

# ISAC Teleconference Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, November 13, 2018 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EST)

### Introduction/Opening Remarks/Announcements

The meeting is called to session at 1:08pm and Chuck Bargeron provided welcoming remarks and an overview of the agenda. The purpose of this meeting is to plan the ISAC in-person meeting in February and to request advice from federal agencies. This meeting will have public comment available at 2:50pm for non-federal participants only. C. Bargeron reviewed the roles and responsibilities of ISAC members, Federal employees, and stakeholders.

*Roll call was conducted by Kelsey Brantley. Nine present, three absent.*

### Members Present

- Chuck Bargeron (Chair), University of Georgia
- Edward Clark, Wildlife Center of Virginia
- Slade Franklin, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture
- William Hyatt, Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Janis McFarland, Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC.
- Laura Meyerson, University of Rhode Island
- Blaine Parker, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Brent Stewart, Hubb-SeaWorld Research Institute
- Gary Tabor, The Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Jeffrey White, Newmont Mining Corporation/Elko Land and Livestock Company

### Members Absent

- Carol Okada, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
- Sean Southey, PCI Media Impact
- Brent Stewart, Hubbs Sea World Institute

### NISC Secretariat Staff Present

- Jamie K. Reaser, NISC Secretariat
- Kelsey Brantley, NISC Secretariat
- Stas Burgiel, NISC Secretariat
- Jeffrey Morisette, NISC Secretariat
- Jhoset Burgos Rodriguez, NISC Secretariat
- Jason Kirkey, NISC Secretariat
- Sarah Veatch, NISC Secretariat

## Approval of Minutes

C. Bargeron introduced the minutes of the February/March 2018 ISAC meeting. Janis McFarland, Bill Hyatt, and Laura Meyerson requested edits be made to the proposed minutes. Edits were emailed to K. Brantley and noted by C. Bargeron. E. Clark made a motion to adopt the minutes with the noted changes, which was seconded by Blaine Parker. K. Brantley conducted a roll call vote.

*The February/March 2018 ISAC meeting minutes were adopted unanimously with the changes from J. McFarland, B. Hyatt, and L. Meyerson.*

## Update from NISC Secretariat, Jamie K. Reaser, Executive Director

Dr. Jamie K. Reaser shared that the NISC and its Secretariat released new products per the 2016-2018 NISC Management Plan since ISAC's last meeting that are available on the NISC website ([www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov)) and gave an overview of how to access them. J. Reaser highlighted the release of the Success Stories publication and asked ISAC members to contact K. Brantley and/or J. Reaser for hard copy distribution. J. Reaser reviewed some of the NISC products available on the website.

The NISC Secretariat is currently working on closure of the following Management Plan action items through the end of the calendar year:

- Report on invasive species impacts to infrastructure lead by USACE detailee M. Vissichelli;
- NISC Secretariat pilot project Invader Detectives (a citizen science based program for the urban environment) led by NPS detailee Mark Frey and picked up by DC PRISM
- Montana pilot project on building Incident Response Systems for invasive mussels (focused on an analysis of the potential cost of inaction)
- NISC Secretariat podcast series thematically tied to Management Plan action items
- 2017 and 2018 annual reports for Wyoming pilot project on Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) of Invasive Grasses (*contact Slade Franklin for more information*)
- EDRR and invasive species papers (10) to be submitted to Biological Invasions, with two (2) additional papers being considered for publication in a special issue.

J. Reaser provided an overview of continuing NISC Secretariat work:

- International collaboration through the Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Coordinating Group (ICG), of which J. Reaser is chair. Priority theme for the ARAIS ICG is non-native species data mobilization. ARIAS ICG (chaired by USGS) to host a technical experts working group in January 2019.
- Monthly community of practice webinars led by S. Burgiel (policy/law) and J. Morissette (science/technology). Webinars provide opportunities for the federal government to participate in discussions around Management Plan action items and report to senior leadership with a request for response with guidance and feedback.
- Digital Makerspace released during NISAW 2018 continues to provide an online forum for innovating ideas and discussion on conservation issues, including invasive species. Active competitions include a collaboration between DOI's Office of Hawaiian Affairs and National Park Service on Rapid Ohia Death detection technology (for more information: [www.savetheohia.org](http://www.savetheohia.org)).

J. Reaser provided an update on ISAC nominations and NISC Secretariat staff positions. Four ISAC nominations were put forward for ISAC Class 10 and are currently in the White House vetting process. Class 11 will comprise of the four members of Class 10, and the nine remaining members of Class 9 once term-limited members retire. NISC Secretariat Publications Director position (currently held by J. Kirkey) is extended through July 2019. Interdepartmental Coordinator and Project Manager position (currently held by Sarah Veatch) is extended through September 2019. Term appointment for J. Burgos-Rodriguez (Senior Policy Analyst) will end on December 12, 2018. NISC Secretariat will host an farewell event after close of business on December 5, 2018.

