub for Alaska. Anchorage has a major port, major air cargo, tourism, and military presence. Shorebird migration coming from all parts of the world occurs here. Anchorage has 7 major watersheds, and all of these with the exception of one are home to salmon that return each year. Anchorage has great natural resources, and is at risk of being affected by invasive species. The majority of the community is unaware of the invasive species issue. Anchorage relies on federal, state, and private sector expertise. The Parks Plan was recently amended to include a natural resources section. We can include an invasive species component as part of this natural resource section.

*Tim Hudson, Associate Regional Director, National Park Service
(speaking on behalf of Hans Neidig, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior)*

Mr. Hudson began by stating a few facts about Alaska. There are 365 million acres of land in Alaska (California has 100 million acres) of which 200 million acres are owned by the Federal government. Alaska has an extensive coastline. Transportation is an issue. Alaska has very few roads; a close comparison would be 95% of the road miles of the State of New Hampshire. Anchorage has only one route North and one route South. We call them roads here, yet they would not compare to roads in any other States. They are in a state of great disrepair and have extensive traffic over them. Gravel is being barged all over the state, and as such we have more and more potential for disturbance. The good news is that, considering the small number of roads, we can more easily detect a disturbed area and know where a disturbance is happening along the roads. We think Best Management Practices (BMPs) is the way to go. There is a need to have weed free vehicles come entering the State. Turning them away at the gate/entry points if they have weeds would be a possible solution to prevent invasive species. As an agency, this type of prevention is one thing we are working on.

Ken Taylor, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Mr. Taylor stated that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has some strong gravel protection for anadromous waterbodies. Most waterbodies around here are anadromous. In Alaska, 40% of adults under the age of 60 pay for fishing licenses. Alaska's fisheries provide more than 50% of the fish in the United States. Fish and Game brings in money and jobs and has over a billion dollar impact on our economy. In rural areas, fishing and hunting are a way of life. Whaling and hunting for seals are important to the communities along the West Coast. We have millions of lakes where birds breed. We have birds that go all the way to New Zealand the Asian Coast. Alaska is isolated and cold, but that does not mean that what you bring will die. Alaska does have a problem with invasive species. We are happy you are here.

NISC RESPONSE TO ISAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Lori Williams, NISC Executive Director

In the interest of time, Ms. Williams referred to recommendations rather than read them all.

- NISC should get an update on Q37 screening mechanism for planting. USDA and NRCS have 27 plant material centers that can provide information. This will cost \$1.1 million.
- NISC Staff are currently and will routinely inform those participating in ISAC meeting about EO 13112 and the ISAC Definitions White Paper.
- Funding for Tribes and Tribal Organizations should be considered. We ask appropriate agencies to consider this.
- NISC Invites DOE to join NISC surrounding the use of invasive plants as bio-fuels. NISC is in the process of educating DOE staff on what NISC does before preparing a formal request.
- USDA has reopened its new pest advisory group to look at the potentially invasive ant species *Paratrechina*.
- There was a request to make data gaps a high priority and to give a status report at this meeting.
- NISC agencies are discussing an ISAC recommendation to adopt a policy which emphasizes that invasive species should not be planted to be a source of bio-fuels.
- NISC encourages agencies to use Latin names when naming species, as recommended by ISAC.
- NISC encourages that EPA support research for climate change and its effects on invasive species.
- NISC is gathering data to create a profile of information from agencies in order to put this information on the web-site.

PRESENTATION:

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES' INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

*John Kennedy, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (ISAC Member) and
Chair of the AFWA Invasive Species Committee*

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies on important conservation issues. AFWA represents its state agency members on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key conservation and management policies. Several years ago, AFWA established their Invasive Species Committee to increase efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with the challenges related to invasive species. Mr. Kennedy talked about opportunities for AFWA's Invasive Species Committee and NISC/ISAC to work collaboratively on important invasive species issues at the national level. AFWA's Invasive Species Committee put together a document for use by the State Wildlife Agencies regarding important elements of invasive species legislation. Mr. Kennedy asked that ISAC provide

comments on this document. Mr. Kennedy also requested that NISC move a National Invasive Species Awareness Campaign forward. In addition, Mr. Kennedy discussed wildlife action plans with NISC with respect to components related to invasive species. Ms. Williams and Mr. Kennedy had the idea to go through the state wildlife action plans and excerpt the invasive species components for cooperative work with the State Wildlife Agencies on invasive species projects. Mr. Kennedy identified the following priorities: invasive species marketing; funding for state aquatic and terrestrial invasive species plans; engaging hunters/anglers in invasive species work; meaningful cooperation with the State Wildlife Agencies; and delivering compelling messages to the public and Congress.

