

AISWG Minutes January 2007 to September 2007

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Minutes were recorded by Deena Jallen (UAF-CES).
Teleconferences were hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Monday, January 22

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Chris Benson- AK DOT, Juneau

Rob Bentz- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau

Steve Ebbert- Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Curtis Knight-AK DNR Fairbanks

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Linda Shaw- NOAA, NMFS, Juneau

Jeanne Standley-BLM, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Upcoming Events
- Needs Assessment
 - Introduction
 - Species Profiles
 - Agency Summaries
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

AK Forum on the Environment website

Update on Activities

Linda Shaw has been working with Forest Service to get Invasive species literature and educational materials, including species identification kits.

Jeff Heys reminded people about the new book 'Invasives Species of the Pacific Northwest'. by P. Dee Boersma (Editor), S. H. Reichard (Editor), A. N. Van Buren (Editor). The book is available at amazon.com for \$19.77.

Rob Bentz with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are working towards pike eradication in the Yakutat area. Two drainages in the area have pike that survived the last ice age; pike have been moved to other drainages by people, or could move during high water. If pike enter the Situk river, other local fish populations could be harmed. ADF&G and the community of Yakutat are working on a pike plan that would include application of rotenone to pike.

Linda Shaw will be leading a marine subcommittee meeting via teleconference at 10am on 2/1/07. To attend, call in to 907-586-7060

The Alaska Forum on the Environment meeting will be held in Anchorage at the Egan Center the week of February 12th. There will be an entire day of sessions on invasive species, on Feb. 14, and invasive species films will be shown on Monday and Tuesday (Feb. 12-13). Douglas Vincent-Lang will moderate a session on Northern Pike Invasion and Management. Jamie Nielsen will moderate Invasive Plants in Alaska and the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Alaska National Parks (including presentations on CNIPM, Review of Invasive Plants in Alaska (Matt Carlson), and Invasive Plant Management Plan for Alaska National Parks (Jeff Heys))

Denny Lassuy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be moderating the sessions on Rats (presentations by Ellen Fritts (ADF&G), Poppy Bensons (USFWS) and D. Lassuy) and the AISWG (Deena Jallen).

Needs Assessment

We have received almost all of the species profiles, and 6 of the agency summaries. Michele Hebert and Deena Jallen will begin drafting the text and format of the needs assessment document and will send out drafts for review and comment. The first draft should be done by the second week of February.

Next teleconference for the AISWG

Marine Subcommittee

10 am Thursday, February 1st.

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

AISWG

** To be announced over listserv and website **

Additional Resources

AK Forum on the Environment website

Home

<http://www.akforum.com/index.htm>

Agenda

<http://www.akforum.com/agenda.htm>

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Friday, February 23

Hosted via NRCS bridge number, minutes taken by Deena Jallen

Participants:

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Ann Ferguson, USDA-APHIS

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Judy Hamilton- ADF&G, Katchemak Bay Research Reserve

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Charlie Knight- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AK DOT&PF, Fairbanks

Jamie Nielsen-UAF Cooperative Extension Service, CNIPM, Anchorage

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Linda Shaw- NOAA, NMFS, Juneau

Jeanne Standley-BLM, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Update from State representatives meeting about AISWG support
- Recap of Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Discussion of joint CNIPM/AISWG activities and possible fall meeting
- Discuss AISWG April meeting in Anchorage
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

Upcoming events

AK Forum on the Environment website

Recap of State representative meeting by Tammy Davis via listserv

Update on Activities

Michele Hebert and Phil Kaspari will be teaching a weed free forage certification class in April. The program is designed for farmers to learn about weed free forage, and for district employees to receive training in certification, tagging, and record keeping. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts are also involved in the program. Certified weed free forage and bedding straw can be sold to the Yukon Quest, and other organizations.

Larry Johnson from the AK DOT reported on the DOT collaboration with UAF and Steeve SEefeldt to expand research into wet blade mowing techniques for shrubs and some invasive species. Research into rates, efficiency at high rates, and examination of the wet blade method will be continued this summer.

Jeanne Standley from BLM reports that they are looking for someone to help develop a strategic plan for controlling weeds in the interior. Gino Graziano says the CWMAAs (Cooperative Weed Management Areas) are also considering doing a similar plan. Good

contacts would be George Hides and Joanne Sharfenburge (479-1213). The Foraker Group also has experience in facilitating strategic plans for non-profit agencies, and may also work with governmental agencies.

Jamie Nielsen and Blythe Brown will be going to the NIWAW (National Invasive Weed Awareness Week) meetings in Washington DC. They have scheduled appointments with the Alaskan congressional delegation to discuss invasive plants, and the senators from Hawaii to discuss some bird issues. Deena Jallen provided Jamie Nielsen with a one page handout covering AISWG website address, Mission, Goals, brief description of the working group background, MOU signatories, and need for state support. Other people from Alaska will be going to DC in upcoming weeks to discuss other invasive species (The Nature Conservancy will be requesting \$2 million in funds for rat projects).

Update from State representatives meeting about AISWG support

AISWG members from Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game met on 2/20 to discuss state support for the working group. Their next meeting will be on March 16th.

ADF&G and AKDNR were identified as having invasive species issues as part of their missions, and as being the most likely sources for funding of an Alaskan invasive species council. Feedback from the new Palin administration will be needed. Larry DeVilbiss is currently the director of DNR, but is waiting for approval to stay in his position. The transition plan might address invasive species, but the final version has not been released (expected to be out by early March). DeVilbiss supports taking action on invasive species, but is in limbo until the transition teams are in place and the new state administration is settled.

Recap of Alaska Forum on the Environment

Linda Shaw, and several other participants in the AISWG attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment. She said the films were excellent, and the meeting was well attended. She networked with Poppy Benson and Ellen Fritts, and will be working on getting a presentation and educational materials about invasive rats to Juneau. Her opinion was that the issue of invasives species was more apparent, and there was more awareness of the issue at this year's Forum than in previous years.

Wednesday, February 14th had sessions about invasives all day. Douglas Vincent-Lang moderated a session on the ADF&G new invasive pike plan, Kristine Dunker, Matt Miller, and Robert Johnson (all ADF&G) presented. Jamie Nielsen (UAF-CES) moderated a session about invasive plants. Matt Carlson (UAA Natural Heritage Program) and Jeff Heys (National Park Service) presented. Contact and information materials about CNIPM and other invasive plant materials were available.

Denny Lassuy (USFWS) moderated and presented at the session on invasive rats. Ellen Fritts (ADF&G) and Poppy Benson (USFWS) gave interesting talks about invasive rats in Alaska and the ADF&G rat plan. Poppy Benson encouraged everyone to check out www.stoprats.org. The website has rat information, and you can order free rat

prevention kits. ADF&G's invasive rat plan is in the final editing process, and should be online in several months.

Denny Lassuy also moderated the session on the new invasive species group in Alaska, the AISWG. Deena Jallen spoke about the formation of the working group, and provided at print out of the presentation with contact information, website address, current list of signatories, etc.

Discussion of joint CNIPM/AISWG activities and possible fall meeting

The 8th Annual CNIPM meeting will be in the interior of Alaska in 2007. The meeting is scheduled for sometime in late October at the Fairbanks Princess Hotel. The AISWG will continue to meet face to face every 6 months. The next meeting is scheduled for spring 2006 in Anchorage, and it might work out well to have the fall AISWG meeting in conjunction with the CNIPM meeting. At this point, linking the two groups very closely could be risky; CNIPM has a long established track record, and the AISWG might not pan out. However, having a joint meeting has not been met with great resistance. An option for scheduling would be to have the AISWG meet for ½ or whole day on Tuesday, CNIPM to meet on Wednesday and Thursday, leaving Monday and Friday available for participants to travel. AISWG may also be able to hold concurrent sessions during CNIPM. Further AISWG and CNIPM audios and listserv discussions will be held to discuss details of agenda, conference costs, etc.

Discuss AISWG May meeting in Anchorage

The tentative date for a face-to-face of the AISWG is scheduled for May 1st in Anchorage. Agenda items will be discussed at the March teleconference. Due to lack of funds, Deena Jallen has been working on other grant projects, and the Needs Assessment has not progressed. The May meeting would be good time to discuss the next steps for the AISWG, to have a work session to focus on drafting the Needs Assessment, and possibly set up work groups to tackle sections of the assessment.

Next teleconference for the AISWG: March 19th, 9am

- Discuss outcome of State meeting on March 16th
- May 1st meeting in Anchorage
 - Location
 - Agenda
- Joint CNIPM/AISWG October meeting
 - Meeting date
 - Agenda
 - Costs
- Set next meeting time

Marine Subcommittee

10 am Thursday, February 1st.

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

Upcoming events:

- AISWG teleconference
March 19th, 9am
- Marine teleconference
April 5th, 10 am

AK Forum on the Environment website

Home

<http://www.akforum.com/index.htm>

Agenda

<http://www.akforum.com/agenda.htm>

Recap of state agency representatives provided by Tammy Davis, sent out over the listserv.

Hello all:

Thanks again for your time this morning. Our next meeting is set for Friday, March 16th at 11:00am.

To reiterate what was discussed:

- * Larry DeVilbiss is still in transition with his department, so will not be making any policy calls until he finds out further about his position.
- * Short discussion on the background of the Working Group
- * Before discussing funding a chair, we need to find out how the new administration feels about invasive species, and AISWG, specifically.

- * Preliminary financial discussion-
- * DOT and DEC do not have IS within their mission, so do not feel that they will provide funding
- * DNR and DF&G agree that because of regulatory role funding should come from them

- * Larry will speak with DNR commissioner- If funding was made

- available through the FY08 budget it would not be available until July '07.
- * F&G has grant funds that could be made available before July '07
 - * Rob has reviewed the Fish and Game Transition Document- it does not contain any specific mention of invasive species.
 - * Larry DeVilbiss will send out a copy of the DNR Transition Document
 - * Tammy will contact CNIPM to find out more about their fact sheet and meeting with congressional delegates and state legislature
 - * Rachel Petro, Dept. of Administration, do her new responsibilities cover invasive species/AISWG?
 - * Everyone agreed that we are very appreciative for the hard work and focus that Michele and Deena have provided to the group and we hope they will continue to be involved in the future.

