

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

February 28, 2008, 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

Deena Jallen- AISWG volunteer, Fairbanks

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Linda Shaw- NOAA, NMFS, Juneau

Barbara Schrader- Forest Service, Juneau

Calvin Steele- NRCS, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Spring in-person meeting
- Update on Activities
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- AKEPIC website
- Alaska Botanical Forum website
- Article on UAF Invasive Plant Task Force

Spring in-person meeting

Deena Jallen said that Michele Hebert would like to have a spring in-person meeting before the ISAC meeting in mid-May in Anchorage. There will be ISAC related activities running throughout the week. There will be a field trip on May 16, which some AISWG folks will attend. Lisa Ka'aihue and Jeff Heys have been organizing the ISAC meeting.

There will be an AKEPIC database meeting in Anchorage on April 3-4, the Alaska Botanical Forum April 17-18 in Fairbanks, and the National CWMA meeting April 15-17. Tammy Davis suggested having a spring meeting on April 2nd, and then attendees would be in Anchorage for the AKEPIC meeting. There will also be a CNIPM teleconference on April 2; the teleconference could be part of the AISWG spring meeting agenda. CNIPM will be looking at plans for the fall conference in their upcoming teleconferences. A joint call with the AISWG could serve as an opportunity to discuss options and details of having a combined CNIPM and AISWG meeting.

Barb Schrader recommended that CNIPM work with the Alaska Botanical Forum. In the past, they have focused on rare plants, but are now broadening their focus, and would be a good group to help address invasive plant issues. The Botanical forum consists of a lot of agency personnel and scientists. Matt Carlson is very involved with the ABF.

Update on activities

Deena Jallen reported that the green crab public information poster for NOAA is going well, and a final draft should be done soon. There is a new Invasive Plant Task Force Group at UAF. See Additional Resources for more information.

Gino Graziano said that the AACD is accepting proposals for Cooperative Weed Management Area support efforts. He recently went to Juneau to testify in support of House Bill 330. HB 330 ended up getting a committee substituted with a fiscal note from AK DNR. Instead of getting the funding for a weed board, the substitute establishes a position in the Division of Agriculture whose job will be to start writing plans, work with CES and SWCD's (Soil and Water Conservation District), and to set up advisory groups. It does include the stipulation that other state agencies have to cooperate. The agreement has a sunset date of 2011, at which time it will be repealed, and the Div. of Ag. Person will have to justify their position. When the position is reconsidered, it may be argued that a weed board would better serve the state.

Rose Lombardi reminded people that there will be a pesticide applicator recertification training on March 14th. There will be presentations by Michael Rasy on invasives, Rose Lombardi on regulation changes and safety, and some speakers from outside Alaska will speak on bedbugs and other issues. Training will follow the same format as last year, and take place at the UAA campus in Anchorage. Continuing education credits are available for attendees. The agenda is still being put together for the day.

Linda Shaw updated on the tunicate and green crab monitoring efforts. Things are going well working with AK DOT on expanding tunicate monitoring to the ferry system. Ketchikan, Sitka, Prince Rupert, and Chenega have been picked as pilot sites. The participants are now looking at details of specific site suitability (salinity), available manpower, permitting, transport of materials, and getting permission to sample on non-state owned docks.

Green crab sampling will be expanded in Ketchikan, Sitka, and Gustavus. There have been some unresolved issues with coordinating funding between ADF&G to NOAA. Linda Shaw has also gotten some funds to do some spartina Early Detection and Rapid Response projects. She will be working with Gino Graziano and his EDRR group.

Kachemak bay has been putting out tunicate plates in Homer and Seldovia, and some of the oyster farms. There is a teacher in the area that has also gotten some funds to do green crab monitoring with school classes. An invasive amphipod, *Caprella munica*, has been found along with one of the tunicate monitoring plates, and now KBNERR (Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) is looking into doing amphipod sampling in coordination with SERC (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center).

Barbara Schrader said that they are working on their planning cycle for the budget for next year, and looking to boost efforts into the NEPA process. Trish Wurtz has looked at getting the federal groups to work on commonalities in approaches and methods. Federal groups would like to be more consistent with their approaches and messages.

