

# Alaska Invasive Species Working Group

## Addressing Invasives of All Taxa

Alaska experiences fewer invaders than many of the other states. The goal of the AISWG is to help preserve Alaska's natural environment and economic resources.

Almost half of the states in the US have some sort of group addressing all-taxa of invasive species. These groups vary in their composition, level of state support, structure, and activity level.

In recognition of the need to address invasive species issues, the Environmental Protection Agency provided funds to UAF-CES to initiate a group focusing on Alaskan invasive species issues.

## University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service coordinates the efforts of AISWG via:

- Face to face meetings in Anchorage every 6 months
- Monthly teleconferences
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Listserv: [aisc-l@lists.uaf.edu](mailto:aisc-l@lists.uaf.edu)
- Website: [www.alaskainvasives.org](http://www.alaskainvasives.org)
- Joint meeting with CNIPM (Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management) November 2007

The mission of Alaska Invasive Species Working Group (AISWG) is to minimize invasive species impacts in Alaska by facilitating collaboration, cooperation and communication.

## Goals of the AISWG (not prioritized)

1. Clarify the jurisdictional authorities of signatory parties as they relate to invasive species management.
2. Share the scientific and technical expertise of the parties related to invasive species management.
3. Encourage and enable signatory party employees or members to work collaboratively to optimize their respective capabilities to minimize invasive species impacts.
4. Collaborate in the development of a needs assessment and drafting of a statewide strategic plan for the management of invasive species.
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.

## Top Ten Marine invasive species list drafted by the AISWG Marine Group

### – Already here

- Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- Boring Sponge (*Ciona spp*)
- Dead Man's Fingers (*Codium fragile*)
- Golden Star (*B. violaceus*)
- Rockweed (*Fucus cottonii*)
- Violet Tunicate (*Botryllus schlosseri*)



Atlantic Salmon



Dead Man's Fingers



Green Crab



NZ Mud Snail

### – Not yet found in Alaska

- Atlantic Cord Grass (*Spartina spp*)
- Colonial tunicate (*Didemnum lahillei*)
- Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)
- New Zealand Mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

As legally defined, an invasive species is "An Alien Species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health..." "Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species...that is not native to that ecosystem."

-- Executive Order 3112, 1999

"...Idaho's programs have been likened to a "patchwork quilt", where each "patch" represents an individual program or effort. So long as the patches connect, the quilt is useful, but if they do not, then there are gaps in the coverage through which undesirable species can enter."

-- Idaho's Action Plan for Invasive Species

"As a colleague always reminds me, doing nothing is a management strategy also - in the case of purple loosestrife [it] means the end of your natural area - and this may be the most important thing you can impress on folks."

-- Techniques from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Stewards for the eradication of *Lythrum salicaria* and *Phragmites australis* in wetlands, edited by Mandy Tu

## Contact the AISWG

Website: [www.alaskainvasives.org](http://www.alaskainvasives.org)

Listserv: [aisc-l@lists.uaf.edu](mailto:aisc-l@lists.uaf.edu)

To subscribe: <https://lists.uaf.edu:8025/mailman/listinfo/aisc-l>

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Girdwood kids after a weedpull (photo: Chris McKee, Chugach National Forest)



Anchorage Girlscouts with Invasive Species Patch & USFWS Regional Director Tom Melius (photo: Laura Whitehouse, USFWS)



Dan Gilson, PWSRC AC, setting traps for Green Crab monitoring (photo: PWSRCAC)



R. Hagenstein of TNC broadcasting rat bait by hand on Aleutian islands near Adak (Photo: Steve MacLean, TNC)



Cathy Turner, UAF-CES setting Gypsy Moth traps (photo UAF-CES)



AISWG meeting, Anchorage April 2006 (photo: Michele Hebert UAF-CES)

The logos below represent the organizations that have signed the MOU as of 3-26-07