If you see omissions or edits need to be made, please let me know.

Thank you-

Tammy J. Davis
Invasive Species Project Leader
Division of Sport Fish
ADF&G
P.O. Box 115525
Juneau, AK 99811-5525
Phone (907) 465-6183
Fax (907) 465-2772

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Tammy Davis-ADF&G, Juneau
Joy Geiselman- USGS Alaska Science Center, Anchorage
Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks
Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks
Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks
Charlie Knight- AKDNR Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks
Rosemary Lombardi- AKDEC Pesticide Program, Wasilla
Barbara Schrader- USFS, Juneau
Jeanne Standley-BLM, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Discuss outcome of State meeting on March 16th
- Discuss Spring (May 1st) meeting in Anchorage
- Joint CNIPM-AISWG meeting in Fairbanks, November 13-15
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

Contact info for Phil Kaspari (Weed free certified hay program)
Board of Fish and Board of Game regulation changes (links)
AK DEC Pesticide Control Program: Proposed Changes to Regulations (links)

Update on Activities

Tammy Davis; ADF&G will have a booth at the Sportsman's Show in Anchorage presenting material on invasive species and rats. It will be a good opportunity to reach boaters and outdoor enthusiasts. Jeanne Standley has some weed fliers that can be used at the ADF&G booth as well. T. Davis also mentioned that the Board of Game and Fish met at the beginning of the month, and changes were made to invasive species wordings. Also, rats were added as deleterious wildlife. The regulations also closed gaps regarding the possession and inter-transport of harmful aquarium species (especially snakeheads). Possession and transport of these regulated species are now illegal.

Deena Jallen will be working on the spring AISWG newsletter. This issue will focus on invasives species education.

Michele Hebert said there is a weed free hay certification class coming up soon. Phil Kaspari has a list of where weed free hay is available. The Cooperative Extension Service will be bringing on its IPM (Integrated Pest Management) technicians on May 1st. These agents have about 12,000 contacts with the public, and are a good opportunity to share data and information with the public. M. Hebert will also be working with the Forest Service on rapid response activities. She oversees the Western Plants Diagnostic Network in Alaska.

M. Hebert had a booth on invasive weeds at the Master Gardeners conference. Some people at the conference were urging attendees to call their legislators to protest a ban on purple loosestrife. Larry Johnson suggested that in addition to 'behind the scenes' education, the AIWSG should consider doing a forum to raise some issues to greater awareness. One possibility would be to have a forum at the CNIPM meeting in November addressing Purple Loosestrife and Canarygrass with opposing viewpoints. Barbara Schrader would like to see some of the information transferred to displays and materials; something like 'Beautiful but Bad' posters for species invasive in Southeast Alaska. It would be helpful to contrast 'then and now' to stress consequences of failure to manage invasive species. M. Hebert said that the person supporting Loosestrife at the Master Gardeners Conference had pictures, and had said that the plant had never spread and had sterile seeds. There needed to be an expert available to respond about why Loosestrife should not be allowed in Alaska. Jeanne Standley pointed out that in general, sterile plants do not stay sterile. This is a grey area, and would be difficult to go into. Barbara Schrader stressed that prevention is protection, and that having an authority on hand would help to clarify the issue.

B. Schrader will be presenting at the Juneau fireside series at the Mendenhall center, and would like more materials on invasive species.

Cathy Turner and Deena Jallen presented on invasive bugs and weeds at Master Gardener classes. D. Jallen is also putting together the final report for the EPA regarding the activities on the grant to fund the AISWG. The final report and binder of accomplishments will be available at the meeting in Anchorage in May.

Rose Lombardi reported that new pesticide regulations have been put out. Changes have been made to notification requirements and notifications in public places. The comment period for the regulation changes ends in mid-April.

Discuss outcome of State meeting on March 16th

Tammy Davis related that representatives from ADF&G, AKDOT, AKDNR, and AKDEC met on March 16 to discuss the AISWG. They agreed that naming a chair was not essential until the group transforms in to a Council (if/when that happens). Larry DeVilbiss of AKDNR is still in transition, which puts the State on hold for a bit. The role of DNR in the working group or Council will be very important. In the meanwhile, ADF&G has decided to fund the administration of the Working Group for their time through FY06 (end of June). They will do an RSA through the completion of the fiscal year, and then revisit funding.

Larry Johnson pointed out that on the state side of things, it is problematic to make plans when funding levels are unknown. Also, the administration may not be aware of invasive species issues. AISWG and CNIPM should take any opportunities to present to the legislature and the governor. M. Hebert suggested doing an educational mailing; possibly sending out the CNIPM strategic plan, and a card on the working group website, one page with bullets outlining the Working group. Jeanne Standley agreed it would be a good idea, and recommended checking with CNIPM first, as they may already have something planned. A joint project would be helpful.

Rose Lombardi said that Larry had sent an email to Rachael Petro thanking her for her assistance in forming the AISWG, and to get a recommendation for a new contact. So far, Mike Nizich may be the new contact person. R. Lombardi said there may also be some funding from the State veterinarian office for the AISWG.

Discuss Spring (May 1st) meeting in Anchorage

The spring face to face meeting of the AISWG will take place May 1st in Anchorage. UAF-CES has a conference room available. A draft agenda has yet to be formulated. The main goal will be to have a working session on the needs assessment and to set goals for the next year.

Jeanne Standley suggested the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center as an alternate location. The facility has a large multipurpose room. The USFWS building will be unavailable on the first of May.

Michele Hebert recommended meeting from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm.

Joint CNIPM-AISWG meeting in Fairbanks, November 13-15

Also up for discussion/planning at the spring meeting will be the joint November meeting in Fairbanks with CNIPM at the Princess Hotel. The AISWG is scheduled to meet on November 13th, and CNIPM will meet on November 14-15. The AISWG will have to discuss costs and plan for the number of attendees.

Next teleconference for the AISWG

Marine Subcommittee

10 am Thursday, April 5th.

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Face to Face Meeting May 1st in Anchorage.

AISWG

April 10, 10 am

Call in to: 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up.

Long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

UAF-CES Delta Junction District home page

http://www.uaf.edu/ces/offices/del_do.html

Phillip Kaspari

Agriculture Extension Agent

895-4215

fnpnk@uaf.edu

ADF&G home page:

<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/>

Board of Fish changes to Regulations

http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/meetsum/2006_2007/bof-mar07-psum.pdf

Statewide Sport Fish and Personal Use General Provisions

C 262 Prohibit movement of certain invasive species within the state

(C= Carried)

Board of Game Changes to Regulations

<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/meetsum/2006-2007/sac3-07.pdf>

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
MARCH 2 – 12, 2007**

Statewide

CA 197 Clarify definitions, methods and means for deleterious exotic wildlife.

(CA = Carried as amended)

Pesticide Control Program: Proposed Changes to Regulations

(comment period ends April 16th)

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/pest/PesticideRegs2007.htm>

Public Notice pdf.

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/docs/pest/pesticide-regs-public-notice-2007.pdf>

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 30th** (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

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

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

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

May 30, 10 am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Kris Benson- ADF&G

Ann Ferguson, APHIS, Palmer

Joy Geiselman- USGS, Anchorage

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AK DOT&PF, Fairbanks

Denny Lassuy- USFWS, Anchorage

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC, Wasilla

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Barbara Schrader- US Forest Service, Juneau

Calvin Steele- NRCS, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Two-page legislative brief/Needs Assessment
- Needs assessment table of state and federal agency authorities
- Recap of May 1 meeting
- Speakers at November AISWG conference
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- Fairbanks Daily Newsminer article from 5/30 on new climate change subcabinet.
- Draft table for needs assessment
- Link to May recap

Update on Activities

Ann Ferguson said that Alan V. Tasker, Ph.D., the APHIS National Noxious Weed Program Manager would be coming to Alaska for the three days of the AISWG/CNIPM meeting, and might be willing to speak at the AISWG in addition to his scheduled talk at the CNIPM meeting.

Dan Proulx had reviewed materials from Rachel Petro. Her notes were not highly detailed, but did have some detail on the construction of the MOU and talking points on the proposed Orange Hawkweed legislation. The main advice on jurisdictional issues and formalizing the AISWG was to tread lightly. The commissioner's offices need to be kept abreast of what goes on with the AISWG, as they would be the ones to sign off on it. Dick LeFebvre is currently handling issues for the Division of Agriculture

commissioner's office, and he may be able to attend the meeting in June with the ADF&G.

Dan Proulx also spoke at the Homer weed workshop, and gave a brief talk on weed regulations. The new regulations are in the attorney generals office. Once sent to the governor's office, the new regulations on Purple Loosestrife and Orange Hawkweed will be official after 30 days. Doug Warner, the new acting director for AKDNR Division of Agriculture, will give a press release once the regulation is final.

Larry Johnson mentioned that there is a new subcabinet dealing with climate change issues. Commissioners from ADF&G, AKDOT&PF, AK DEC, and AK DNR are on the subcommittee. Denny Lassuy said that there is a lot of research tying together the issues of invasive species and climate change, at least in regard to aquatic species. This group could be a useful venue to promote invasive species issues.

Denny Lassuy recently attended the APU Spring Creek Summit and spoke about invasive species. The Summit is targeted to teachers and summer guides/interpreters.

Michele Hebert said that IPM agents have started trapping for insects, especially Asian Gypsy Moths.

Gino Graziano says that the conservation districts are working on a variety of projects. There are local weed control efforts for reed canary grass in Homer, and they hope to get some people from the lower-48 to visit the infestations and give advice on strategies for control.

Two-page legislative brief/Needs Assessment

Deena Jallen and Michele Hebert are continuing to work on the 8 page Needs Assessment, and the 2 page brief.

Needs assessment table of state and federal agency authorities

See Additional documents for a draft version of the compiled, edited responses. AK DNR, NRCS and US FS will be sending in their responses soon.

Recap of May 1 meeting

Michele Hebert reviewed the recap from the May 1 meeting in Anchorage. One of the goals of the AISWG is to encourage collaborative efforts, and to reach out to new members.

