

Alaska Invasive Species Council Development Meetings
Anchorage, Alaska
4/26/2006 – 4/27/2006

Summary of the AISC Meeting

The preliminary meeting of the Alaska Invasive Species Council was held April 26th and 27th at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Building in Anchorage. In attendance were over 38 representatives from state, federal, citizen, tribal, and conservation organizations.

The primary result of this meeting was the formation of the Alaska Invasive Species Workgroup (AISWG). The AISWG developed a Mission Statement, Goals, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and identified Subcommittees. The four subcommittees developed tasks to be implemented in the next six months that will aid Alaska in dealing with invasive species issues. Below are the outcomes from the meeting.

Mission and Goals

The mission of Alaska Invasive Species Council (AISC) is to minimize invasive impacts in Alaska by facilitating collaboration, cooperation and communication.

GOALS (non-prioritized):

- Coordinate the use of resources & activities to optimize invasive species management
- Integrate invasive species prevention & management activities with other management objectives across jurisdictions (e.g. DOT non-native grasses on ROWs)
- Develop a statewide invasive species management strategy & action plan (e.g. Noxious...Mgmt Plan)
- Develop a system to identify & prioritize potential & existing invasive species threats in Alaska
- Support the development of a clearinghouse of educational & training materials and activities, information & data, expertise and the dissemination of information to the public (e.g. AK EPIC)
- Endorse scientific research on invasive species and its application to adaptive management
- Advise public officials, resource managers and land owners on invasive species issue

Membership and Chairing

Three possible council membership structures were developed. The membership structure will be revisited in six months. The University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service will coordinate the council's effort.

Council A: The Most Popular; Voting by state and citizen groups:

- Voting
 - AASWCD- Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - ADEC- Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 - ADF&G – Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
 - AK DNR – Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
 - AK DOT – Alaska Dept. of Transportation
 - AITC – Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, (additional work need to be done to identify representative native groups)
 - University of Alaska
 - RCAC – Regional Citizens Advisory Council (1 seat or more: CIRCAC, PWSRCAC?)
 - Conservation (Alaska Conservation Alliance, The Nature Conservancy)
 - Two seats at large by invitation

- Ex-Officio (Federal)
 - USDA-APHIS – US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Sea Grant
 - NOAA – NMFS, National Marine Fisheries Service
 - US Coast Guard
 - USDA-ARS – Agricultural Research Service
 - USDA- NRCS – Natural Resources and Conservation Service
 - USDA-Forest Service
 - USDD Army Bases
 - USDI-BLM – US Bureau of Land Management
 - USDI-BIA – US Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - USDI-USGS – US Geological Service
 - USDI-MMS – US Minerals Management Service
 - USDI-NPS – National Park Service
 - Customs & Border Patrol

- Additional members/Others
 - Mining Industry
 - Logging Industry
 - Tourism Industry

- Oil and Gas industry
- Fishing Industry
- Shipping Industry

Concerns for Council A

- Representation for Native Groups
- Representation for Industry Groups
- Representation for Citizen Groups

Council B – Voting by state and some federal groups.

- Voting
 - AASWCD- Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - ADEC- Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 - ADF&G – Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
 - AK DNR – Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
 - AK DOT – Alaska Dept. of Transportation
 - AITC –Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
 - RCAC- Regional Citizens Advisory Council (1 seat or more: CIRCAC, PWSRCAC?)
 - Conservation (ACA, The Nature Conservancy)
 - Two seats at large by invitation
 - NOAA - NMFS, National Marine Fisheries Service
 - USDA-Forest Service
 - USDI-NPS – National Park Service
 - Customs border Patrol
- Ex-Officio
 - Sea Grant
 - US Coast Guard
 - USDA- APHIS
 - USDA-ARS
 - US Army Bases
 - USDI-BIA
 - USDI-USGS
 - USDI-MMS
 - USDA- NRCS
- Additional members/Others
 - Mining Industry
 - Logging Industry
 - Tourism Industry
 - Fishing Industry

- Shipping Industry
- Oil and Gas industry

Council C: Voting limited to state agencies.

