

NISC / ISAC Meeting – May 2015, Silver Spring, MD

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) will hold a meeting to discuss a broad range of topics related to invasive species. These discussions will serve as a basis for making recommendations to the National Invasive Species Committee and to shape future work efforts of ISAC. While the meeting will focus on a broad range of invasive species topics, special emphasis will be placed on facilitating the productivity of ISAC subcommittees.

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

**SPONSORING
NISC/ISAC MEMBER:** Phyllis Johnson

**COMMITTEE
AFFILIATION:** Research

**PRESENTER'S
NAME/AFFILIATION:** Scott Miller, Smithsonian

TOPIC: National needs for systematics capability

1. **DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:** Presentation by Dr. Miller about diminishing capabilities in systematics and why this is a problem relative to invasive species
2. **WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? DOES IT RELATE TO CURRENT OR ANTICIPATED SUBCOMMITTEE NEEDS, ACTIONS, OR DIRECTION?** The Research Subcommittee is submitting a recommendation to the full ISAC regarding the need to survey systematics capabilities at USDA and SI. At previous meetings there has been some lack of understanding of why systematics is important. This presentation will help provide a broader understanding of systematics and taxonomy and why a lack of this capability could lead to future problems with invasive species.
3. **HOW DOES THIS ITEM RELATE TO THE 2008 – 2012 OR FUTURE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?** Task P.1.3 mandates a process to identify high risk invasive species. Systematics and taxonomy provide the science to identify species and to make predictions about their behavior. Systematics and taxonomy are fundamental to biology and will continue to be so; perhaps 90% of global insects have not yet been named and classified. Misidentification of an unknown species can allow entrance of an invasive species; misidentification of a biocontrol agent can result in a failed biocontrol project or even entrance of another invasive species.
4. **PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:** There was a presentation on systematics in 2006.
5. **ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:** Put Dr. Miller on the agenda.
6. **ALTERNATIVES:**
7. **ATTACHMENTS:**