Recently, Jeanne Standley from BLM invited Denny Lassuy from USFWS to a meeting with a BLM advisory group. This group was made up of lodge owners, miners, recreational interests, and other businesses. There were good discussions of invasive species, and several people in attendance advocated for getting legislation passed through the state to support invasive species efforts. One of the attendees was Charlie Boddy, from Usibelli Coal Mine, who was one of the foremost advocates for re-vegetation

efforts. Some felt that Mr. Boddy would be a good person to contact with the 2 page brief and Needs Assessment to help get more support for the AISWG, and to keep involved in discussions of invasive species issues.

Barbara Schrader observed those like the attendees at the BLM meeting will be the ones who help make changes happen. One role of a resource managers is to shepherd the process along, and encourage constituents to contact their representatives and to get things moving.

Denny Lassuy said that if the agenda for this Fall's AISWG conference is fairly set with potential speakers, then people can move forward with putting together a list of groups to send mail and email to and increase participation. Michele Hebert said that would be a good opportunity to send out the 2 page brief, and that she will have a draft agenda by the end of June that could at least be sent out to people on the old CNIPM mailing list. Denny Lassuy said he would talk to Jeannie Standley and get a list of contacts on Resource Advisory Councils (RACs).

On June 12th, a meeting will be held in Homer to discuss setting up green crab and tunicate coastal monitoring programs. Judy Hamilton of Kachemak Bay Research Reserve has invited interested parties from state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to meet with their new research coordinator, Daniel Doolittle. Attendees will discuss setting up a centralized location for storing and compiling data on monitoring and early detection.

Speakers at November AISWG conference

Ann Ferguson announced that Alan Tasker, National Noxious Weed Program Manager, from USDA APHIS will be coming to the fall CNIPM meeting. He has a PhD in weed science, and is now working in agronomy. Ann said that he is good at finding funding sources, and might be able to come speak at the AISWG meeting as well.

Michele will look over the list of proposed speakers from the recap, and see what speakers she can contact and put together a draft agenda for November.

Next teleconference for the AISWG

June 29th, 9am. 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up. Long distance charges apply

Green Crab and Tunicate Monitoring Coordination Meeting

June 12th, 10 am. Homer, Alaska

Location and call-in information to be announced.

Please contact fndmj@uaf.edu or judy_hamilton@fishgame.state.ak.us for more information

Marine Subcommittee teleconference

June 28th, 9am 907-586-7977, allow line to ring until another party picks up.

Long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

State, UA merge on climate concerns

Published May 30, 2007

By Stefan Milkowski

Staff Writer

A new group set up by Gov. Sarah Palin to address climate change is forging a relationship with the University of Alaska to help the state place infrastructure, manage fish and game, and otherwise understand and deal with expected changes. Environmental Conservation Commissioner Larry Hartig said last week the university's new Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning program could help the state plan new buildings and roads by providing detailed, localized projections of various changes, including permafrost degradation and erosion. It could also help the state's Department of Fish and Game understand the expected impacts of warming water temperatures on salmon and other species, he said.

The network, which was officially launched in March, is aimed at tailoring new research to the needs of state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and industry, and making existing university research more accessible.

The governor's new subcabinet on climate change discussed the university program and other issues at its first meeting May 22 in Anchorage.

"I'm pretty excited about the relationship between the university and the subcabinet," Hartig, the group's chair, said.

The subcabinet consists of the commissioners of the departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Commerce, and Transportation; Palin's representative in Washington, D.C.; and a representative of the University of Alaska.

Scott Rupp, an associate professor of forest sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and director of the university program, also expressed enthusiasm for the new relationship with the state.

The university has done important research on changes in North Slope vegetation, permafrost thawing, and the effects of warming on wildfires, he said, "But to this point... I don't think the science community has necessarily done a great job reaching out to the communities, the state, [and] decision-makers."

Rupp said research funding often ran out before the research findings could be communicated to stakeholders.

The new program is funded by a \$1.5 million investment by the university, but Rupp said program directors would seek additional support from research funders for specific projects.

One of the group's first projects will be to localize a handful of climate models projecting global changes. Rupp said the network is shooting for specific projections that can show likely changes in areas as small as a few square miles, instead of the hundreds of square miles in global projections.

"We will have a set of future climate data at a resolution that we've never had before," he said.

Buck Sharpton, UAF's vice chancellor for research and a member of the new subcabinet, described the network as one element of a bridge between the state and its university. He said the university was in a position to provide key data, especially with the emphasis on the arctic from the International Polar Year.

Sharpton and Hartig both said the subcabinet was off to a good start but faced with a somewhat daunting task.

The group's mission largely mimics that of the Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission, which was established last year by the Legislature to review impacts, including any positive ones, and recommend solutions.

But the subcabinet's goal extends beyond the commission's to include efforts to stop the changes from happening in the first place or limit their extent. Hartig said his department was refining an inventory of in-state greenhouse gas emissions as the first step toward reducing state emissions. The subcabinet will track relevant federal legislation and review various state and regional initiatives to reduce emissions.

Hartig said the subcabinet hasn't set its next meeting date but plans to meet about once a month over the summer. Cabinet meetings aren't typically public, and the subcabinet's meetings won't be either, but Hartig said he anticipated public hearings because of the broad interest in the issue.

He added that the subcabinet may form work groups with public members to take advantage of local knowledge on specific issues.

The climate impact commission is scheduled to meet in Kotzebue in late June.

Contact staff writer Stefan Milkowski at 459-7577 or smilkowski@newsminer.com.

Draft table of agency authorities for the Needs Assessment

Federal			
Agency	Invasive Species Function	Authorities and Guidance	Key Responsibilities
National Park Service, Alaska Region	Preserve the natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. Cooperate with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation.	Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.; ANILCA Title 1, Section 101; Executive Order 13112; and NPS Management Policies 2006.	Manage invasive species on NPS lands. Share information about invasive species management with other land managers and the public.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work with federal, state, local and Tribal governments and private industry and citizen groups to implement invasive species management activities and share information and new techniques for the prevention, early detection, rapid response, control and management of invasive species.	Executive Order No. 13112 (Invasive Species), Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act; Lacey Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Endangered Species Act; National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act; and others.	Prevent introductions, minimize impacts; administer grants to States for aquatic nuisance species management plans; govern transport of injurious wildlife; conserve ecosystems of threatened and endangered species; maintain biological integrity and environmental health of the Refuge System

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service	Promote prevention, early detection and management of invasive species that threaten anadromous and marine resources.	Executive Order No.13112, Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act and NMFS management policies.	NOAA is co-chair of Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, whose mission is to develop and implement an aquatic nuisances species program to prevent their introduction and dispersal in waters of the U.S.
U.S. Coast Guard, District 17, Alaska Region	The USCG promotes prevention, early detection and management of invasive species. The USCG develops national regulations and policies on marine environmental protection and represents U. S. interests in the development of global marine environmental protection agreements to integrate U.S. and international environmental standards and public policy.	The National Invasive Species Act of 1996 required the Coast Guard to establish national voluntary ballast water management guidelines. The Coast Guard established both regulations and guidelines to prevent the introduction of ANS. The initial nationwide program with voluntary reporting of Ballast Water Management began in 1998. The rate of compliance was found to be inadequate, and vessel operator reporting became mandatory under the rules found in 33 CFR 151.	Develop the regulations and compliance policies to prevent introductions of aquatic nuisance species via ships. Represent the U.S. interests in national and international forums. Provide technical assistance to international organizations dealing with environmental prevention, preparedness, and response issues. Serve as the principal environmental liaison on environmental standards. Coordinate with appropriate federal, state and international organizations to minimize conflicting environmental requirements.
U.S. Geological Survey	Provide research information on all taxa from "microbes to mammals" to support adaptive management of invasive species through integration of interdisciplinary research, monitoring, and management approaches in all ecological regions of the U.S.	Organic Act 1879; Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and control Act of 1990, as amended; National Invasive Species Act of 1996; Executive Order on Invasive Species, 1999 (E.O.13112)	Provide knowledge and tools to support effective science-based strategies for prevention, early detection, and prompt eradication of new invaders and for control of rapidly spreading species representing all major taxonomic groups of invaders in U.S. ecosystems
Bureau of Land Management	BLM's Organic Act, Protect environment from human impacts, Prevent species from becoming extinct, Management of undesirable plants on Federal Lands, Weed control, Analysis and special considerations required for introduction of non-native species for restoration efforts.	Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Federal Noxious Weed Act, Lacey Act, BLM Manual (1745 Introduction, Transplant and Augmentation and Reestablishment of fish Wildlife and Plants, 9015 Integrated Weed Management, 9014 Biological Control of pest species, 9011 Chemical Pest Control, 9220 Integrated Pest Management), EO 13112 Invasive Species, Carlson Foley Act	Manage public lands for multiple use and sustained yield, prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands. Fund and cooperate with states to establish management systems for undesirable plants. Provide guidance and procedures for; biological control in integrated pest management programs, chemical pest control for maximum protection of environment and human health, authorization for reimbursement of expenses to state or local agencies for weed control on federal lands.