MEMBERS FORUM

John Kennedy, Wyoming Game and Fish Department – Mr. Kennedy moved that work on a single-focused nationwide marketing strategy on invasive species should be assigned to an ISAC subcommittee, if appropriate.

NOTE: *Dr. Beck made a motion that both the Organization Collaboration and Education and Outreach Subcommittees develop or review a single-focused Nationwide Marketing Strategy on invasive species. The motion was seconded and carried.*

Tim Carlson, Tamarisk Coalition – Mr. Carlson stated that in Colorado, the state legislature has passed without any discussion or education a Restoration Act that provides \$1 million to fund matching grants for restoration purposes along the Riparian Corridor. Similarly, there are a lot of oil and gas exploration funds. We are working on something similar for natural resources.

Ann Gibbs, Maine Department of Agriculture – Ms. Gibbs talked about the challenges that the potato industry is experiencing in transporting potatoes between the Canadian/American border – a good example of how politics, grower needs, and international trade can become confusing when dealing with an invasive species. She also stated that with respect to biofuels, there is more interest in high oil seed crops, and a number of those are fairly invasive species. She also mentioned that forest pests in fire wood are an issue in the Northeast region.

WORKING LUNCH PRESENTATION: INVASIVE SPECIES COLLABORATION IN ALASKA

Jamie Nielsen and Michele Hebert, University of Alaska

Jamie Nielsen

Some invasives are spreading rapidly, but the state is still fairly pristine. There is a need to devote resources up front to prevention and early detection. There are several publications which provide education/outreach information. We have a huge organization statewide, websites, etc. If you go to snipem.org, you can get a lot of this education information. The University of Alaska Co-op conducts several workshops to teach taxonomy and how to identify invasive species. Alaska Legislature at this point is the State's shortest bill, and that is in your packet as well. We finally have a State Weed Coordinator who will work to develop a plant plan, and will assist with information to update laws. There is a statewide database with plants in it that is all available online. A few invasive species challenges include: (1) high levels of transportation (2) limited inspections (3) limited types of useable herbicides.

Michele Hebert

There are several invasive species in Alaska that need attention. Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is doable. A farmer was enjoying a drive around his property and he saw a part of his field wilting away. He called the proper authorities, who checked it out and issued him a permit. Through these actions they were able to contain it, and get rid of it within a year. This was EDRR with positive results.

We would like help with setting priorities. In Alaska our situation is different than most States. We are the only State that is in prevention mode, and we are geographically isolated, so therefore EDRR is ideal. We are not funded because we don't need millions of dollars for emergency problems. If we can continue to take care of it in a preventative manner, then we won't need millions. We need to encourage national experts and agencies to come to Alaska. NEPA documents for weed control in Alaska are important. Please share with us good data regarding the economics of prevention if you have it. Can we use Alaska as a prevention model?

PRESENTATION:

100TH MERIDIAN INITIATIVE IN ALASKA AND THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

David Britton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Zebra mussels are nasty and are a main focus, but the 100th Meridian Initiative wants to address other aquatic nuisance species. The goals are to prevent species from spreading from East to West and vice versa using 7 components. Some of these include information/education, voluntary boat inspections/boater surveys, education of commercial haulers, monitoring, EDRR, and more.

This helps Alaska by providing ideas. There are inspection stations in California since the infestation of the lower Colorado River. They are looking for at risk boats and if the boat looks dirty, or it holds water, then it could be impounded. Although you don't have a lot of roads, that's not going to stop zebra mussels. Zebra mussels will likely become a problem in Alaska. This is something to gear up for and therefore gather movement information for the database.

INVASIVE SPECIES CROSSCUT BUDGET SUMMARY

Phil Andreozzi, NISC Pacific Regional Coordinator

A crosscut budget looks across different agencies that can be used by Office of management and Budget (OMB) to identify where agencies are undergoing duplicative efforts. Executive Order 13112 is key. Performance measures now need to go along with the crosscut budget.

The 3 specific initiatives include Species, Thematic, and Regional. We ideally look for things that will get attention, and be clear on the threatened resources. Action items and specific activities are considered. The general categories are always the same and are easy to compile, but they've been shelved for the past couple of years. We want your opinions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was decided to skip this section so that the crosscut budget initiatives could be an extended discussion.