*J. Reaser expressed her sincere gratitude to J. Burgos-Rodriguez for his leadership and work at the NISC Secretariat and DOI Insular Affairs.*

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## **Request for Advice**

J. Reaser introduced two possible areas where ISAC could work over the next several months to provide guidance to NISC. The two areas include:

1. **Invasive Species and Ticks:** The Department of Defense (DOD) recently sent a formal request through the office of Deputy Assistant Secretary, Maureen Sullivan, for assistance collating the best available science and assessing the intersection between invasive species and ticks. DOD has particular concerns about the impacts of ticks on military personnel both domestically and abroad. The issue is not limited to DOD and is of relevance to federal land management agencies particularly those engaged with recreation. The scope of the work could include ticks that are invasive, vectored diseases that are invasives, or the role of invasive plants and animals in serving as preferable habitat or further facilitating the impacts of native and non-native ticks.
2. **ISAC Recommendations Retrospective:** Over the two decades since E.O. 13112 on invasive species was signed, ISAC has produced numerous white papers and a multitude of corresponding recommendations. Many of that have not been acted up, but may still be thematically relevant. ISAC could revisit the entire suite of white papers, assess recommendations that are still relevant, and identify top messages and action items moving forward.

Work on either or both would require a commitment by ISAC, including a volunteer to chair the effort. They would need to be completed by the end of ISAC Class 9's term, May 12, 2019.

## **ISAC Discussion/Tasking**

**On the issue of invasive species and ticks:** E. Clark noted connections with the National Biodefense Strategy, which was recently released by the White House. S. Franklin asked if there were any current efforts of federal agencies to look at ticks. E. Clark highlighted connections to the recent ISAC white paper on wildlife health, particularly with regard to vectors and monitoring, and asked about whether ongoing work in the field (e.g., by the Virginia Wildlife Health Center on the longhorned tick – *Haemaphysalis longicornis*) could also be incorporated. J. Reaser supported looking at the ISAC wildlife health white paper and other relevant ISAC recommendations, and noted that there will be a separate effort by the NISC secretariat to identify and collate the work of federal agencies on this topic. Once a designated federal official (DFO) has been assigned to the task team, that individual can make relevant information and federal experts available to ISAC.

E. Clark volunteered to serve as chair of a task team on the topic. B. Parker noted his interest in participating on the task team, and J. White noted that he would contribute information related to invasive vegetation.

*ISAC agreed to form the task team with E. Clark as chair, while leaving participation open to other members.*

**On the retrospective look at ISAC recommendations:** E. Clark suggested analyzing past recommendations in view of more recent priorities that have emerged since then and particularly under the current administration. Biodefense, infrastructure, endangered species, and pollinators were mentioned as possible areas of intersection. S. Franklin asked whether recommendations made during the stakeholders' forum at the February 2018 ISAC meeting could be reviewed and incorporated. J. Reaser affirmed the value and content of that discussion and noted that it can be brought forward as ISAC sees fit.

S. Franklin inquired about how to address recommendations for which there was no response from NISC departmental representatives. E. Clark also noted that some recommendations have been repeated across different white papers. J. Reaser responded by noting that recommendations are developed and delivered to a specific slate of departmental officials which changes over time. Reintroducing past recommendations could bring them to the attention of new NISC representatives, who have also started requesting input on specific topics from ISAC.

Responding to a question on analysis of federal authorities, J. Reaser noted ongoing review by the NISC Secretariat of emerging legislative activities, as well as longer term efforts to identify federal authorities associated with early detection and rapid response, as well as in the development of regulated lists of species that may cause harm.

In discussing how ISAC would work on the issue, C. Bargeron noted that such a review would require the expertise of all the ISAC members, and E. Clark suggested framing a plenary session at the next ISAC meeting on this topic. J. White noted that this might therefore be a task for the full ISAC and not necessarily entail the formation of a separate task team. C. Bargeron and S. Franklin stressed the need for ISAC members to review past recommendations and "do their homework" in advance of the next ISAC meeting. J. McFarland also noted that sub-groups could work on various aspects or themes in the recommendations. C. Bargeron and J. McFarland highlighted the opportunity to frame this analysis in the context of the development of the new NISC management plan. L. Meyerson stressed the need to structure the plenary dialogue as constructively as possible, including avoidance of interruption by the viewing public. A suggestion was made to reach out to previous ISAC members, and C. Bargeron asked if there were additional funds to support their attendance. J. Reaser noted that no funds have presently been set aside for that purpose, but could investigate the possibilities further.

*ISAC generally agreed that the full ISAC would address the retrospective on ISAC recommendations, which would be a core element of work during plenary session(s) at the next ISAC meeting.*

### **Discussion on in-person meeting logistics**

K. Brantley announced that the next ISAC meeting would be held Tues through Thursday, February 26-28, 2019 at the National Museum of the American Indian. Logistics for lodging are currently in the works. J. Reaser noted that ISAC should determine how it programs its time over the three days. Responding to S. Franklin's question about overlaps with National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), J. Reaser explained that the timing of NISAW is currently unclear however its organizers have been apprised of the ISAC meeting dates.

A number of ISAC members noted the success of the stakeholder fora at the February 2018 ISAC meeting. C. Bargeron suggested having two morning sessions focused on soliciting input: one a non-federal stakeholder forum and the second a dialogue with federal agencies. The group generally expressed a preference to end the meeting around 3 pm on the third day.

C. Bargeron asked for volunteers to help structure the agenda for the February 2019 ISAC meeting. S. Franklin and J. McFarland volunteered, while E. Clark noted his willingness to serve as a facilitator for the stakeholder sessions at the ISAC meeting. J. Reaser stated that a general agenda will be needed when the NISC Secretariat puts together the conference package for internal DOI approval, and that a more detailed agenda will be needed for publication of the Federal Register notice which will be issued in early February.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by B. Parker, seconded by J. White. Motion carried unanimously.

*Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.*