Tammy Davis and some other ADF&G staff have been working with Ingrid Harrald from KBNERR on developing an education plan. They would appreciate any help from folks who have experience developing education plans.

The Northern Pike has been named as a focus for this years Sportsman's Show in Anchorage. ADF&G will have outreach materials on pike in South Central Alaska. Krissy Duncan is working on getting together and reprinting ID cards, posters, etc.

ADF&G is working on Atlantic salmon protocols for creel survey staff, processors, etc. It is still in a draft state, but will outline uniform handling procedures when Atlantic salmon are captured in Alaskan waters.

There will be a West Coast Green Crab Technical Committee meeting in Vancouver BC March 11-13. Tammy Davis, Linda Shaw, Lisa Ka'aihue, Dan Gilson and (possibly) Judy Hamilton will be attending or giving presentations. There will also be a field trip to areas in Vancouver with green crab populations. Tammy Davis is also working on a letter of support for Whitney Rapp in Glacier Bay for green crab monitoring.

Next teleconferences for the AISWG and Subcommittees

Tunicate Monitoring Coordination Teleconference

March 25th, 9:30 am

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

Long distance charges apply.

Preliminary agenda:

Summer monitoring details; who, where, and when.

AISWG Teleconference

March 26th, 9:30 am

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

Long distance charges apply.

Preliminary agenda:

Discuss an in-person meeting for spring

Topics to present at upcoming ISAC meeting in May

Set next meeting time

Marine Subcommittee Teleconference

March 27th, 9:30 am

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

Long distance charges apply.

Preliminary agenda:

Updates on marine invasive activities

Set next meeting time

Green Crab Monitoring Coordination Teleconference

TO BE ANNOUNCED

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

Long distance charges apply.

Preliminary agenda:

Green crab monitoring in southeast Alaska: training, monitoring, coordination, etc.

Additional Resources

Alaska Botanical Forum

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/herb/forum.html>

AKEPIC

<http://akweeds.aaa.alaska.edu/>

UAF Invasive Plants Task Force

<http://www.uaf.edu/news/news/20080214154025.html>

Article from UAF website:

Task force will tackle invasive plants

Submitted by Doreen Fitzgerald

Phone: 474-5042

02/14/08

Invasive plants march across landscapes throughout the world, and neither Alaska nor its university campuses are exempt from these aliens. As unwelcome plants spring up throughout the state, groups are forming to combat their spread and prevent new introductions.

At the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the first planning meeting to form a UAF Invasive Plant Task Force will take place on Tuesday, February 26, from 5:30-7 p.m. in room 102 of the University Park Building, 1000 University Ave. There will be an opportunity for public input and comment on how the task force might function and on developing a campus action plan for invasive plants.

Because these aliens can often crowd out native species, the task force should be of particular interest to gardeners, homeowners, people concerned with local environmental protection, transportation project engineers, and at the university, staff from Facilities Services, the Fairbanks Experiment Farm, and faculty in natural resources. Meeting organizers aim to increase public awareness of the invasive plant problem; determine issues of concern to the UAF and Fairbanks communities; and solicit ideas and volunteers to form the local task force.

“We also want to identify ways volunteers can become involved, whether or not they become task force members,” said Michele Hebert, land resources agent with the Cooperative Extension Service. “Even though this is the first meeting, we can sign up

people who have specific interests, such as pulling weeds, educating others, and participating in surveys, even though they may not be interested in serving on the task force itself.”

“Although our problem is relatively small compared to other states, some really nasty invaders have recently been documented in or near Alaska,” said Tricia Wurtz, ecologist and Invasive Plant Program coordinator with the US Forest Service in Fairbanks. “These include widespread Canada thistle in Anchorage, the Mat-Su, and the Haines area; purple loosestrife growing in the wild in the Anchorage bowl; and leafy spurge found near Dawson City, Yukon. In and around Fairbanks, including the campus, the most well known invasive plant is the purple-flowering bird vetch, or *Vicia cracca*, which has been spreading on roadsides and power line rights-of-way, and several other invasive plants are known to occur on the campus.”

The UAF meeting is sponsored by the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. It will be facilitated by students in Susan Todd’s natural resource planning course. The evening will begin with a short presentation on invasive species in Alaska by weed scientist Jeff Conn or the Agricultural Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture.

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