REVIEW OF DAY 1 ACTION ITEMS

John Peter Thompson, ISAC Secretary

1) Prepare and submit a resolution thanking the Governor and Legislature. This is an Action Item. ISAC recommended that once it is signed, a letter will be written thanking the Governor and Legislature. There were no objections to this action item.

2) A request has been made to develop and review a Nationwide Marketing Initiative associated with Invasive Species with the coordination with NISC. There were no objections to this Action Item. This Action Item is being referred to the proper committee.

3) It is recommended that Alaska authorities participate in the 100th Meridian Initiative Boater Survey so that boater movements can be tracked. All in favor, "Aye". Recommendation was carried.

The meeting was recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

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**TUESDAY
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

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ISAC Coordinator/Program Analyst
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REVIEW OF DAY 1

There were no questions regarding the previous day's presentation. Dr. Beck proceeded with introducing the first presentation.

PRESENTATION:

VECTORS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCTION TO ALASKA

Jeff Conn, United States Department of Agriculture (ASDA)/Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Tammy Davis, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Mr. Conn began the presentation by talking about plants and gave a background on Alaska's general ARS history. Ms. Davis then spoke about animal invasive species.

Jeff Conn - In the mid 1800s there were a variety of crops that were adapted to Alaska conditions. It was important for homesteaders to come up with a way to support themselves. A number of crop species have been brought, escaped the agricultural fields, and spread. ARS started in 1948. So there was a perception that Alaska had to be self sufficient for food because of the 2nd World War and as a result there was a big agriculture research push. What was discovered was that normal rates were working here in Alaska even with the longer days and cooler temperatures, but that the soil, active herbicides persisted well into them. ARS closed down in 1994 as a result of budget cutting. In 2003, I was working on invasive species issue which is something that emerged during that period of time where ARS was gone from the state. The costs of prevention are so much smaller than those for control. We have few border crossings and ports so it should be possible if we have the desire to prevent invasive species from coming in. Control is difficult and prevention is the most cost effective strategy.

Tammy Davis - The more the public is educated then the more our Legislators are educated. I will be speaking on Marine pathways for invasive species. The primary pathway is ballast water discharge. Other pathways of concern include vessel fouling, drifted viable larvae in ocean currents, and illegal dumping. In addition to those previously mentioned, unintentional introductions by people who are not educated on invasive species and fish farming is another pathway. Ballast water discharge is the largest pathway for introduction and spread of invasive species. It can contain on average 200 diverse species at any given time. The Port of Valdez (where the pipeline ends) where oil tankers fill up and depart the state receives the 3rd largest volume of ballast water of all United States Ports and that is 250,000 to 300,000 barrels at a time. The next largest issue is vessel fouling. Larvae drift in ocean currents is a concern as well. The European green crab is now predicted to easily invade Alaska with global climate change. An increase of even 2 degrees in temperature makes certain areas of the State highly invasive. Another pathway is individuals who unknowingly plant or move invasive species. Finally, fish farming is an issue. Atlantic Salmon have escaped from pens at the fish farms. Sea lice are potentially impacting pink salmon populations. The sea lice are a native species. At the fish farms the sea lice can proliferate. Those juvenile pink salmon are covered in sea lice and the lesions that the sea lice cause on the juvenile pink salmon can be lethal.

PRESENTATION:

CITIZEN MONITORING FOR INVASIVE SPECIES IN ALASKA

Linda Shaw, National Marine Fisheries Service

Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Linda Shaw –We have a list of the organizations that are involved in one way or another in citizen monitoring in Alaska that includes Federal, State, and Tribal Entities. A benefit from this involvement is that early detection allows rapid response.

Alaska has 44,000 miles of coastline without a road system to access all that area. Alaska waters provide half of all U. S. seafood. The seafood industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska. We have a lot of ocean dependent coastal communities. Oil trade is exempt from the federal ballast water exchange requirements and reporting requirements. There are no state regulations for ballast water. Another challenge we have with the marine invasive species is that they can use natural dispersal to get here in addition to vector driven methods. These methods are hard to identify and track.

Two efforts are ongoing right now for Alaskan Citizen Monitoring. The Bering Sea is not covered at all. This is a data gap. We need greater spatial coverage and baseline inventories. We need to continue to implement and expand our volunteer networks. We want to continue the cooperation of monitoring groups that yielded great benefits to everybody to get these projects off the ground. We need to continue to secure funding for ongoing efforts and possibly rapid response efforts so that if we do find something, we are able to do something about it.