U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Region	The goal of the USDA Forest Service invasive species program is to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships. The Invasive Species Program integrates across many divisions of the agency including forest research, forest health, and Federal resource management.	The Organic Administration Act, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by National Forest Management Act, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978; and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990, National Environmental Policy Act, Invasive Species Executive Order 13112	Prevention, detection and control of invasive species infestations on Forest Service lands specifically. Working in partnership with other federal, state, and private land owners to control infestations across ownerships.
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State			
AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation: Pesticide Program	Register pesticides to be used for IS management in the state; Conduct pesticide inspections; Train and certify pesticide applicators; Issue permits for certain pesticide applications on state land, by aircraft, or to waters of the state. Agricultural Worker, Water Quality, Endangered Species Protection.	Federal: EPA- FIFRA, USDA- Recordkeeping; State- 18 AAC 90 Authority to regulate any person who uses, advises regarding use, manufacturers, sells, distributes, formulates, stores, or disposes of pesticides.	Protect human health, safety, and welfare, animals, and environment by ensuring the proper use, sale, distribution, storage, disposal of pesticides
AK Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities	Help to insure that federally funded Projects do not intentionally introduce or spread invasive species.	Executive order 13112- for federally funded projects.	Provide for the movement of people and goods. Work cooperatively with State, federal, and private groups who wish to inventory and/or control invasive species on ADOT land.
AK Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Agriculture	Regulate and control the entry into the state and the transportation, sale, or use inside the state of plants and seeds in order to prevent the spread of pests injurious to the public interest. To control and eradicate the spread of pests present in Alaska injurious to plants, trees, vegetables, livestock, and poultry.	Alaska Statutes dictate that the AK DNR Division of Agriculture shall; control and regulate the entry and transportation of seeds, plants, and other horticultural products; control and eradicate the spread of pests and noxious weeds injurious to plants, trees, vegetables, livestock, and poultry; experiment and determine practical methods of growing. Alaska Administrative Codes also regulate prohibited and restricted noxious weeds, prohibited acts, and new pests.	Promote, protect, and develop the agricultural industry in Alaska

Recap of May 1 meeting in Anchorage

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/pdf-documents/AISWG-Meeting-Summary-5-1.pdf>

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

June 29, 9am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Ann Ferguson- USDA APHIS, Wasilla

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Barbara Schrader- USFS, Juneau

Calvin Steele- NRCS, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Draft agenda for November
- 2 page brief
- Funding update
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- CNIPM listserv archive discussion
- State of Alaska Revegetation Manual website
- Draft Agenda for November AISWG meeting

Update on Activities

Deena Jallen gave an update on the green crab coordination meeting that took place on June 12th. Minutes from that meeting will be on the AISWG website soon. She has also updated the alaskainvasives.org website. A series of PSA's will be airing over the next few months regarding invasive plants and fish, and mention the alaskainvasives.org website as the location to go to receive a free pocket weed guide.

Dan Proulx from AKDNR said that the new purple loosestrife and orange hawkweed regulations have been accepted by the Lt. Governor, and will be official July 28th, and published in October.

Jeff Heys said that two Tribal Civilian Community Corps crews (a program of the Tanana Chiefs Conference) are performing invasive plant control work in Alaska's National Parks this June and July, including Denali, Glacier Bay, Kenai Fjords, Klondike Gold Rush, Sitka, and Wrangell-St. Elias. Katie Villano of UAF is collecting data for a modeling project along Interior highways, looking for white sweetclover, bird vetch, and narrowleaf hawksbeard moving into burned areas.

This week, there have been about 20 different events for Weed Awareness week, including 4 weed pulls in Anchorage. Kenai had a Dandelion Sunday (with 55 participants). Governor Palin made a proclamation about Weed Week, and Gino Graziano has put out a series of radio PSA announcement that will be running for about 3

months (see the alaskainvasives.org web site for a link to the pocket guide mentioned in the PSA.)

Larry Johnson mentioned that he has been impressed by the scope and range of advertising he has been seeing on the Weed Awareness week. The Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District has been running daily ads in Fairbanks. This would be a good time to deal with invasive issues in terms of public awareness. AKDOT has offered to cover the printing costs for the CNIPM conference in November (programs, meeting packets). The Working Group and CNIPM should look into cross advertising and mentioning each other on their advertisements.

Barb Schrader says the Forest Service had gotten contracts for invasive plant surveys. They will be completing their surveys along the major road systems in the forest system. So far they have completed their surveys in the lower 2/3 of the Tongass, and will be completing the Tongass and Chugach road systems. They also are implementing a number of control activities for invasive plants, and have been participating in Weed Awareness week.

Ann Ferguson referred to an ongoing discussion on the CNIPM listserv about Anchorage homeowners finding Canadian Thistles in plants purchased from Home Depot (see Additional Resources). The matter has been followed up, and the 4 Home Depots inspected (3 in Anchorage, 1 in Fairbanks) were not found to have more thistles. It is very encouraging to know that the public is keeping an eye out for such things, and raising awareness with Home Depot management. Dan Proulx is working with ARS and Jeff Conn from UAF to look at garden centers as pathways for invasive species introductions. They plan on doing periodic spot checks.

Larry Johnson reported that the plant materials center has revised the State of Alaska Revegetation Manual. They are trying to have more native species available for revegetation work.

Draft Agenda for November

Michele Hebert from UAF-CES has put together a draft agenda with speakers for the AIWSG meeting in November. The presentation by Jack Piccolo about Atlantic salmon may be dropped (Jack might not be available), this would leave more time for discussion (starting at 3:40 pm) about AISWG matters. Barb Schrader said that the discussion period would be a good time to review goals, and to examine where the all-taxa group is headed. Larry Johnson also suggested an evening session or 'cocktail hour' meeting to continue discussions of AISWG issues. Also, if there is not a representative of the governors office attending, that time slot could be used to discuss AISWG and CNIPM interactions. Michele Hebert said that she thought that would be a theme of both her and Gino Graziano's presentations.

Ann Ferguson said that the USDA-APHIS has paid for the conference room at the Princess Hotel for the AISWG meeting.

Two-Page Brief

The brief has been reviewed and edited by numerous people. The final draft will be sent out over the listserv.

Funding Update

Michele Hebert will be leaving on a 4 month sabbatical on August 1st. Deena Jallen is currently funded until August 30th. A state member will need to take the lead on running teleconferences in Michele Hebert's absence. Larry Johnson said that the ADF&G division director is also changing, so ADF&G and AKDNR are also in states of transition.

Next teleconference for the AISWG

9am Tuesday, July 24th

To attend, call into 907-271-1405. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Next teleconference for the Marine Subcommittee

9 am Thursday, July 26th.

To attend, call into 907-586-7977. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

Go to CNIPM listserv archives from June/July for the updates from imlori jean@aol.com about their findings of Canadian Thistles and Home Depot's response. The first posting on the matter is from 6/25/07

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/pipermail/cnipm-l/>

Postings from imlori jean@aol.com

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/pipermail/cnipm-l/2007-June/000763.html>

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/pipermail/cnipm-l/2007-June/000764.html>

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/pipermail/cnipm-l/2007-June/000768.html>

<https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/pipermail/cnipm-l/2007-July/000770.html>

Home Depot Environmental Principles Statement

[http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal/Environmental Principles](http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal/Environmental_Principles)

State of Alaska Revegetation Manual

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag/pmcweb/PMC_reveg.htm

Draft Agenda for the November AISWG meeting

2007 Statewide Alaska Invasive Species Conference

8:00-8:30 Registration

8:30-8:45 Welcome and Opening remarks

Representative from Governor's office (No one contacted yet.)

8:45-9:00 Alaska Invasive Species Working Group, addressing all taxa

- Michele Hebert, UAF CES
- 9:00-9:15 Pulling Together Against Invasive Plants. An overview of Alaska's Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management
Gino Graziano, ASWCD
- 9:15-9:45 Early Detection Rapid Response - All taxa efforts
Alan Tasker, National Noxious Weed Program Manager USDA APHIS
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00- 10:20 Invasive Defoliators in Alaska: If You Plant It, They Will Come
Jim Kruse, USDA Forest Service
- 10:20-10:40 Potato Blight and other plant pathogens of concern:
Charlie Knight or Michele Hebert
- 10:40-11:00 Invasive Species includes Disease Pathogens; How will the State respond?
Bob Gerlach, State Veterinarian, State of Alaska
- 11:00-11:20 Management of Invasive Mammals on Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.
Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife
- 11:20-11:40 Shipwreck response:
Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife
- 11:40-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:40 A summary of all ballast water studies for Alaska:
Greg Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- 1:40-2:00 Atlantic salmon risk assessment:
Jack Piccolo (UAF)
- 2:00-2:20 Spartina Early Detection and Rapid Response: the Oregon Experience
Vanessa Howard, Portland State University
- 2:20-2:40 Green Crab Habitat Suitability Modeling in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia and Washington using the Shorezone Coastal Mapping Project
Linda Shaw, NOAA
- 2:40-3:00 Break
- 3:00-3:20 A citizen monitoring program for marine invasive species in Alaska
Judy Hamilton, ADF&G
- 3:20-3:40 Invasive Northern Pike: A Growing Threat in Southcentral Alaska
Kristine Dunford, Research Fishery Biologist, ADF&G
- 3:40-4:00 "RATS: Reputations, Revelations, Regulations, and Rumor"
Ron Clark, ADF&G
- 4:00-4:30 Open discussion on need action items for all taxa working group.
Joan Cabreza from EPA may come up to speak on Washington ISC

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

July 30, 2007, 10am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Barbara Schrader- Forest Service, Juneau

Heidi Veach- UAF-CES, Glenallen

Stoney Wright- AK DNR, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- November Agenda
- Teleconferences
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

SAGA website

State of Alaska Revegetation Manual website

AISWG agenda

Update on Activities

Tammy Davis said that several crawfish have been found in Soldotna. ADF&G caught one in a trap, one turned up on private property, and one was caught in a fishing net. So far it is unknown if the crawfish were alive/established in the stream, or were dumped in the river. Also in Soldotna, 10-12 goldfish were found in a rock dump pond. The pond was drained, and the fish removed and disposed of. The area biologist believes he know the kids responsible for placing the fish there, and will speak to them. Sport fisherman on the Alaska Peninsula near Sand Point captured an Atlantic salmon. ADF&G is planning to do genetic analysis on the fish.

Barbara Schrader said that Forest Service still has folks out doing contract inventories, and inventorying plants along road systems. SAGA (South Alaska Guidance Association) crews and community volunteers are also involved in invasive plant control projects.

Stoney Wright from AKDNR said that the State of Alaska Revegetation Manual is available online, and they have been getting requests for a more printer friendly format.

Jeff Heys from the Park Service said that the national level Invasive Species Advisory Committee may be holding their next annual meeting in Anchorage next year. It might be possible to have the Secretary of the Interior attend, and would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of invasive species issues in Alaska. Park Service has a lot of field work ongoing this summer. Katie Villano is finding white sweetclover moving on to burned areas, and will likely present some of her findings at the fall CNIPM meeting.

There has been some concern raised about Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*), an invasive diatom. It is definitely found in multiple regions of Alaska and forms dense mats, however it might be a native species that is flourishing and may be expanding its range, and not an invasive species. There are some people looking into it, and Jeff Heys asks that people forward information on Didymo in Alaska to him (jeff_heys@nps.gov).