- Voting
 - ADEC
 - ADF&G
 - AK DNR
 - AK DOT
- Ex-Officio
 - AITC - need discussion (representative native group)
 - University of Alaska
 - RCAC (1 seat or more: CIRCAC, PWSRCAC?)
 - Conservation (ACA, The Nature Conservancy)
 - Two seats at large by invitation
 - Sea Grant
 - NOAA
 - US Coast Guard
 - USDA-APHIS
 - USDA-ARS
 - USDA - NRCS
 - USDA-Forest Service
 - USDI-BLM
 - US Army Bases
 - USDI-BIA
 - USFWS
 - USDI-USGS
 - USDI-MMS
 - USDI-NPS
 - Customs & Border Patrol
- Additional members/Others
 - Mining Industry
 - Logging Industry
 - Tourism Industry
 - Oil and Gas industry
 - Fishing Industry
 - Shipping Industry

Chair Structure

- Chair Options

- Chair and Vice Chair
 - Vice chair as trainee
 - Voted upon by council or Appointed
- One Chair
 - Consistent, unified leadership
 - Appointed
- Two year term lengths vs. 1 year for workload considerations
- Chair Housing
 - Should be flexible (not locked into one agency or position)

Strategic Planning

Tasks:

- Strategic Plan process
- AISC annual meeting schedule
- Form of designation
- Process of designation

1. Strategic Plan

- Agreed it was needed
- Include all Taxa
- Use national definition for invasive species, alien species
- Must be revisited because of global warming
- Noted public health connection
- Define what is not invasive
- Consider Canadian connection and potential need to collaborate
- 5-year plan
- Timeline – Start the first year
 - May take more than one year to complete and
 - May have to deal with state or federal fiscal year.
- Methodology
 - Driven by council or subcommittee
 - Draft document developed by core and go out for public comment
 - Combined with regular scheduled outreach events to get stakeholder input. i.e. greenhouse and nursery conf. MAP extension agents.
 - Ask agencies to designate to subcommittee planners to work on development of strategic plan
 - Review other states and national strategic plan as model.
 - Funding of plan – grants, in kind, contributions.

2. Council Meetings

- Initially quarterly until established (possibly two yrs).
- Then biannually after that (twice a year).
- Agencies need to think of funding needed to support this effort.

- Subcommittees report. Assuming at a high level.
- Council can then decide if need by-laws etc.
- Agenda driven
- Rotate location around state
- Annual report to Governor, lawmakers, stakeholders, public posted on the web.
- Distribute funds.
- Support staff dedicated to support scheduled meetings.
- Report card annually
- Council evaluation
- Yearly action plan
- Open meeting schedule
- Invite guest such as national leaders, legislature, mayor, organizations, Canada
- Recognition awards as annual council function.

3. Form of Designation

- MOU for interim participation and function of AISC to maintain momentum articulate scope of problems
- Recommend future designation
- Executive Order
- Legislature –in Statues
- MOU or MOA – for federal groups.
- Or Combination

4. Process of getting designation

- Write letter, which starts with thank you, to Mike Nizich, Rachel Petro, Governor, Linda Hay
- Outline goals and purpose
- Draft MOU
- Proposed council structure
- Ask for lead person at state, signatory, planner for strategic plan to help guide process.
- Ask how we should proceed.
- Summarize what is already being done and has been accomplished.
- Use Public affairs specialists in agencies to help spread the word.

Day Two: Subcommittees

Subcommittees were formed to carry out the activities of the AISC; Education, Management Needs, Research Needs, and Data Management. Additionally, members of the group have formed the Alaska Committee for Marine Invasive Species Management.

Education Subcommittee

Items addressed:

- Increasing communication of council working groups.
- Critical species

- Educational outreach
- Conduit for citizens

1. Increasing communication of AISC members

- Newsletter - within first 6 months to highlight outcomes of this meeting. CES utilizing grant funds and personnel.
- Listserv – CES will set up the listserv, to be used to announce audios and populate focus committees, throw out questions, identify resources. (by end of meeting have sign in for listserv).
- Audio conference: NRCS to provide bridge number set for every month.
- Face to face meeting 2 times a year (spring and fall) in Anchorage, fall the day before CNIPM meeting in October.