Gino Graziano –We do not have a Rapid Response Plan (RRP) in effect for invasive plants yet. Tools we have are the ranking of exotic plants from 0 to 100. It is an incredible tool used to pick plants. This information is online for people to find what is near their home and around the State. In order to increase the awareness and education of these plants, an educational pamphlet has been prepared for five invasive plant species. The pamphlet includes instructions, and provides identification for citizens to avoid killing native plants by accident.

PRESENTATION:

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ON RANGELAND PROGRAM AND DATABASE

Matt Berger, Colville Confederated Tribes

Richard Whitney, Colville Confederated Tribes

Matt Berger –The Colville Indian reservation is located in Northern Washington is comprised of 1.4 million acres. Two-thirds of that land is forest and the other third is for grazing. Native bunch grasses are important. Approximately 5,000 members live on the reservation. The invasive species are taking over our ecosystem. The weeds replace the grasses that the livestock need. It is important to reach out and educate people. It is important to identify the weeds as published in the blue booklet that we hand out to everybody. There are laws in the State if you have noxious weeds that you can be fined. It also teaches the public about weed monitoring after weed removal. We talk to people about how the noxious weeds affect the livestock. Traditional and medicinal plants are taken from the environment and the noxious weeds take over their ecosystems. We provide workshops to teach the people how to effectively cover their grounds. We have infused blue dye in the chemicals to show the people areas that have been sprayed with pesticides. For early detection and rapid response it is important to provide a means of identifying the non-native weed invaders.

Richard Whitney – We are a very disturbed system in Washington unlike Alaska. We have been disturbed for 100s of years now. We manage 60,000 acres broken into range lands and forestry. We have changed the way we do things on our maps. We now use GIS. This makes monitoring of the controlled areas easier now.

PRESENTATION:

TASK TEAM STATUS REPORT ON CREATION OF A NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS

Janet Clark, ISAC Member, Montana State University

The concept of establishing a National Center for Biological Invasions has been discussed for several years. There are 10 existing regional centers on invasive plants (see data on centers – compiled by the task team – in ISAC Meeting Notebooks) in the U.S. They were polled and agreed there is a need for national coordination. However, establishing a new, centralized bureaucracy may not be the solution. Networking existing organizations may be more efficient. In 2007 the National Governor's Association re-adopted a 1998 invasive species policy paper calling for an enhanced federal role in coordinating interagency efforts at the regional level.

WORKING LUNCH PRESENTATION:

RECLAIMING RAT ISLAND: RESTORING SEABIRD HABITAT IN THE WESTERN ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Steve MacLean, The Nature Conservancy

Stacey Buckelew, Island Conservation

Vernon Byrd, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Steve MacLean – I am from the Bering Sea Program with the Nature Conservancy. Rat Island has been invaded by rats and has been there for many years. We are trying to restore the Island's habitat for the birds. A small boat introduced rats to the Island. In many cases, the rats devastate the ecosystems on islands. The seabirds are vulnerable since they lack the defense mechanisms to the rats. The guano is no longer present to grow the grasses. The lack of guano creates a shrub tundra system on the islands.

The rats can be removed, and the islands can recover. Candle Island in New Zealand is a good example. We tested the methods used at Candle Island and other methods. We had 100% success effect on the rat infested test islands. The proposed plan is as follows: Bait would be dropped from a helicopter. After a period of 4-7 days more bait would be dropped to make sure the juvenile rats receive a lethal dose. Monitoring would be conducted for many years to make sure rats do not return. The desired plan would be to see nature recover naturally. If a natural recovery did not occur, we would introduce birds on the island.

MEMBERS FORUM (cont'd)

Celia Smith, University of Hawaii – Dr. Smith stated that five years of research between the University of Hawaii and Aquatic Agency has been successful in making the aquatic vacuum to control invasive algae called "The Super Sucker", which will eventually be used as a management tool.

Lu Eldredge, Bishop Museum – Dr. Eldredge told ISAC that final results for 10 years of research at Pearl Harbor will be completed soon. More than 400 species will be present in a GIS system. There will be a Conference in July.

Catherine Hazlewood, The Nature Conservancy – Ms. Hazlewood shared with ISAC that Australia's weed assessment has worked well to predict new invasions. Congress has a bill to require shipping vessels to treat their ballast waters. It closes the oil and gas tanker exception that applies to ballast exchange. This bill authorizes funding and requires ships to use Best Management Practices (BMPs). The Senate's plan is to pass the Coast Guard Bill.

Janet Clark, Montana State University Center for Invasive Plant Management – Ms. Clark said that a conference was completed in Reno, Nevada during which cooperative management, logistics, laws, legislations, education, and networking were discussed. She also announced that the Center for Invasive Plant Management has hired a new director.