Representative Craig Johnson and Senator Fred Dyson have expressed interest in streamlining the process of adding new weeds to the noxious weed list. At a recent meeting in Anchorage they mentioned adding the issue to the legislative agenda. Senators Lesil McGuire and Gene Therriault also had staff members at the meeting. Representative Johnson recently contacted Diane Claasen at UAF-CES, and Deena Jallen added his email to the AISWG listserv, and passed on the address for the alaskainvasives.org website.

Larry Johnson will be coordinating an introduction in Juneau between Park Service plant inventory people and DOT employees. CNIPM will also be starting discussions on updating their strategic plan.

Michele Hebert from UAF-CES will be going on sabbatical soon. CES IPM (Integrated Pest Management) agents have been working with ARS, and with USDA and Forest Service entomologists on insect identifications. They are seeing new insects in Alaska all the time. Entomologists are also tracking and monitoring 28 species of ladybugs in Alaska. Some of these species are exotic, but not necessarily invasive. The new publication 'Beneficial Insects and Spiders of Alaska' is also available, free, from UAF-CES.

Deena Jallen from UAF-CES will be designing a poster on green crab identification. Linda Shaw from NMFS has some funds for this project. There will also be a training in Juneau August 13th-14th to 'Train the Trainer' for green crab and tunicate monitoring protocol.

November AISWG Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the November meeting has largely been finalized. There has not yet been someone from the governor's office identified to give the opening address. Michele Hebert suggested asking Tom Irwin from AK DNR to open the meeting if another speaker isn't found. Larry Johnson suggested scheduling a teleconference to allow further discussion on action items prior to the meeting (3:40 to 4:40 on the Agenda)

Ronda Halvarson from UAF-CES will be putting together the brochure and mailing for the meeting. The registration fee will be \$55 for the day. The revenue will cover meals and travel for out-of-state speakers (Vanessa Morgan from Oregon). UAF-CES is

looking for an organization to cover the costs of a mailing (\$350 with the bulk mail discount). This mailing could possibly be coordinated with CNIPM, and will mention the CNIPM meeting.

AISWG Chairing and ongoing Teleconferences

Michele Hebert will be on sabbatical from August until September. Deena Jallen has funding available until mid-September. The AISWG holds 1 hour teleconferences once a month. Tammy Davis from ADF&G and Stoney Wright from AKDNR would have to wait until their commissioners are sorted out before being able to address chairing the AISWG. Rose Lombardi said that the AISWG does not fit in with the AK DEC Pesticide main mission, and Larry Johnson from AKDOT has not gotten a response from his bosses regarding state chairing of the AISWG.

Stoney Wright said he would check on running teleconferences in Michele's absence (**NOTE:** Tammy Davis replied by email afterwards that she would also be available to lead teleconferences. Stoney Wright will not be leading the teleconferences). NRCS will continue to provide the bridge number for teleconferences.

Larry Johnson brought up the possibility of having a federal member of the AISWG to chair it temporarily. Michele Hebert said that the federal people have generally wanted the state to take leadership. She would recommend waiting to see how things are sorted out at the state level before seeking out a chairperson from a federal agency. A representative from the governor's office could also be a possibility for an AISWG chair.

Next teleconference for the AISWG

10am Thursday, August 30th.

To attend, call into 907-271-1405. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Marine Subcommittee

9 am Thursday, August 16th.

To attend, call into **907-586-7060** (note new number). Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

<http://www.servealaska.org/index.htm>

SAGA website

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag/pmcweb/PMC_reveg.htm

State of Alaska Revegetation Manual

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/>

EPA Didymosphenia page

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/International%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Didymo international factsheet

Agenda

2007 Alaska Invasive Species Conference

November 13, 2007

- 8:00-8:30** **Registration**
- 8:30-8:45** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 8:45-9:00** **Alaska Invasive Species Working Group, Addressing All Taxa**
Michele Hebert, UAF Cooperative Extension Service-Tanana District
- 9:00-9:15** **Pulling Together Against Invasive Plants: An Overview of the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management**
Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
- 9:15-9:45** **Early Detection and Rapid Response – All Taxa Efforts**
Alan V. Tasker, Ph.D., USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, PPQ
- 9:45-10:00** **Break**
- 10:00-10:20** **Invasive Defoliators in Alaska: If You Plant It, They Will Come**
James J. Kruse, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry
- 10:20-10:40** **Plant Pathogens of Concern**
Michele Hebert, UAF Cooperative Extension Service-Tanana District
- 10:40-11:00** **Invasive Species Includes Disease Pathogens: How Will the State Respond?**
Robert Gerlach, Ph.D., State Veterinarian, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health
- 11:00-11:20** **Management of Invasive Mammals on Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**
Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
- 11:20-11:40** **Shipwreck Response**
Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
- 11:40-1:00** **Lunch**
- 1:00-1:40** **Coastal Marine Invasions in Alaska: Patterns, Processes and Predictions**
Gregory M. Ruiz, Ph.D., Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Marine Invasion Research Laboratory
- 1:40-2:00** **Spartina Early Detection and Rapid Response: The Oregon Experience**
Vanessa Morgan, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University
- 2:00-2:20** **Green Crab Habitat Suitability Modeling in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia and Washington Using the Shorezone Coastal Mapping Project**
Linda Shaw, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- 2:20-2:40** **Break**
- 2:40-3:00** **A Citizen Monitoring Program for Marine Invasive Species in Alaska**
Judy Hamilton, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
- 3:00-3:20** **Invasive Northern Pike: A Growing Threat in Southcentral Alaska**
Kristine Dunker, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division

- 3:20-3:40** **Rats: Reputations, Revelations, Regulations and Rumors**
*Ronald G. Clarke, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife
Conservation*
- 3:40-4:40** **Open Discussion on Needed Action Items for All Taxa Working Group**
- (Speaker and exhibitor contact information on reverse side.)

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

September 27, 2007, 10am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Joy Geiselman- USGS

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Franci Havemeister- AK DNR, Palmer

Denny Lassuy- USFWS, Anchorage

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Jeanne Ostnes- Staff for Rep. Craig Johnson

Calvin Steele- NRCS, Palmer

Heidi Veach- UAF-CES, Glenallen

Stoney Wright- AK DNR, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Recap/comments on the September 20th meeting with Representative Craig Johnson, etc.
- Poster Session at AISWG November Meeting
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- CNIPM poster session info
- Link to AISWG calendar page with 9/20 meeting supporting documents
- Rat regulation press release

Update on Activities

Deena Jallen has been maintaining the AISWG websites, listserv, and online Blackboard course for Invasive Species of Coastal Alaska.

Gino Graziano estimated that he has sent out over 100 pocket weed guides during the summer. Radio PSA's and website links got the word out to the public about these free guides. AACD is preparing for their annual meeting on October 11 to 13. In August, Sue Galadovish from the University of Minnesota St. Paul (reed canarygrass infestation restoration), and Tim Miller, Washington State University, Seattle, (reed canarygrass control), Caleb Slemmons and several others from the Kenai SWCD toured reed canarygrass patches in Kenai. Also participating were local residents, researchers, Kenai Watershed Forum members, and APHIS employees. The out of state experts have written two draft reports that will be available later this year. Their opinion was that a lot

of the grass is present on Kenai, but infestations are manageable if priority areas (streams, waterways, wetlands) are attacked first. Gino also addressed the Kenai borough and assembly about reed canarygrass.

Stoney Wright said that they have been killing a lot of weeds on farms, and working on bringing in collections of reed canarygrass seeds to look at viability. This will be an important component of a management plan. He will also be giving a speech at the CNIPM meeting at revealing the new revegetation manual

Rose Lombardi reported that the new state pesticide regulations are coming out on the 30th of September. There have been some changes made, including regulations for notification of pesticide application in public areas. Applicators will need to review the new rules, and the DEC will be doing outreach to get word out on the new standards.

Denny Lassuy will be teaching a trial run of an invasive species prevention planning class in Homer on October 16th and 17th. An instructor will be coming up from out of state to teach hazard analysis and critical control processes as adapted for uses in natural resource management. Denny will hopefully be able to teach the class in other venues, including next years Alaska Forum on the Environment.

Jeff Heys has been summarizing activities conducted throughout the summer, and working with CNIPM to finalize their agenda for the Annual Meeting on November 14th and 15th. On the evening of the 13th, Michael Lutz will give a presentation about invasive plants, and John Randall (The Nature Conservancy) will speak about their global invasive species activities at the Noel Wien Library. Rose Lombardi and Matt Carlson are in charge of the CNIPM poster session. (info and contact details under Additional Resources).

Heidi Veach reported that the Copper River Weed Work Group is working to get funding for next summer. Their area includes Ahtna Native Corporation, State and BLM lands, each of which are acting on weeds. The Copper River group will be working towards forming rapid response plans.

Tammy Davis recently attended the Western Regional Panel meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The 40 attendees including representatives from the Washington state department of aquatic resources, The Nature Conservancy invasive algae folks, Hawaii invasive species council, and Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Mark Sytsma was unable to attend, but has put together a educational database. The meeting was a good opportunity to see how Alaska compares to other states. Currently Alaska has fewer invasive species to deal with, and is focused more on prevention than eradication.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has also implemented new regulations regarding rats. See Additional Resources for the ADF&G press release text. Denny Lassuy said that Ron Parks from ADF&G did an excellent job on an interview about the regulations the day they came out. The TV coverage was extensive and highlighted the risks and pathways for rat invasions, but did not heavily stress the illegality of rats.

Tracey Gotthardt from ADF&G is also working on the first phase proposal for data acquisition and analysis of an animal ranking project, similar to the invasive plant ranking project (akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/akweeds_ranking_page.htm). The project will be expensive, and require partners on-board to get started. The list will be a valuable tool to help alert people statewide about what invasive species to focus on.

Recap/comments on the September 20th meeting with Representative Craig Johnson, etc.

Jeanne Ostnes said that the minutes from the meeting are not yet available yet. The legislative law person is drafting wording to include a weed board in Chapter 10 (soil and water conservation) of Title 41 (public resources) of the Alaska statutes. The legislative person said that it would be easy to add wording regarding all-taxa to the board description at a later date. (draft legislation will be distributed over the listserv once it becomes available).

