

## RECAP: AISWG Meeting 5-1-07. UAF-CES Building, Anchorage

### Attendees:

Rob Bentz, Deputy Director, ADF&G, Juneau  
Tammy Davis, Invasive Species Project Leader, ADF&G, Juneau  
Helen Denniston, State Agronomist, USDA-NRCS, Palmer  
LT. Robert Fields, U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau  
Gino Graziano, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Palmer  
Judy Hamilton, Fisheries Biologist, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Homer  
Michele Hebert, Land Resources Agent, UAF-CES, Fairbanks  
Jeff Heys, Exotic Plant Management Team Liaisons, National Park Service, Anchorage  
Deena Jallen, Invasive Species Program Assistant, UAF-CES, Fairbanks  
Larry Johnson, Integrated Vegetation Management Coordinator, AK DOT, Fairbanks  
Lisa Ka'aihue, Director of Administration, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Anchorage  
Dennis R. Lassuy, Invasive Species Program Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage  
Rosemarie T.G. Lombardi, Environmental Program Specialist, AK DEC, Wasilla  
Jamie Nielsen, Invasive Plants Program, UAF-CES, Anchorage  
Dan Proulx, Natural Resource Specialist II, DNR-Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks  
Gene Schock, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Palmer  
Linda Shaw, Wildlife Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau  
Jeanne Standley, Vegetation Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage  
Calvin Steel, State Rangeland Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Palmer

### FUNDING/FORMALIZATION

There has been no legislative or administrative move forward regarding the AISWG. To help enable future action toward stable funding and formalizing a council, the AISWG should work to clarify its organizational structure. To this end, representatives from the key state agencies will meet to iron out details. A Needs Assessment, in the form of an 8 page brief will be drafted. Further issues of formalization were discussed under goals 1, 5, and the Needs Assessment.

### GOALS

- 1. Clarify the jurisdictional authorities of signatory parties as they relate to invasive species management.
  - One of the first issues with clarifying jurisdictional authority is the status of the AISWG within the State of Alaska government.
    - Identify the new person within the governors administration that replaces the vacancy left by Rachel Petro
      - Dan Proulx will contact Rachel in **May** to see if she had any documents previously drafted regarding state jurisdiction
    - **May 30<sup>th</sup>** (10 am) AISWG teleconference to discuss a series of tables outlining information about agency jurisdictions in regard to species and pathways
    - **June** AISWG teleconference will discuss jurisdiction
    - Tammy Davis will arrange a teleconference/meeting with representatives from the State agencies after the new Director of Agriculture has been chosen (**late June**)
      - The state agency representatives will name the Chair and Co-Chair of the AISWG, and discuss technical issues surrounding

the formation of an Alaska Invasive Species Council. Rob Bentz will facilitate fleshing out the structure of the AISWG.

- Rob Bentz will contact the commissioners, and will present the results to Mike Nizich in the governor's office (**July?** Timeline variable).
  - Show the need for an AIS Council, demonstrate that there are gaps that the council would bridge
- 2. Share the scientific and technical expertise of the parties related to invasive species management.
  - CNIPM/AISWG Conference: November 13-15 (Deena Jallen)
  - Maintain/update websites (Deena Jallen)
  - Monthly teleconferences
    - Calvin Steel affirmed that the NRCS bridge line would remain available
  - Joint detection, research, citizen involvement, and educational projects
    - Coordinated Green Crab and other invasive coastal species monitoring projects (facilitated by teleconferences among the AISWG Marine Subcommittee)
- 3. Encourage and enable signatory party employees or members to work collaboratively to optimize their respective capabilities to minimize invasive species impacts.
  - Teleconferences
  - Contact lists on the website
  - Make improvements to the AISWG Calendar and News pages (Deena Jallen)
  - Get the AISWG included as parts of agencies strategic plans to improve alignment with invasive species efforts
  - Encourage and invite new members
    - Distribute an informational/invitational piece inviting people to the November meeting of AISWG/CNIPM
      - Coordinate with CNIPM
- 4. Collaborate in the development of a needs assessment and drafting of a statewide strategic plan for the management of invasive species.
  - See NEEDS ASSESSMENT section
- 5. Consider the formation by the State of Alaska, in collaboration with the other signatory parties, a formal structure for continued collaboration, cooperation and communication to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska.
  - Resolve Goal # 1, and then bring forward result to the state with the help of the commissioners
  - Justify and illustrate why Alaska needs an Invasive Species Council.
    - Point out flaws of not taking action
    - Stress the positive functions of a council, specifically how an AISC could help to reduce duplicated efforts and save the state money/resources
    - Highlight accomplishments
    - Format into an 8 page brochure, bullet lists of accomplishments, tables of jurisdiction, species profiles (Needs Assessment)