Jennifer Vollmer, BASF Corporation – Dr. Vollmer announced that BASF has given away \$500,000 in matching grants. BASF matches 25% of the grant to help people with herbicide treatment.

Earl Chilton II, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Dr. Chilton informed ISAC of the establishment of an Invasive Species Department and Council. There are a number of plants that are illegal that this council is proposing to use for making bio-fuel. There is a plan to educate them about the possibility of using alternative plants that are not invasive in the bio-fuel process.

Amy Frankmann, Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) – Ms. Frankmann said that MNLA held a consumer awareness invasive species workshop, and that they have finished their invasive assessment system. We are working with the State of Michigan to have nurseries identify their inventory of invasive plant species.

Jerry Jackson, Florida Gulf Coast University – Dr. Jackson discussed his work with iguanas on Casper Island, and stated that Lee County has hired a professional trapper who caught 4,000 iguanas. He also shared that he teaches Biogeography courses on exotic pests, and serves on the Council for Exotic Pests/Plants. This council awards small grants to teachers and individuals across the state for exotic pests/plants.

Chris Fisher, Colville Confederated Tribes – Mr. Fisher told ISAC that he attended American Fishery Society (AFS) conferences and an AFS meeting where there were many presentations and papers on invasive species.

Jeff Schardt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Mr. Schardt announced that a conference will be held next year for teachers to help train students in invasive species. There is a lot of information on the website for teachers. They can contact the University of Florida website for class curriculum. All levels of teachers are welcome.

Diane Cooper, Taylor Shellfish Farms – Ms. Cooper stated that the Federal Government has recognized that Puget Sound is in trouble. A new agency was developed to start working on restoring it. A strategic plan was put together on the aquaculture industry. We need to understand the farmer's paranoia and see how it affects them.

Miles Falck, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission – Mr. Falck shared that he went to a data sharing conference. Out of that conference we are pursuing a Global Invasive Species Internet Network. Wisconsin is developing BMPs for forestry, recreational activities and logging.

Peter Alpert, University of Massachusetts – Dr. Alpert told ISAC that people add nitrogen to the land as a fertilizer to help plants grow. Nitrogen in the air has killed an endangered species of butterfly in San Jose. The Joshua trees reproduce at an old age and after 2 fires, the population can be wiped out. There is one question as to whether we need to worry about invasive species in Alaska. There seems to be 3 hypotheses that address this question. The first one is that invasion to Alaska is limited by extreme conditions. There is a lack of disturbance to the soil. There is need to worry about only logging, retreating glaciers and floods.

Chuck O'Neill, New York Sea Grant – Mr. O'Neill stated that program recommendations were pushed to the New York State government. They passed a law to establish the Invasive Species Council. The 15 members are all stakeholder groups. We produced a white paper on the definition of invasive species. Cornell University has established an Invasive Species Institute. The organizations will be doing grass roots management and Invasive Species GIS mapping programs.

Robert McMahon, University of Texas at Arlington – Dr. McMahon mentioned that zebra mussels in the west are a hot issue. Prevention of the Zebra mussels from going into the systems would require shutting down the reservoir or spending a lot of money at entry points.

PRESENTATION:

NISC/ARS CULTIVAR WORKSHOP (held in Washington, D.C., in March 2008)

Chris Dionigi, NISC Staff

John Peter Thompson, The Behnke Nurseries Company (ISAC Member)

John Peter Thompson– I suggested that USDA ARS have a meeting of horticulture industry and environmental nature conservancy groups. Attendees included 30 invitees from USEPA, State Departments of Agriculture, and National Arboretum. We discussed cultivar and sterility. We talked about the effect of climate on invasive species, data gaps, researchable issues, cultivar and sterility.

Chris Dionigi – The outcomes of that meeting is in a 30 page report. Please submit edits to me so we don't take up time today. ISAC and NISC was a part of that workshop. There are 3 recommendations listed. Global scale processes are listed as the first one. The second one concerns systematics. The third one deals with developing better methodologies for evaluating invasive species. The question is acceptance of the report.

NOTE: Dr. Dionigi requested that ISAC approve the acceptance of the report from the March 2008 USDA Agricultural Research Service's Cultivar Workshop. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. The motion was carried and the report was approved by ISAC.