Jeanne felt that it might be advisable to seek out an additional person within the legislature to spearhead issues relating to marine or all-taxa issues. Rep. Johnson does not wish to take on invasive species topics in addition to weeds.

Denny Lassuy thought that the meeting was very well thought out and run. Rep. Johnson had a good grasp on what was going on, and what options were doable. Michele Hebert spoke about the AISWG, and Rep. Johnson was reluctant to deal with all-taxa issues during that meeting. Michele made the point that it would be helpful if the bill dealing with plants also mentioned the need to be concerned with all invasive species, and for the state to retain focus.

Jeanne said that the legislative lawyer did use the AISWG two page brief Priority list while composing the draft legislation. Some portions of the draft discussed funding, and the possibility of DEC raising rates and using those funds for the basic workings of an invasive species effort. However, actual funding will come into play further down the road. Once support for the bill is in place, then the agencies can respond to it via the departments and commissioners setting their budget priorities and bringing them before the governor.

Documents presented at the meeting also included excel files compiled by Jodi McLory listing the worst of the worst invasive species outside of plants, the CNIPM and AISWG briefing papers (<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/calendar.html>)

Gino would also like to see the draft legislation, and said that is seemed to be headed in a good direction, and that there will be a good way for the Working Group to get added in when appropriate.

Jeff Heys has thought a lot about the two board concept, with two potential functions: 1. Coordination, and 2. Listing. He has concerns about one group deciding which species to list, when there are so many people and constituencies involved. It may be necessary to have a coordinating body at the state level with sub-committees. Denny said that he likes the approach of having a coordinated body that does not have to deal with all taxa (like a weed board). It may be difficult for a small body to fill that function. In his experience, he doesn't know of any state that has one body making decisions for all taxonomic groups. Oregon has a statewide council, but has a weed board that handles weeds, a department in Fish & Game that makes decisions on animals, another group for

diseases, etc. He likes the idea of having a coordinated body, with multiple boards dealing with focused areas.

Jeanne asked if ADF&G had the authority to list and act upon marine species, and aquatic plants. Tammy said that they do under their management plans. The regulations do not state whether it includes aquatic plants, but under the guidelines for the commissioner, aquatic plants are included under management of fish and wildlife in the state. ADF&G would have the authority to make management decisions about aquatic plants, and include the ability to manage plants in clear-water (lakes and streams).

Jeanne added that Alaska is also working on joining a wildlife compact. This agreement amongst 36 states would allow each member state to deny activities related to hunting and fishing if an individual has violated such regulations in other states (i.e. denying a shooting farm license to someone with a poaching violation in another member state).

Poster Session at AISWG November Meeting

We would like to have posters at the AISWG for people to look over during the breaks and lunch. As long as space is not limited, they can also be put up at the CNIPM meeting the following two days. Anyone interested in solely putting up a poster at CNIPM should contact Rose Lombardi or Matt Carlson (see Additional Resources).

Next teleconference for the AISWG

9 am, Wednesday, October 24th

To attend, call into 907-271-1405. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Marine Subcommittee

October 11, 9 am

Call in to: **907-586-7977***, allow line to ring until another party picks up.

Long distance charges apply. ***Please note the new phone number**

Additional Resources

Poster Session Info email from Matt Carlson

A poster session will be held at the 8th Annual CNIPM Conference on the 14-15 November at the Princess Riverside Lodge in Fairbanks. We encourage poster submissions related to non-native plant research, policy, public outreach, and education. Please send abstracts of your posters to Rosemarie Lombardi (rosemarie.lombardi@alaska.gov) or me (Matt Carlson -afmlc2@uaa.alaska.edu) by 1 November. Any questions or comments can be directed to us, as well.

Thanks,

Matt Carlson

Supporting documents for the 9/20 meeting on the AISWG Calendar page

Calendar page: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/calendar.html>
Invasive species excel file lists: http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/excel-documents/Nonnative_animals_AK.xls

Rat Regulation Press release

http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/news/2007/9-13-07_nr.php

Press Release: No. 07-21, September 13, 2007

Contact: Ron Clarke, Division of Wildlife Conservation, (907) 465-4114

Alaska Steps Up Efforts to Eradicate Rats: Regulations Go Into Effect Today

(Juneau) - New state regulations aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers posed to Alaska by rats, and at helping eradicate rats from the state, become effective today. The regulations, passed by the Alaska Board of Game in March, will give state and federal agencies needed tools to address a significant threat to Alaska's wildlife, said Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Commissioner Denby Lloyd. "Rats have already done terrible damage to wild birds and other species on islands in the state," he said. "For example, hundreds of dead auklets have been found in rat dens on Kiska Island in the western Aleutians, which used to be rat-free."

As the state with the most coastline in the United States, Alaska is particularly vulnerable to this invasive species coming in to our ports and harbors, according to Ron Clarke, Assistant Director of Wildlife Conservation at ADF&G. "More than 100 species of ground-nesting birds used for subsistence in Alaska may be vulnerable to rats, if rats colonize their areas," Clarke said. "Norway rats have been found on 21 large islands in Alaska; and a dozen communities in the state, from Ketchikan to Nome, are known to have breeding colonies. Without control and prevention actions, rats in these areas can be easily spread to other parts of the state."

The regulations that become effective today essentially require boaters, shippers, and others moving containers that may contain rats to be vigilant in checking for rats and in taking action to control or eradicate rats when they are found. Enforcement will focus largely on prevention of rat spills (releases), assistance to shippers and others, and voluntary compliance.

ADF&G staff has been working with other state and federal agencies on steps to stop invasive rodents from entering Alaska and spreading around the state, to clean up rat spills, and to restore and protect Alaska's native species and habitats. "Taking these steps will require significant multi-agency coordination, and help from both Alaskans and those traveling to Alaska, particularly vessel operators, fishermen, and cargo shippers," said Clarke.

In October, ADF&G will issue its rat control plan, and convene a new interagency group, the Alaska Rodent Action Team (AKRAT), to assist in necessary cross-agency efforts to address rat prevention and control in Alaska. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations will hold training for 'rat spill responders.' Meanwhile, under contract with ADF&G, the University of Alaska's Sea Grant program is developing training materials

to assist harbormasters and other waterfront facility managers in preventing rat infestations and their spread.

More information and rat eradication kits are available to the public on a website sponsored by an informal multi-partner cooperative group, the Rat Outreach Group, at www.stoprats.org, and on the ADF&G Invasive Species Website, at <http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/invasive.php>.

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

October 24, 2007, 9am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Kris Benson- AK DOT, Juneau

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Denny Lassuy- USFWS, Anchorage

Joan Tovsen-UAA/UAF, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- Poster session contact info
- Web resources
- Executive Order link and excerpt

Update on Activities

Deena Jallen has been working on AISWG website, and recently sent in a final report to ADF&G. So far the November Conference has brought in an estimated \$1000 dollars. Gino Graziano said that Rose Lombardi and Matt Carlson are running the CNIPM meeting poster session, and are currently accepting titles and abstracts for posters. Those interested in submitting a poster should contact them before the CNIPM meeting, preferably before the 1st of November. There will be tape for hanging posters, and possibly tables on a space available basis (contact Matt and Rose ahead of time to arrange).

Gino Graziano has been working on a proposal to set up rapid response programs with citizen involvement. They have not picked which species to focus on yet, but will likely use the Alaska Natural Heritage Ranking Project to select species that are either not in Alaska yet, or have limited distribution. The public awareness campaign involved with the pocket weed guides was very successful. Gino plans to send out a survey to people who requested the guides.

Joan Tovsen has been pursuing meetings with cruise ship industry people. She is a graduate student in Northern Studies, and is looking at issues regarding geology, habitat, ecology, and logistics of disaster preparedness in the cruise ship industry and related land tours. Many of the ship in Alaska operate in areas that could be affected by natural disasters with little to no warning (earthquake/tsunami, volcanic eruptions, etc.). Another

aspect of her study is looking at environmental impacts of cruise ships (ballast water, black water).

Joan had some general questions about invasive species; how long have they been studied, how does climate change play into species movements, and has consideration been given to marketing invasive species to help control them. Denny Lassuy said that the USFWS has been involved in invasive species since its origin about 130 years ago. Jeff Heys pointed out that rabbits had been considered invasive in Australia since the turn of the century [in 1907, Australia had finished construction on over 2000 miles of rabbit fence].

Denny Lassuy clarified that under the federal Executive Order 13112 definition of invasive species, those moving via range expansions and natural processes are not considered invasive. The Order specifies species that have been moved by human activity (see Additional Resources).

Regarding the consideration of marketing invasive species; Poinsettias are regarded as a weed in California, but are frequently sold commercially. Joan wondered if there had been efforts made to harvest and market species such as dandelions. Denny Lassuy pointed out that in California, efforts had been made to start a commercial fishery for mitten crabs. Such efforts were strongly opposed by neighboring states who felt that creating a market for the species would provide incentive for people to further spread mitten crabs by moving them to other streams closer to home to increase harvest yield and efficiency. Deena Jallen mentioned the Invasive Species Cookbook (See Additional Resources). Gino Graziano said that he has heard of people looking into planting reed canary grass as a biofuel, but believes that it would be better to plant a native species such as willow.

Denny Lassuy recently met with Marilyn Leland, Lisa Ka'ahue of PWSRCAC, and Jeff Heys to discuss the next meeting of the national Invasive Species Advisory Council. They plan to meet in Anchorage the week of May 12, 2008. The ISAC advises the group formed by Executive Order 13112 and is comprised of people who advise the federal agencies, not the agency heads. Lisa Ka'ahue will be sending out meeting announcements. The meeting will likely be held at the National Park Service building, and there may be opportunities for presentations and field trips to give an overview of Alaskan invasive species issues.

Larry Johnson wanted to let the group know that Bonnie Harper-Lore will be speaking at the CNIPM meeting, and will also be giving a presentation on best management plans from 10am to noon on 11/16 (Friday) at the McKinley Building off of Peger Road in Fairbanks.

Kris Benson said that she is working with Lisa Ka'ahue from PWSRCAC to help provide access to ferries for hull fouling sampling for a project. The project was mentioned in the Marine Subcommittee meeting (10/11), and would target ferries, barges, and tankers that travel in Puget Sound (and some that don't).

