

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>