Tim Carlson proposed that ISAC put forward a NISC recommendation stating:

“USDA and DOI in cooperation with State Agencies and Native Corporations should initiate Rapid Response on small infestation of Invasive Species to eliminate them from Alaska”.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Troy and Lori Zaumseil, CANWIN – Mr. and Mrs. Zaumseil briefly talked about their non-profit group that works on grass root invasive plants. They started CANWIN as a means for outreach to local councils, writing to every Legislator in Alaska and talking to the land owners and citizens. They are amazed at how they have been able to get citizens involved with the state legislature and make appointments with Congressmen. They reminded ISAC and other officials present that Alaska is the last state that presents an opportunity to actually eradicate invasive species, to make better use of volunteers in eradication efforts and to remember that citizens do have a voice in invasive species issues.

Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts – Mr. Graziano mentioned the differences that Alaska has with the other States when it comes to Federal funding. He stated that BLM gets ½ of one percent of the total federal funding for invasive species and works on 27% of the land in the US that has invasive species. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife does not receive any federal funding specifically for invasive species, but 83% of the Fish and Wildlife lands are in Alaska. He offered to compile the information that we have done in the State for early detection and rapid response for invasive species because this is an issue of National importance that needs to be addressed.

The meeting recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 14, 2008**

SUMMARY

The Committee meeting continued at the National Park Service (Alaska Regional Office), 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, at 8:30 a.m., Dr. K George Beck presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

PETER ALPERT	University of Massachusetts
DR. K. GEORGE BECK	ISAC Chair/Colorado State University
DR. GARY M. BEIL	Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
E. SHIPPEN BRIGHT	Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute
TIMOTHY CARLSON	Tamarisk Coalition
EARL CHILTON II	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JANET CLARK	Center for Invasive Plant Management, Montana State Univ.
DIANE COOPER	Taylor Shellfish Farms
DR. LUCIUS ELDREDGE	Bishop Museum
MILES FALCK	Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
CHRISTOPHER FISHER	Colville Confederate Tribes
AMY FRANKMANN	Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
ANN GIBBS	Maine Department of Agriculture
CATHERINE HAZELWOOD	The Nature Conservancy
DR. JEROME JACKSON	Florida Gulf Coast University
JOHN KENNEDY	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
MARILYN LELAND	Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council
ROBERT MCMAHON	University of Texas at Arlington
CHARLES O'NEILL	New York Sea Grant Program
JEFFREY D. SCHARDT	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DR. CELIA SMITH	University of Hawaii
DR. JEFFREY STONE	Oregon State University
JOHN PETER THOMPSON	ISAC Secretary/Behnke Nurseries
JENNIFER VOLLMER	BASF Corporation
KEN ZIMMERMAN	ISAC Vice-Chair/Lone Tree Cattle Company

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

DR. JOSEPH CORN
DR. JAMIE REASER

University of Georgia
Pet Industry Joint Advisor Council

NISC STAFF PRESENT:

KELSEY BRANTLEY
PHILLIP ANDREOZZI
CHRIS DIONIGI
RICHARD ORR
LORI WILLIAMS

ISAC Coordinator/Program Analyst
NISC Pacific Regional Coordinator
Assistant Director (Domestic)
Assistant Director (International)
Executive Director

NISC POLICY LIAISONS PRESENT:

GORDON BROWN
PAUL HOFFMAN

U.S. Department of the Interior
DOI, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance,
Accountability, and Human Resources

REVIEW OF DAY 2 (MAY 13, 2008)

Review completed. It was mentioned that there was a need to figure out what dates to meet for the next two ISAC meetings. It was decided to address this issue during the ISAC administrative issues.

PRESENTATION:

BIOFUELS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Jerry Jackson, Florida Gulf Coast University (ISAC Member)

*Dr. Jackson began by saying that his interest in biofuels began with the planting of *Arundo Donax* in Florida for the purpose of biofuel. He distributed literature and web-site information regarding these topics.*

The bottom line is that biofuels are a social, political, and economic mandate. It's our job to try and steer the use of biofuels towards minimal harm to the environment and also the best biofuels. Development and trade of biofuels are growing rapidly and without a great deal of coordination. We need to be self-sufficient and the fact that fossil fuels are finite and seriously declining is a concern. Biofuels give promise of renewable fuels. There are a number of federal actions taking place relative to biofuels.

ISAC can play an important role in the biofuel arena by identifying the species to use and not to use in biofuel, ways in which biofuel efforts can minimize the risk of invasive species, guidelines for selection, development, management, and monitoring of biofuel crops. Bioengineering needs to reduce the threat of potential problems from invasive species crops, for example by genetically engineering sterile plants. Monitoring is going to be very important.

