

U.S. Department of the Interior • Office of the Secretary (OS/SIO/NISC) • 1849 C Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 513-7243 • Fax: (202) 371-1751 • www.invasivespecies.gov

June 7, 2007

TO: Members of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

SUBJECT: Recommendations to NISC from the ISAC Meeting held May 1-3, 2007

During the May 1-3, 2007 meeting at the DoubleTree Grand Hotel Biscayne Bay in Miami, FL; ISAC agreed upon the following recommendations:

Recommendation I: That the following slate of ISAC Officers be approved and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior:

CHAIR:	K. George Beck, Colorado State University
VICE CHAIR:	Kenneth Zimmerman, Lone Tree Cattle Company
SECRETARY:	John Peter Thompson, The Behnke Nurseries Company

Recommendation II: That a future presentation to ISAC be arranged on ballast discharge and fouling standards specifically focused on U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security.

Recommendation III: That NISC member departments and agencies provide a written analysis of the 2007 Farm Bill, when enacted, for its implication to reduce or increase the introduction and spread of invasive species. ISAC further recommends that NISC departments and agencies identify future opportunities for the development of further regulatory or guidance language – authorized by the legislative language – which is likely to significantly promote either the increase or decrease in the introduction or spread of invasive species.

Recommendation IV: That regulations which apply to species without further taxonomic qualifications also apply to the subspecies, varieties, taxonomic synonyms and all sub-specific categories of that species, as appropriate.

Recommendation V: That the ISAC Bylaws be approved, as amended by the Ad Hoc ISAC Subcommittee and reported on during the May 3, 2007 portion of the ISAC meeting.

Recommendation VI: That NISC support the eradication of invasive species on island ecosystems through cooperative partnerships with private and public organizations.

Recommendation VII: That NISC promote the creation of rapid response teams for vertebrates, analogous to those that currently exist for plant species. One example of animals for which a rapid response team may be needed, is the Nile Monitor Lizard (*Varanus niloticus*), a species that was recently introduced to mainland Florida.

Recommendation VIII: That NISC member departments and agencies determine if/which state and/or Federal agencies have the regulatory authority to prevent the introduction of exotic disease agents that would negatively impact native wildlife. This would include the authority to restrict importation of selected exotic species; and to require examination and testing of imported exotic species for disease agents. ISAC is concerned that there may be gaps in federal and state authorities intended to prevent the introduction of disease agents that have the potential to negatively impact native wildlife, including endangered species.

Recommendation IX: That NISC draft a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Army Chief of Engineers; requesting full funding of \$15 Million for the USACE Aquatic Plant Control Program, so that needed laboratory and operational research can be accomplished.

Recommendation X: That an ISAC Task Team be established to explore an operational framework for a national center for biological invasions by:

- Researching existing models like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Interagency Fire Center; which deal with multi jurisdictional responses.
- Design a center to enhance Federal, tribal, State and local efforts for preventing, monitoring, researching and managing invasive species in the U.S.
- Cost out a budget for the center.
- Produce a "white paper" that would propose the establishment of the center.

Recommendation XI: That the Department of the Interior fill the NISC staff position of Outreach and Communications Specialist during FY 2008. ISAC believes that the position is critical to the success of NISC's communication, education and outreach goals.

Sincerely,



K. George Beck, Ph.D.
Chairman, Invasive Species Advisory Committee
Professor of Weed Science, Colorado State University

DISTRIBUTION: See Attached

DISTRIBUTION

DOI

Member: Hon. Dirk Kempthorne

Liaison: A. Gordon Brown

DOC

Member: Hon. Carlos M. Gutierrez

Liaison: Dean Wilkinson

USDA

Member: Hon. Mike Johanns

Liaison: Hilda Diaz-Soltero

DOD

Member: Hon. Robert M. Gates

Liaison: Peter Egan

EPA

Member: Hon. Stephen L. Johnson

Liaison: Michael Slimak

HHS

Member: Hon. Michael O. Leavitt

Liaison: Sandra Howard / Theresa Lawrence

STATE

Member: Hon. Condoleezza Rice

Liaison: Rowena Watson

USAID

Member/Liaison: Mr. Jim Hester

DOT

Member: Hon. Norman Y. Mineta

Liaison: Arnold Konheim

DHS

Member: Hon. Michael Chertoff

Liaison: Bruce Lewke

TREAS

Member: Hon. Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

Liaison: NONE APPOINTED

USTR

Member: Amb. Susan C. Schwab

Liaison: David Brooks

NASA

Member: Hon. Michael Griffin

Liaison: Edwin Sheffner