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There was much discussion about what a Needs Assessment could, or should be. After identifying the main audience (legislators, administrators, and the public they serve), it was

agreed to go forward with a short, concise, informational piece demonstrating why Alaska needs the AISWG/AISC

- 8 pages maximum. Possibly with a further condensed 2 page version
- Glossy, attractive. A “sales brochure”
  - Outline the problem of invasive species and stress the need for an all-taxa council
  - Bulleted lists of accomplishments so far
  - Tables summarizing agency responsibilities related to invasive species
    - Tables will be discussed at the **May 30th** AISWG Teleconference
  - Brief species profiles
    - (possibly integrated into the border, header/footer, or as insets)

## NOVEMBER MEETING

13<sup>th</sup> of November, at the Fairbanks Princess Hotel. CNIPM Meeting follows on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Michele Hebert has arranged for a room at the Princess Hotel for presentations. The November date will be a conference type event, not a working meeting for the AISWG. The overall goal of the day will be to raise awareness of the importance of having an all-taxa council on invasive species in Alaska. Invitees should include Governor Palin, members of the legislature, and other important agency, native, corporate, and NGO decision-makers who can help advance the goals of the AISWG. Possibilities for an introductory speaker would be Gov. Palin, or Tom Irwin (DNR Commissioner).

### Potential Agenda/Topics/Speakers

- Full day of presentations, 3 tracks
  - Opening Remarks
    - Possibilities: Gov. Palin, Tom Irwin, Michele Hebert
  - CNIPM Overview: Gino Graziano
- Invasive Species Councils, Importance of an invasive species council
  - Invite a speaker from Washington, Oregon or Idaho to speak on invasive species councils.
    - Getting an Invasive Species Council started
    - Importance of an ISC, why are they needed
    - Ideas for strengthening/improving ISCs
  - Aquatic invasives
    - Green Crab Habitat suitability: Jodi Harney, or Linda Shaw
    - Marine Aquatic Invasives Monitoring (Tunicates and Green Crab): Judy Hamilton
    - Green Crab Eradication studies: Catherine DeRiverra (Portland State University)
    - Spartina monitoring and response plans: Vanessa Howard (Portland State University). Oregon has a response plan.
    - Atlantic salmon risk assessment: Jack Piccolo (UAF)
    - Pike: Kristine Dunker (ADFG)
  - Terrestrial invasives
    - Alaska Rat Plan (Final version due out in the fall): Ellen Fritts
    - Potato Blight: Charlie Knight
    - Foxes: Steve Ebbert

- Insects and Pathogens
  - Early detection systems in AK for invasive insects (Asian Gypsy Moth): Jim Kruse, Roger Burnside (Division of Forestry)
  - Wildlife Diseases (Chronic wasting disease): Bob Gerlach, State Veterinarian
  - Amber Marked Birch Leafminer: John Lundquist (Forest Service)
- Conference funding
  - Registration fees
  - Agency sponsorship (coffee breaks, poster printing)
  - Grants
    - Michele Hebert will look into getting funding from other sources
- Informational materials: will have in place during the AISWG meeting, and possibly during CNIPM as well. Will need to look into space considerations
  - Poster session (lunch November 13)
    - Research projects through agencies
    - Graduate research studies
  - Tables; information, handouts, displays

#### NEXT TELECONFERENCE

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Marine Subcommittee support and collaboration on green crab monitoring
  - Teleconference May 10, 9 am, 907-586-7977
- ADF&G website updates will hopefully include a ranking of invasive species (non-plant) similar to the AKEPIC plant ranking site. ADF&G is currently working on project funding and feasibility
  - Jeanne Standley mentioned that Keith Boggs is working on a similar type of 'one-stop-shopping' website. BLM in Oregon is working on a multi-taxa database: GEOBOB (Geographic Biotic Observations) (K. Boggs might be a useful person to invite to a teleconference)
- National Public Lands Day,
  - Could help to increase involvement