Biofuels are fuels from renewable and biological resources, not fossil fuels. Animals, animal fats, plants, plant fats, oils, sugars, starches cellulose, will be coming on strong as biofuels develop. Some are not easy to convert to ethanol. Bio-ethanol is a biofuel that we've all heard about and is what a lot of people think about regarding biofuel. *Arundo Donax* is being used for bio-ethanol and is used as a fuel to be burned to create electricity. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning diesel made from plant oils and fats by squeezing oil from seeds. The U.S. and China are making use of waste materials as resources as well.

The following are desired qualities in a good biofuel plant: fast growing, high usable volume per acre, low water and fertilizer use, high pest/disease resistance, strong competitor among other plants, low herbicide use, perennial so you don't have costs of replanting, high reproductive rate, readily accessible, and high energy content. Invasive species are all of these except high energy content. There are several invasive species to be concerned with considering this. For example, *Arundo Donax* is one of the most invasive species all over the world. There are proponents of using *Arundo Donax* as biofuel because it's "sterile". However, a just a small piece of the plant can start a whole new plant.

ISAC ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES (PART 1)

George Beck, ISAC Chair

ISAC Bylaws

- There was a change made to the ISAC Bylaws under item 4, tab #7. A quorum will consist of a simple majority of ISAC.

- Section 5 states the majority of ISAC members present must vote in favor of any measure voted upon. Instead of members “present”, ISAC agreed to change the text to read: *“the majority of ISAC members must vote in favor of any measure.”*

NOTE: A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the ISAC Bylaws with changes. The motion was carried and the ISAC Bylaws were approved and adopted.

Fall 2008 Meeting Dates

- Primary dates are Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18-19, 2008. The alternate date will be November 5-6, 2008. The meeting will be held in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Exact location of the meeting to be determined.

ISAC Officers

- There openings for an interim chair, vice chair, second chair, secretary, and treasurer. These positions are only good until November 2008, when ISAC 5 will vote to select a slate of officers to recommend for appointment by the Secretary of the Interior.

NOTE: Current interim officers are: Ken Zimmerman, Chair; John Peter Thompson, Vice-Chair; and Amy Frankmann, Secretary.

-- Change in Agenda Schedule --

REVIEW OF DAY 3 ITEMS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO NISC

John Peter Thompson

Mr. Thompson confirmed that ISAC would send the following three (3) recommendations t to the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) members:

1. The participants believe as we use science to make policy decisions, we need the federal government and interest groups to support global scale research/processes (e.g. climate change, but not limited to climate change).
2. Systematics
3. High Industry – Science based evaluation of benefits/harm from invasive species. The hope would be that decisions would be made in a science based process. ISAC recommends clarification of “impacts of global scale processes on invasive species”.

Further discussion ensued on second and third recommendations outlined, and Dr. Beck stated that recommendations would be concluded later.

PRESENTATION: THE IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES IN ALASKA

Denny Lassuy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior

In Alaska there is a lot worth protecting. Alaskans are getting to be as bad as Texans about bragging. Alaska contains 3/4s of all Refuges in the United States nearly 2/3 of U.S. Wetlands, 3000 miles of coastline, 3000 rivers, and etc. There is opportunity for trouble in paradise. In 2001, UCS included in a review that Alaska has done some wonderful thing to protect the native biodiversity, but they noted invasive species as a threat to all of these things.

The link between climate change and invasive species along w/ the application to Alaska is what will be made. Climate change would favor invasive species in Alaska and cause problems. Examples for several potential threats (animals and plants) were discussed. One example is the European Green Crab. The European Green Crab is highly invasive, and causes extreme problems with native species. Based on the work done at the Smithsonian, models indicate that a portion of the Gulf of Alaska and up into the Bering Sea are now barely warm enough to put Alaska at risk of European Green Crab invasion.

Summary of the position Alaska finds itself in with respect to invasive species: Our most effective action is the prevention of the first occurrence. Bottom line, we are not slowing global warming in a huge way anytime soon, so focus on prevention and detection.

ISAC ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES (PART 2)

Dr. George Beck, ISAC Chair

The selection of interim ISAC Officers was discussed. There were two candidates for each of the positions. Ballots were circulated and members voted.

All of the official recommendations were read aloud and agreed upon by the entire committee. Text for each recommendation is below.

Recommendation 1: “ISAC recommends that NISC members assess currently available research training and/or species identification capacities, identify strategic gaps and provide targeted support for systematics activities pertaining to invasive species. In addition, ISAC recommends that NISC members enhance interdepartmental integration and coordination of United States scientific systematic invasive species infrastructure.”