2. Critical species list:

Two types:

- 1) Already here
- 2) Potential threats

Create a top 10 list based on:

- 1) Ecosystems. i.e. marine, terrestrial, freshwater, airborne, or
- 2) Aquatic plant, Aquatic animal, terrestrial plant, terrestrial animals
- 3) Split into Taxa i.e. plant, animal, fish, insect, disease

Actions:

- Research how lists are grouped in other states and at the National level. (CES one month)
- Research current Alaska list and identify holes by pooling listserv group.
- Use information to develop 10 top species list
- At October meeting, develop critical species list by Taxa.
- Fish, animal and plant lists are already in place.
- Gino Graziano is in charge of plants; Bob Piorkowski is in charge of aquatic.

3. Education

- Website with Top 10 list/taxa and information on impacts, articles, connect to other sites. (takes technical person, design and management)
- Monthly Newspaper Articles or media events – Already being done by CES, CWMA, Sea grant, DNR website,
- Schedule of Events i.e. web calendar for community involvement
- Pool educational modules, develop a list of educational resources.
- Public service announcements; PSA for citizen Best management practices (BMPs)
- 800 number for public outreach

4. Conduits for citizens

- Assure stakeholders have representation on council
 - Modify membership list to include stronger tribal and industry participation
- Survey citizen concerns and awareness

- Use listserv to find out what is already being done. Alaska Conservation Alliance. CWMA does have public forums which could be used a vehicle
- Research other existing concerns.

Management needs:

Develop a template or format to:

1. Assessment of Agency programs, priorities, funding, issues and needs
 - Develop Agency Profile
 - Limit to two pages
 - List of recipients
 - Chris Garner will take lead
 - Time frame- November
2. Rapid Response Plan
 - Identify Specialists/Agencies for each Taxa
 - Linda Shaw will take the lead. Michael will provide some info
3. Share existing Best Management Practices, Standard Operating Procedures, and Mitigations.
 - Compile Existing
 - Identify Information Gaps
 - Ensure an Alaska focus
4. Survey existing Risk Assessment systems
 - Contact Agencies for their systems
 - Search Internet for others

Research needs

General concerns

- Apply to all taxa
 - Identify data gaps
 - Adopt methodology of CNIPM
 - Identify/contract Outside expertise in scientific/mgmt. communities
 - Available funding for research
1. Prevention
 - Inventory
 - Identify data gaps (e.g. lesser-studied taxa)
 - Identify potential invasive species threats
 - Pathway analysis
 2. Detection
 - I.D. and evaluate survey methodologies
 - Compile survey results
 - Invasive vs. natural adaptation or occurrence (i.e. invasive definition)

- Invasive species impact assessments (e.g. Atlantic salmon impact on Pacific salmon)
 - Research invasive occurrences in other locations (especially neighboring countries)
3. Control
- Assess effectiveness of existing and past control efforts
 - Develop new strategies/methods for invasive species control
 - Cost/benefit analyses of control/prevention
4. Restoration/Mitigation
- Assess existing methods
 - Develop new methods
 - Assess effectiveness with monitoring in accordance with mgmt. objectives

Information: Data Management & Clearinghouse

Tasks

1. List of Contacts & Experts
 - Public contacts
 - Limited distribution contacts for the group
2. Compilation of Links and Data
 - Funding opportunities
 - Regulations
 - Existing Projects
 - Best Management Practices
 - Species of Concern
 - Inventory of species
 - Upcoming Events and training

The Plan

- Monthly teleconferences
- Email updates and communication
- Agencies submit information
 - Peoples best contacts
 - Favorite resources

Schedule: Months 1 & 2

- Assemble lists
 - Contacts in agencies
 - Experts
- Assemble links
 - Useful links for invasive species information

Schedule: Months 3 & 4

- Outline content
- Discuss feasibility of a website
 - Where to house it
 - Who to admin it

- Costs
- Design costs
- Hosting and upkeep

Schedule: Month 5

- Continue efforts from 3 & 4
 - Flesh out content
 - Format to web or other medium

Schedule: Month 6

- Meet in person
 - Determine future tasks
 - Identify Gaps and Fixes
- Agencies discuss ways to address gaps

Possible goals for the future

- Next six months and beyond
 - Data standardization
 - Monitoring and Inventory
 - Update website or document

Concerns

- Product needs to be a living document
- Need consistency

Alaska Committee for Marine Invasive Species Management

This group will work as an informal forum to address marine invasive species issues. Please contact Linda Shaw for additional information (Linda.Shaw@noaa.gov).