Next teleconference for the AISWG

Marine Subcommittee

Thursday November 8th, 9:30 am

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

AISWG

Tuesday, November 20, 9:30am

Call in to: 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up. Long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

CNIPM Poster session contacts

Matt Carlson:

907-786-1332

afmlc2@uaa.alaska.edu

Rose Lombardi:

907-376-1866

Rosemarie_Lombardi@dec.state.ak.us

National Invasive Species Council

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/council/main.shtml>

National Invasive Species Council Members

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/council/agencies.shtml>

History of rabbits in Australia

<http://library.thinkquest.org/03oct/00128/en/rabbits/history.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbit-proof_fence

Asian carp harvesting

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5542199>

Invasive Species Cookbook

<http://www.bradfordstreetpress.com/>

Executive Order 13112

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/laws/execorder.shtml>

Section 1. Definitions.

(a) "Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

(b) "Control" means, as appropriate, eradicating, suppressing, reducing, or managing invasive species populations, preventing spread of invasive species from areas where they are present, and taking steps such as restoration of native species and habitats to reduce the effects of invasive species and to prevent further invasions.

(c) "Ecosystem" means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment.

(d) "Federal agency" means an executive department or agency, but does not include independent establishments as defined by 5 U.S.C. 104.

(e) "Introduction" means the intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

(f) "Invasive species" means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

(g) "Native species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

(h) "Species" means a group of organisms all of which have a high degree of physical and genetic similarity, generally interbreed only among themselves, and show persistent differences from members of allied groups of organisms.

(i) "Stakeholders" means, but is not limited to, State, tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners.

(j) "United States" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and all possessions, territories, and the territorial sea of the United States.

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

December 12, 2007, 9:30 am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number. Minutes taken by Deena Jallen

Participants:

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Lisa Ka'ahue- PWSRCAC, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks

Denny Lassuy- USFWS, Anchorage

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Joan Tovsen-UAA/UAF, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Upcoming events

Additional Resources

- Homer Soil and Water Conservation District website
- Link to KTUU story on re-routed trees from Hawaii
- Comment Period Opens on Environmental Assessment for restoring wildlife habitat on Rat Island.
- ISAC nomination Information
- Weed! Film information
- Invasive species definitions
- News stories from Hawaii about invasives on Christmas trees

Update on Activities

Deena Jallen has gotten some funds from CNIPM to update the CNIPM website with conference proceedings. The funds should keep her on until mid-January. Conference proceeding from the AISWG Alaska Invasive Species Conference are available on the www.alaskainvasives.org website.

Dan Proulx met yesterday with the DNR commissioners. They have agreed that instead of tweaking the seed law list, they will add a chapter for noxious weeds to the regulations. This will allow noxious weeds and all their propagated parts to be regulated separately from the seed law. Non-propagative parts (like straw) would not be included. The wording is still being worked on. DNR has been looking at laws in other states for examples on what types of sections to add to the new chapter. Jamie Snyder had sent a letter to the commissioners with recommendations from CNIPM, and that letter was used in the argument for writing a new chapter. Stakeholder feedback has also been favorable. Throughout the process of adopting the new regulations, there will be opportunities for public commentary.

After the AISWG and CNIPM meetings, Bonnie Harper-Lore spoke at the Fairbanks DOT building. Larry Johnson said that it was a very good meeting. It was possibly the

first time DOT personnel from design, construction, and maintenance were in the same room, focusing on vegetation issues. Larry will likely meet with managers from the design group later this winter, and will review AISWG and CNIPM in those discussions.

Gino Graziano has sent a proposal for funding Early Detection and Rapid Response to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Pulling Together Initiative. The project focuses on citizen outreach and utilizing citizen scientists. The full proposal was recently requested. Gino has also started a CNIPM subcommittee to work on citizen outreach and putting together a one-stop shopping approach with one phone number and one email address for people to use for invasive species questions/information. The subcommittee plans to coordinate with the AISWG. Conservation Districts are working with CWMA's to write their strategic plans. The Homer district plan should be on the website soon, and could be used as template for other districts.

A recent news story about Christmas trees has been circulating. The trees were shipped to Hawaii, found to be infested with insects, and were re-routed to Anchorage, where they were sold. Gino Graziano, Doug Warner from AKDNR, and Representative Craig Johnson were interviewed by KTUU in Anchorage. They gave information on invasive species, and Rep. Johnson had the opportunity to talk about the new legislation on invasive plants. Gino said that the trees had a certification from the state of Oregon, which was sufficient for them to be allowed to come in to Anchorage. Jeff Heys said that if the species involved were federally regulated, then Homeland Security would be involved. If the species are not on a federal list, then he was not sure who would be in charge of intercepting them. Denny Lassuy will get in touch with his contacts at Customs and Border Protection and ask them about the matter.

Denny Lassuy said that the environmental assessment for eradication of rats on Rat Island is due to be released. He worked on the fact sheet and Q&A. USFWS is already getting some comments on the plan. People wishing to comment can email rat_island@fsw.org (see additional resources for link to the plan and supporting documents).

Jeff Heys provided an update on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting in Anchorage after partaking in discussions with the Invasive Species Advisory Council steering committee. They decided to focus on the themes of prevention and conservation; prevention in regard to industry, and conservation of the natural conditions in Alaska. The members are excited to travel to Alaska and address state concerns such as climate change, rats, shipping as a vector, CNIPM and AISWG collaborations, and citizen involvement. The meetings will take place May 12-16. Presentations will be 15 minutes, and focus on concerns at the national level and action drive (i.e. how invasives should be addressed on a federal level).

The meetings will be indoors at the National Park Service Building in Anchorage for 2 to 2.5 days, with additional day or ½ day field trips planned in the Anchorage area (potentially to look at bird cherry trees along Anchorage streams, whirling disease at a local hatchery). A trip to Valdez is under consideration, but logistics, lodging, and funding have not been settled. A boat tour would allow more time for presentations. ISAC members may take a Valdez trip individually, as an optional activity.

All of the ISAC meetings will be open to the public, space permitting. Discussions will be geared towards national policy. They are also open to having a poster session. The committee members will primarily rely on their binders for in depth background and additional information. Kelsey Brantley (Logistics Coordinator for ISAC) will be assembling the binders. Lisa Ka'aihue has a copy of a binder used in a previous meeting if folks in the Anchorage area would like to look at one and get an idea for content.

Nominations are also being accepted for ISAC membership until January 14. (The .pdf announcement was sent out over the listserv on 12/10). Towards the end of January, ISAC will be finalizing the agenda and speakers for the May meeting.

Lisa Ka'aihue has been busy working on the hull fouling project, helping with ISAC arrangements, and putting together the invasive species film session for the Alaska Forum on the Environment meeting in February. The hull fouling project is running into bureaucratic snags with University of Washington, but the partners are enthusiastic about starting the work.

One of the films submitted to the festival is Weed! The Real Threat to Our Natural Environment, which Lisa recommended highly (see Additional Resources for more info).

Joan Tovsen is continuing work on her graduate project. She had a discussion with Professor Gerald McBeath, who had said that the definition used for invasive species was too narrow. Joan mentioned this to Jeanne Ostnes (from Rep. Johnson's office), who thought it would be a good issue to raise now, before the new proposed regulations get further action. McBeath is the Northern Studies and Political Science departments at UAF, and raised issues of crop seeds not native to a region being classified as invasive. He had done some work in China sorting out beneficial non-native species from harmful invasives. Denny Lassuy pointed out that the proposed legislation uses wording based on the national definition of invasives, as stated in Executive Order 13112 (see Additional Resources). Jeff Heys said that in the E.O. 13112, agricultural seeds are not considered invasive, because they are not causing harm. Exotic would go in the big category, and invasive in the smaller subset that cause harm. Dan Proulx mentioned that the state currently doesn't regulate invasive weeds, just noxious weeds. Native species could also be classified as noxious and be restricted.

Joan also said that on a recent trip to Tokyo Gardens in Anchorage, she found 'green crabs' in the buffet. The owner confirmed they were 'green crab', and was excited to hear they could soon be in Alaska so her shipping costs would be cheaper. Deena Jallen would like to get some green crab specimens for photographs, and is also interested to know if the crabs have been shipped up alive, or already dead. (Denny Lassuy subsequently visited this restaurant and was able to determine that the crabs were in fact not *Carcinus maenas* (European green crabs).)

Tammy Davis recently learned that ADF&G did not get any NISA (National Invasive Species Act) funds for State fiscal year 2008. The reason given was that the draft of the proposal they based their decision on included projects that were not focused on aquatic species (e.g., starlings and rats). A later version removed these species, but was apparently not reviewed. In response, ADF&G decided that its remaining funds will be dedicated for aquatic (marine and freshwater) invasives. They do have some remaining

money for rat projects, but will not be funding other terrestrial projects, including the Alaska Natural Heritage Program plan to rank non-native species (similar to their plant ranking). Tracey Gotthardt, who would have been doing the ranking, said they will need other sources of funds to continue the work. This is a disappointment, as it is inevitable that more non-native species will be coming into Alaska. The repercussions from the decision for ADF&G to only focus on aquatics will take a while to become evident.

In the meanwhile, ADF&G will continue to fund green crab work with Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. Tammy Davis also commented on the Christmas tree issue. She spoke with Jamie Snyder and Sheila Waughtal (Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security). Sheila said this is not the first time a shipment denied from another area has been sent to Alaska. There is a question of whether regulations should be enacted to restrict such transfers from occurring. Tammy Davis hopes that Ann Ferguson (USDA-APHIS) and the AKPRAC (Alaska Pest Risk Assessment Committee) will discuss this issue at their next quarterly teleconference.

Upcoming events/teleconferences

CNIPM

January 9th, 9:00 am

For the rest of 2008 the audios will take place on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month at 9am. Call in to: 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up. Long distance charges apply.

Marine Subcommittee

January 10th, 9:30 am

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

AISWG

January 11th, 9:30 am

Call in to: 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up. Long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

<http://www.homerswcd.org/index.htm>

Link to KTUU story on re-routed trees

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=7484631>

Comment Period Opens on Environmental Assessment for restoring wildlife habitat on Rat Island. (posted to listserv 12/13)

The Refuge is seeking public comments on the recently completed Environmental Assessment for Restoring Wildlife Habitat on Rat Island.

