

ISAC Meeting – May 2012

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): Kristina Serbesoff-King on behalf of Prevention Subcommittee _____

TOPIC: Draft white paper and recommendations – Invasive Species and E-commerce

SPEAKER (Name/Email): ISAC Prevention Subcommittee _____

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

The purpose of this agenda item will be for the Prevention subcommittee to present the most recent draft of the Ecommerce white paper. The purpose of the document is to provide a background on the role of electronic commerce (or e-commerce) in facilitating the transport and distribution of invasive species and to provide recommendations to ISAC for review and adoption.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The Internet has been identified as a potentially major pathway for the movement and introduction of invasive species. Past surveys and cursory reviews of commercial websites in the U.S. reveal a wide range of known invasive species for sale, including many regulated by both state and federal laws. While these efforts are useful, defining the breadth and scale of this pathway is particularly challenging. The Internet itself only serves as a means for processing commercial and non-commercial transactions across groups and individuals with similar interests. It is not a physical means for the movement of species, but links to a range of vectors for the distribution of potentially invasive species, most especially those linked to shipping.

Related to National Invasive Species Management Plan:

- Strategic Goal 1: Prevention.
 - OBJECTIVE P.1: PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF INTENTIONALLY INTRODUCED INVASIVE SPECIES. Develop fair and practical screening processes that evaluate different types of species moving intentionally in trade. Encourage agencies to modify and incorporate the processes into their own regulatory and non-regulatory programs.
 - OBJECTIVE P.2: PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF UNINTENTIONALLY INTRODUCED INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCED THROUGH HIGH RISK PATHWAYS.
- No specific implementation task associated.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

A half day special session on Ecommerce was held during the fall 2011 ISAC meeting.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

Subcommittee would like to present white paper to full ISAC for discussion and adoption of the draft Ecommerce white paper and recommendations.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

6. ATTACHMENTS:

The draft will not be available until May 2012.

Invasive Species and E-commerce

Recommendations to NISC member agencies for consideration by ISAC (22-24 May 2012, Portland, OR)*

Relevant federal agencies need to adjust existing regulations and enforcement practices to better address the changing dynamics of trade and transport of invasive species through e-commerce. Implementation of the following recommendations would enhance our collective ability to mitigate the risks of the sale and trade of invasive species through e-commerce.

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (DOI) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA): Expedite listing processes for injurious wildlife and noxious plants under the Lacey Act and the Plant Protection Act to better assess and address emerging invasive species threats, such as e-commerce.
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Incorporate all species-specific data submitted with Form 3-177 declarations for wildlife imports into LEMIS or another accessible database.
3. Department of Homeland Security: Expand cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to monitor and increase the capability to interdict international mail containing potentially invasive species and encourage USPS to expedite requirements for advance electronic manifests associated with packages sent through international mail similar to current practice for international express mail and consignments.
4. Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (USDA): Expand the scope of webcrawlers and related enforcement and monitoring activities to include a broader array of invasive plants and plant pests, and enhance cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address injurious wildlife.
5. Agricultural Research Service (USDA): Support development of and capacity for an Internet clearinghouse of federal and state-listed invasive species (e.g., injurious, noxious) and relevant regulations at the National Agricultural Library's Invasive Species Information Center and/or another appropriate website. Such a resource should include relevant agency contact information, and a general reporting form that allows the public to report suspected violations.
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC) and other relevant agencies: Provide a reference catalog or database of taxonomic resources that commercial interests can use to verify the taxonomic identity of organisms in trade.
7. Department of State and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative: Given that a significant portion of e-commerce entities are based outside the U.S., explore cooperative and legal measures, including with foreign trading partners and relevant international institutions, to address the illegal import of invasive species into the U.S.
8. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Promote outreach to individuals and businesses involved in the sale and exchange of species over the Internet to reduce intentional and unintentional sales or purchases of species listed as invasive in the U.S. and/or particular states.

* Recommendations are taken from the draft white paper on Invasive Species and E-commerce by the ISAC Prevention Subcommittee (date 20 April 2012).