Recommendation 2: “ISAC recommends that NISC members consider actions and research concerning the science based evaluation of impacts of invasive species in addition ISAC recommends that NISC members consider actions and research concerning the development and evaluation of alternative species, cultivars and/or approaches that avoid/reduce the negative impacts of invasive species.”

Recommendation 3: “Invasive species that are now widespread in some regions and insular areas of the US are often not assigned high priority for control because control appears impracticable in those regions. However, these species are absent or rare in other regions where control or eradication remains practical and could be facilitated by assigning high priority to the species. ISAC therefore recommends that there be special mechanisms within agencies such as USDA and DOI for assigning high Federal

priority to such widespread invasive species specifically in support of early detection and rapid response in regions where the species is not yet widespread. For example, Alaska presents a special opportunity for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) of invasive species now widespread in the lower 48 states”

Recommendation 4: “ISAC recommends that NISC appoint a representative from biofuel community to ISAC, encourage participation of a representative of the energy industry, and increase discussion on invasive species related to biofuels.” [Everyone agreed]

Recommendation 5: “ISAC recommends that NISC members require cost benefit analyses of potential biofuel resources, include cost of monitoring of biofuel species, potential cost of eradication invasive biofuel species, the prospect of expansion as a result of climate change.” *[This topic was tabled for the next meeting].*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ISAC Subcommittee Chairs

PREVENTION

Diane Cooper, Taylor Shellfish Farms

There are only 3 people on the subcommittee. This subcommittee needs more help. Bob will talk to some of his contacts. Bob is on the committee, and he says that he agreed to find a potential leader for the screening group. We need to obtain new members and have the new members vote on leaders. Some members are in 2-3 committees.

EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

[name needed]

We are making an effort to develop MOU for EDRR with agencies. The MOU is in front of the solicitor’s office and hopefully will be done in the next month or so.

If there could be a deminimus standard – if money is available for small projects for commonsensical things would be good rather than having to go through a whole proposal process.

CONTROL MANAGEMENT

Chris Fisher, Colville Confederated Tribes

Earl Chilton, II, Texas Parks and Recreation Department

Long term view and long term funding is important. If we are going to create a disturbance, we need to re-establish and restore native species. We must ensure that the management of Non-Natives is also promoting the Native species.

ORGANIZATION/COLLABORATION

*Janet Clark, Center for Invasive Plant Management
Montana State University*

We have four action items: 1) Investigate facilitating regional invasive species meetings in the next year. 2) Prepare packets for ISAC members to hand out to people at any other meetings that they attend. 3) Establish a better connection between NISC/ISAC and the Assoc. for Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). 4) Pull together the regional invasive plant centers to consider establishing a more formal network. The committee agreed to umbrella “outreach and education” (temporarily) and the “national center” task team as well.

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Chuck O’Neill, New York Sea Grant

We considered merging some of the subcommittees. We are working on a more active national invasive species campaign with a web-site. Need a NISC fulltime employee for CEO work. As a goal, we envision education web-sites for classroom activities linked together for teachers.

RESEARCH/INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

[name needed]

6 people are rotating out. Please join us. We are working on 3 issues:

- Summarizing pertinent biofuels and supply to the group. Parallel research tracks to inform managers about particular species. It makes sense to tie weed risk assessments to this, so we have information to provide managers.
- Marine theme, opening of Smithsonian. This is an opportunity to provide interface for layperson, and to raise systematics to a higher level.
- No way to fund invasive species issues in non-agricultural settings. Can we email a list to links to send to members to provide to agencies? Research funding at the federal level. Is there money out there for researching invasives in non-agricultural settings? Requesting links for sites that do have funding for this?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Hoffman, DOI – All bureaus and agencies within the Department of the Interior now have access to the Internet after being taken off as a result of the ongoing Cobell v. DOI lawsuit. This comment was followed by a round of applause. DOI Secretary Dirk Kempthorne had just announced the listing of the Polar Bear as a threatened species. However, this listing will not be used to stop projects on the basis of CO2 emissions.

Lori Zaumseil, CANWIN – If there is a way to have money available to folks (PTAs, HOAs, etc.) to work towards education, we can do more. Small nonprofits are overwhelmed by huge grant proposal

applications. Community and outreach on ISAC level, it's important on the small nonprofit perspective as well. For example a pocket guide that small groups pass out has an impact.

The meeting was recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m. The attendees will assemble between 7:45 – 8:00 a.m., May 15, 2008 for departure on a field trip to Anchorage Lake, Chester Creek, Westchester Lagoon, and the Trout Hatchery on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The meeting adjourned upon return from the field trip at approximately 4:30 p.m.