This Assessment analyzes the consequences of two alternatives, a no action alternative and the proposed action of eradicating rats from Rat Island to allow the native ecosystem to recover. Uninhabited Rat Island, located in the Aleutian Island chain about 1300 miles west of Anchorage, is part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

The Environmental Assessment and other informational materials can be viewed or downloaded at

<http://alaskamaritime.fws.gov/news.htm>.

If you need a paper copy of the Assessment or have trouble downloading it, contact us at the above e-mail or call us at (907) 235-6546.

Written comments will be accepted on the Environmental Assessment through January 11, 2008, and can be submitted by e-mail to rat_island@fws.gov or by fax to (907) 235-7783 or by mail to:

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
95 Sterling Hwy., Suite 1
Homer, AK 99603.

ISAC Nominations Information (.pdf posted to listserv 12/10)

Office of the Secretary, National Invasive Species Council; Request for Nominations for the Invasive Species Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the interdepartmental National Invasive Species Council, proposes to appoint new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). The Secretary of the Interior, acting as administrative lead, is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the ISAC.

DATES: Nominations must be postmarked by January 14, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Lori Williams, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council (OS/NISC), Regular Mail: 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240; Express Mail: 1201 Eye Street, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelsey Brantley, Program Analyst, at
(202) 513-7243, fax: (202) 371-1751, or
by e-mail at
Kelsey_Brantley@ios.doi.gov.

Weed film info

"Weed! The Real Threat to Our Natural Environment" -- "This 30 minute documentary highlights the most notorious of aquatic invasive weeds in Western Washington waterways. Among the Most Wanted of the plant world are parrotfeather, purple loosestrife, yellow floating heart, milfoil and others. You will learn what these pretty plants look like and what ugly things they can do once they take over a pond or lake. In addition, meet Joe & Jane Gardener, also Most Wanted for unknowingly aiding and abetting these botanical bullies in their own backyard. You will witness what gives these plants the upper hand and how the impacts are felt by everyone. And, you'll learn what small things you can do to make a big difference in preventing their spread."

For more information on the film:

Laurel Baldwin - Coordinator, Noxious Weed Control
Whatcom County, Public Works Department
360-676-6700, extension 50680
www.co.whatcom.wa.us <<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/>>

Invasive species definitions

The following definitions are from Executive Order 13112, a Presidential statement of national policy:

"Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

"Invasive species" means an alien species whose introduction does, or is likely, to cause economic or environmental harm to human health.

News stories from Hawaii about invasives on Christmas trees (posted on the listserv 12/7)

DENNIS ODA / DODA@STARBULLETIN.COM

Agricultural officials inspecting more than 3,100 Oregon-grown Christmas trees aboard a Boeing 747 aircraft yesterday found insects amid the trees. The inspectors included Dennis Nagatani, left, Elliot Nakashima, Edward

O'Callaghan, Kanani Lai, scooping up an insect into a collection bottle, and Arseno Esteban. The planeload was returned to the mainland.

Wasp discoveries sting sales

Two schools were planning to sell the trees to raise funds

STORY SUMMARY »

They arrived late Thursday, but the journey wasn't quite over for a planeload of Christmas trees from Portland, Ore., which were intended for Oahu school and church fundraisers.

The 747 jet loaded with 3,150 Douglas, noble and grand firs was sent back to the mainland yesterday after the discovery of several types of wasp, two of which are not found in Hawaii.

The Department of Agriculture said it did not have the proper decontamination facilities for the first large-scale air delivery of Christmas trees to the state, so the plane was rerouted to Anchorage, Alaska.

Five churches and schools and one wholesaler were affected. One of the schools, which planned to sell the trees as a part of a fundraising project, said it stands to lose \$10,000.

McMinnville, Ore.-based cargo shipper Evergreen International Aviation Inc., which handled the shipment, said it will lose \$1 million from the operation.

STAR-BULLETIN

FULL STORY »

By Jennifer Sudick

jsudick@starbulletin.com

A planeload of Christmas trees intended for sale by isle fundraisers and wholesalers was sent back to the mainland yesterday after the discovery of several types of wasp, two of which are not found in Hawaii.

The Boeing 747, which arrived in Honolulu Thursday night, contained 3,150 Douglas, noble and grand firs, marking the first large-scale air delivery of Christmas trees to the state. Five churches and schools and one wholesaler were affected.

The plane was diverted to Anchorage, Alaska, late yesterday afternoon,

said David Rath, president of Evergreen Agricultural Enterprises, a division of McMinnville, Ore.-based cargo shipper Evergreen International Aviation Inc., which handled the shipment.

"We've shipped to Japan, Puerto Rico, Mexico and China and haven't had anything like this happen before," Rath said. "We asked if we could pay a charge or incinerate them there or fumigate them, but they are not allowing any of that. They wouldn't allow us to offload them at all."

Evergreen stands to lose \$1 million from the diversion because the flight had to be rerouted, delaying a scheduled textile shipment out of Asia and incurring additional fuel costs. Rath said the company hopes to sell the trees at cost or give them away in Alaska.

Kailua Christian Academy and Waialua High and Intermediate School had arranged to purchase the largest portion of the trees, said Hollie Spivey, Evergreen's Christmas tree sales manager. Evergreen's aviation and ground logistics unit planned to sell 1,000 trees. Spivey declined to name the other affected buyers. Any money paid to Evergreen for the fundraisers will be refunded, Rath said.

Ben Abraham, an administrator at Kailua Christian Academy, said he purchased 1,300 trees for what was meant to be the school's only fundraiser of the year.

"This was a major fundraiser for our school, and we stand to lose \$10,000," he said.

The school planned to make \$40 to \$60 a tree, he said, with a 6- to 7-foot Douglas fir selling for \$75. He had paid to advertise the fundraiser and for a refrigerated truck to pick the trees up from the airport.

"Most were pre-sold," he said. "We have to refund the funds."

The trees were cut Wednesday at Evergreen's 800-acre tree farm and shipped out of Portland International Airport in Oregon on Thursday.

DENNIS ODA / DODA@STARBULLETIN.COM

These were some of the insects found yesterday during an inspection of Christmas trees.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture sent a team of 10 inspectors to the plane yesterday morning, where they found three yellow-jacket wasps, including two live queens, along with two other genera of wasps, one

tentatively identified as a dolichovespula, which was found alive, and a vespa, which is a type of hornet. Both are not currently found in Hawaii, said Domingo Cravalho Jr., chief of the state Department of Agriculture's Inspection and Compliance Section, which inspects all imported trees. "The unusual thing about the entire air shipment was that many of the insects that were found in the air shipment were not found in maritime inspections of Christmas trees," he said.

Evergreen secured a certificate from the Oregon Department of Agriculture clearing the trees, meaning that they were all shaken to remove insects, Cravalho said. "Evidently it wasn't shaken enough, or it was staged in an area where it could get re-infested," he said.

Flies, parasitic wasps and other pests also were found, as well as dirt and rocks that could carry microorganisms, Cravalho said. No trees were removed from the plane during the inspection, he said.

The department was unable to clean the plane because the state's cleaning and inspection facilities are made for surface containers, he said, not large aircraft.

"It's best that the shipment move out of Hawaii and go to another destination that accepts these types of pests," he said. "We're at a greater risk because of the fact that we have warmer weather and some of these species might take hold here."

The majority of the state's 150,000 imported Christmas trees this year are shipped by sea, with the last of four Matson Navigation Co. shipments expected to arrive today.

A Boeing 747-200 can hold up to 4,500 trees, said Spivey, but some buyers backed out after wasps were found on three surface containers last month. Spivey said Evergreen plans to fly Christmas trees to Hawaii next year in containers so they can be removed and dealt with separately.

"We had such a tremendous response," she said, adding that more than a dozen cars were lined up this morning at Evergreen's airport site waiting for a tree. "Phones were ringing off the hook -- that's encouraging."

BACK TO TOP

Leapin' lizards! For holidays in Hawaii, no thanks

By Nelson Daranciang
ndaranciang@starbulletin.com

Bianca Matthews-Inofinada and her children had just arrived at their Kalihi home with the family's Christmas tree in the back of their truck Wednesday night and were about to unload it when they noticed a large lizard on it.

"We thought it was huge. It wasn't like a normal lizard," she said.

When they tried to catch it, the lizard disappeared into the tree's branches still wrapped in netting. So they unloaded the tree, cut the netting and shook it.

One of Matthews-Inofinada's daughters spotted the lizard on the ground. They were able to capture it by forcing it into a container.

"At first we thought it was a salamander. The kids called it Sala," she said.

Whatever it was, Matthews-Inofinada knew it probably did not belong in Hawaii. So she called the state Department of Agriculture the next morning.

"The person did the right thing in containing it rather than just screaming and running off," said Domingo Cravalho Jr., chief of the agriculture Inspection and Compliance Section, "so they did really the right thing, containing it and calling the proper authorities."

JAMM AQUINO / JAQUINO@STARBULLETIN.COM

This foot-long southern alligator lizard was found in a Christmas tree Wednesday night by a Kalihi family.

State agriculture officials identified the creature as a southern alligator lizard. It is an adult of unknown sex and measures 12 inches long.

The lizard's normal habitat range is the western coast of North America, from Baja California to Washington. They are allowed in Hawaii only under permit for exhibition in zoos.

State agriculture officials have captured two other southern alligator lizards in recent years, one in a shipping container for nonagricultural cargo and one in a storage container on Kauai. They are not sure how the second one made it to Kauai.

Southern alligator lizards can grow to 16 inches long. They feed on insects, slugs, snails and young mice. They pose a direct threat to native

birds because they can get into bird nests in trees and eat unattended eggs, Cravalho said.

Matthews-Inofinada said she bought her 5-foot Douglas fir at Don Quijote's Pearl City store.

Cravalho said he will send staff to the store to find out whether anyone has seen anything else from the container in which Matthews-Inofinada's Douglas fir arrived. He urged people who find or spot alien pests to call the Agriculture Department's hot line at 643-PEST.

He said the department will keep the lizard and use it for educational purposes until the Honolulu Zoo makes a shipment of excess or unwanted creatures to the mainland.