Draft MOU

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DRAFT**

Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment, Endorsement
and
Support of the Alaska Work Group on Invasive Species

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and among the signatory parties including federal, state, local and private agencies and organizations.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish an Alaska Work Group for Invasive Species to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska by facilitating collaboration, cooperation and communication.

The signatory parties purpose to work together within the scope of their respective authorities toward the goals outlined below.

III. Duties of Work Group

1. Share the scientific and technical expertise of participating agencies related to invasive species management.
2. Encourage agency employees to work collaboratively to optimize their resource management capabilities and advance the state of knowledge of invasive species.
3. Coordinate the drafting of a statewide strategic plan for the management of invasive species which includes clarification of jurisdictional authorities.
4. Request Governor/State of Alaska to form permanent structure for continued collaboration, cooperation and communication to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska.

IV. It Is Mutually Agreed and Understood by Signatories:

1. Specific work projects or activities which involve the transfer of funds, services, or property between the parties to this MOU will require the execution of separate agreements or contracts, contingent upon the availability of funds as appropriated by the Alaska State Legislature, United States Congress, or applicable governmental units. Each subsequent agreement or arrangement involving the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties to this MOU must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, including those statutes and regulations applicable to procurement activities, and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.
2. This MOU in no way restricts signatory parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

3. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate signatory parties to expend appropriations or to enter into any contracts or other obligations.
4. The committee coordinator and principal contact for this agreement is:
State???
CE?
5. Unless terminated under the terms of paragraph 6 below, this MOU will remain in full force and in effect; the MOU will be subject to review annually.
6. This MOU may be modified or amended upon written request of any party and the concurrence of other signatories. Any party may be removed from this MOU upon written notice to the other parties.

Attendee List

- **Judy Alderson** (contact Jeff Heys): Regional Wilderness Specialist , USDI; Anchorage, 907 644-3442, Judy_Alderson@nps.gov (contact Jeff Heys)
- Jeff Heys: Biologist/Exotic Plant Management Team Liaison, USDI, National Park Service, Alaska Region- Natural Resources Team; Anchorage, 907-644-3451, jeff_heys@nps.gov
- **Brian Allee**: Director, USDC, Sea Grant, AK Sea Grant College Program; Fairbanks, 907-474-7949, allee@sfos.uaf.edu
- **Paul Andron, LTJG**: Ballast Water Management Program Coordinator, USCG; Juneau, 907-463-2813, paul.t.andron@uscg.mil
- **Susan Banet**: Supervisory Geologist, USDI, Minerals Management Services, Alaska Region; Anchorage, 907-334-5323, Susan.Banet@mms.gov
- **Josh Buzby**: Ecologist, US Army ; Fort Wainwright, Joshua.buzby@us.army.mil
- **Josh Carlson**: Ecologist, US Army ; Fort Richardson, Josh.carlson@us.army.mil
- **Jeffery Conn**: Research Agronomist, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Subarctic Agricultural Research Unit; Fairbanks, 907-474-7652, ffjsc1@uaf.edu
- **Matt Cronin**: Governor's Office Representative; Palmer, 907-786-6378, croninm@aol.com
- **Larry DeVilbiss**: Director, State of Alaska, Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture; Palmer, 907-745-7200, larry_devilbiss@dnr.state.ak.us
- **Alex Engman**: Senior Associate, The Growth Company; Anchorage, 907-276-4769, Alex@thegrowthcompany.net
- **Ann Ferguson**: State Plant Health Director, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine; Wasilla, 907-357-9542, ann.ferguson@aphis.usda.gov
- **Chris Garner**: Natural Resources Specialist, US Army, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands; Fort Richardson, 907-384-2744, christopher.d.garner@us.army.mil

