

ISAC Meeting – December 2011

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): Peter Alpert / palpert@bio.umass.edu

TOPIC: The US and China: active trading partners in commerce and biological invaders

SPEAKER (Name/Email): Richard Mack / rmack@wsu.edu

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM: The greatest current increase in commerce and the greatest associated threat of species introductions to and from the U.S. is trade with China. The number of invasive species in the U.S. that have been introduced from China is still relatively low, but several recent introductions have proven highly destructive, and climatic similarity suggests that the potential for future invasions is high. So far, there are no special policies in place to counter this. Dr. Richard Mack is arguably the leading biological expert on this issue in the U.S. He participated in formulating relevant recommendations in a NAS report in 2002, was a key speaker at the Beijing International Symposium on Invasive Species in 2004, helped draft the general scientific basis for regulation of species introductions by the U.S. under new rules of the World Trade Organization, and holds an adjunct faculty position at the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in addition to his professorship at Washington State University.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN? This issue is one of the most important aspects of the topic for the December meeting, Invasive Species and Commerce. The item contributes to Objectives P.1, P.2, and P.3 of the National Invasive Species Management Plan.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM: None.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC: Schedule 30-minute presentation on December 7 at meeting in Washington; NISC has agreed to reimburse hotel costs pending Steering Committee approval, leveraging outside funds to cover other travel costs.

5. ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

6. ATTACHMENTS: Paper in *BioScience* co-authored by suggested presenter (Ding *et al.* 2008).