- **Joy Geiselman:** Deputy Chief, Biological Science Officer, USDI, Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center; Anchorage, 907-786-3668, joy_geiselman@usgs.gov
- **Dan Gilson:** Project Manager, Oil Spill Prevention & Response Operations, Prince William Sound Citizens Advisory Council; Valdez, 907-834-5040, gilson@pwsrca.org
- **Gino Graziano:** Statewide Coordinator, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts; Wasilla, 907-354-1227, cwma@ak.net
- **Michele Hebert:** Land Resources Program Chair, CES, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Fairbanks, 907-474-2423, ffmah@uaf.edu
- **Caitlin Higgins:** Outreach Organizer, Alaska Conservation Alliance (Alaska Conservation Voters); Anchorage, 907-258-6175, Caitlin@akvoice.org
- **Steven Howell:** Director of Public Outreach, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council; Kenai, 907-283-7222, howell@circac.org
- **Deena Jallen:** Invasive Species Program Assistant, CES, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Fairbanks, 907-474-2422, fndmj@uaf.edu
- **Larry Johnson:** Integrated Vegetation Management Coordinator, State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation, Operations and Maintenance; Fairbanks, 907-458-6899, larry_johnson@dot.state.ak.us
- **Anne Jourdan:** Environmental Coordinator, Alaska Intertribal Council; Anchorage, 907-563-9334, ajourdan@ALASKAINTERTRIBAL.ORG
- **Lisa Ka'aihue:** Project Manager, Environmental Monitoring, Prince William Sound Citizens Advisory Council; Anchorage, 907-273-6225, kaaihue@pwsrca.org
- **Keith Kahklen:** Natural Resources Coordinator, USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Juneau, 907-586-7618,
- **Denny Lassuy:** Invasive Species Coordinator, USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region; Anchorage, 907-786-3813, denny_lassuy@fws.gov
- **Rosemarie Lombardi:** Environmental Specialist, State of Alaska, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Pesticide Program; Wasilla, 907-376-1866, Rosemarie_Lombardi@dec.state.ak.us
- **Jeffrey Mason:** Range and Training Land Assessment Program Coordinator, US Army, US Department of Defense; Fort Greely, 907-873-1615, Jeffrey.mason3@us.army.mil
- **Shelley Morgan:** Executive Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy, Alaska Field Office; Anchorage, 907-276-3133 ex 115, smorgan@tnc.org
- **Tony Nakazawa:** Director, CES, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Fairbanks, 907-474-7246, fnatn@uaf.edu
- **Rachael Petro:** Special Assistant to the Commissioner, State of Alaska, Dept. of Natural Resources; Anchorage, 907-269-8434, rachael_petro@dnr.state.ak.us
- **Robert Piorkowski:** Invasive Species Program Coordinator, State of Alaska, Dept. of Fish and Game, Sport Fish; Juneau, 907-465-6109, robert_piorkowski@fishgame.state.ak.us
- **Gene Schock:** Soil Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Palmer, 907-761-7715, eugene.schock@ak.usda.gov
- **Steven Seefeldt:** Research Agronomist, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Subarctic Agricultural Research Unit; Fairbanks, 907-474-1898, sseefeldt@pw.ars.usda.gov

- **Linda Shaw:** Wildlife Biologist, USDC, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region/HCD; Juneau, 907-586-7510, Linda.Shaw@noaa.gov
- **John Sheahan:** Agricultural Inspector, Homeland Security, US Customs and Boarder ProtectionUS Customs and Boarder Protection; Anchorage, 907-271-6873, john.sheahan@dhs.gov
- **Michael Shephard:** Vegetation Ecologist, USDA, Forest Service, State and Private Forestry; Anchorage, 907-743-9454, mshephard@fs.fed.us
- **Jeanne Standley:** State Vegetation Specialist, USDI, Bureau of Land Management; Anchorage, 907-271-3082, Jeanne_Standley@ak.blm.gov
- **Calvin Steele:** Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Palmer, 907-761-7741, calvin.steele@ak.usda.gov
- **Kate Troll:**, Executive Director, Alaska Conservation Alliance; Anchorage, 907-258-6171, kate@akvoice.org