

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

March 26th, 2008, 10:30 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

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- AISWG volunteer, Fairbanks

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Barbara Schrader- Forest Service, Juneau

Gene Schock- NRCS, Palmer

Agenda: Items to discuss

- ISAC Meeting in Anchorage
- In-person meeting for AIWSG in May
- Importance/ for the AISWG
- Fall AISWG meeting
- Upcoming teleconferences

Additional Resources

- Elmendorf State Fish Hatchery

ISAC meeting in Anchorage

Following a mix up in scheduling, the teleconference was rescheduled from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. In the future, the bridge line will be reserved/scheduled by NRCS staff (Gene Schock, Calvin Steele, or Helen Denniston).

Jeff Heys gave an update on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting in Anchorage. ISAC is a committee of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). They will be meeting at the National Parks Service Building in Anchorage on May 12-14. During the three day meeting, the ISAC will address topics of national interest. There are five time slots scheduled for talks on Alaskan issues.

Day 1 (5/12): Ken Taylor (Deputy Commissioner of ADF&G), Mark Begich (mayor of Anchorage), Hans Neidig (Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska)

Day 1 (lunch): Michel Hebert (AISWG) and Jamie Nielsen (CNIPM),

Day 2 (morning 1): Vectors for invasive species coming to Alaska; Jeff Conn (terrestrial), Tammy Davis or Bob Piorkowski (both ADF&G, marine vectors).

Day 2 (morning 2): Citizen monitoring, early detection and rapid response; Linda Shaw (NMFS, marine), Gino Graziano (AACD, terrestrial)

Day 2 (lunch): working lunch presentation by The Nature Conservancy and USFWS on rat eradication projects

Day 3: climate change and implications for invasive species in Alaska; Denny Lassuy, USFWS

The Alaska talks/presentations will be interspersed among the suite of national topics the Committee has scheduled to address. Additionally, time is left at the end of each day for public comment. Jeff Heys expects the final agenda to be completed this week, or early next week.

On Thursday May 15, there is an ISAC sponsored field trip to locations in the Anchorage area. Participants will visit Chester Creek and Westchester Lagoon to see purple loosestrife, European bird cherry, and reed canary grass. The group will then go to Cheney Lake to learn about invasive pike and proposed eradication plans for Cheney Lake and other south-central Alaska pike populations, and the rainbow trout hatchery near Elmendorf Airforce base. Several years ago, DNA strands of whirling disease were found at the hatchery. The discussion will focus on what whirling disease would mean for Alaska, and the ramifications of stocking fish throughout the state from one location.

On Friday May 16, PWSRCAC has chartered a boat to take ISAC members to the ballast water treatment facility in Valdez. The trip is limited to 30 participants, and Lisa Ka'aihue said that all spots have been filled.

All AISWG participants are encouraged to attend the ISAC meetings. Jeff Heys and Lisa Ka'aihue have also discussed sending out invitations to the agency heads of AISWG groups to encourage participation. This would be a good opportunity for those at the director level to attend, especially on Day 3, when the ISAC group will break up into subcommittees that may be of particular interest to heads of different agencies.

In Person meeting for AISWG in the spring

Michele Hebert has been discussing holding an informal AISWG meeting during the ISAC week. The field trip on Thursday ends at 3pm. A meeting could be held Thursday from 3-5 pm, and either an additional breakfast meeting before one of the meeting days. Jeff Heys will investigate breakfast restaurants near the NPS building for a suitable site. It would not be feasible to bring food into the NPS building and have a breakfast meeting there.

Importance/purpose of the AISWG

Michele Hebert said that Jeff Heys has asked what the future needs of the AISWG are, and how the AISWG is fitting with peoples interests. Tammy Davis said that she feels the AISWG has provided an important forum via the monthly teleconferences for keeping updated on invasive species activities. The marine subcommittee has been instrumental in assisting citizen monitoring efforts.

Michele Hebert would like to see money provided on a national or state level available for long term (10 year) funding of supporting organizations. Money is available for projects and control efforts, but she has not had much luck finding money that can be used solely for funding the organizing of cooperative efforts. Jeff Heys echoed that funding would be helpful on the front end of things. Most of the money goes to mitigating the effects of invasive species, instead of front end efforts for prevention and EDRR. Gino Graziano and Barb Schrader said that they face the same problems with

their organizations. Serious problems with invasive species are looming for Alaska, and funds to prevent impacts here, may be more useful than funds used as 'bandaids' in other areas.

Barb Schrader said that in discussions with invasive species council people from Hawaii, they said that it was fortuitous that after forming the council, there was a well publicized outbreak of an invasive species. She thinks that people at the Alaska meeting should ask for advice on how to develop interest in front end work. Dan Proulx said that the state agencies need to recognize the importance of preventative programs. Other states would be glad to be in Alaska's position, before invasive species cause large impacts. Michele Hebert recommended that it would be good to encourage the ISAC to support states in their coordination efforts, and that collaborative programs are a good bang for the buck.

Fall AISWG meeting

Michel Hebert, Gino Graziano and the CNIPM board have been discussing having another joint CNIPM and AISWG fall meeting. Michele Hebert said that the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage was willing to waive the meeting room fees if lunches were purchased. They are available the 3rd and 4th week of October, and are open the entire week of October 20th. Gino Graziano said that the Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting might also be interested in holding their meeting at the tail end of the AISWG/CNIPM meeting. SWCD are interested in addressing agricultural issues with invasive species. Discussions of the fall meeting can continue during subsequent teleconferences.

Upcoming teleconferences

Green crab coordination

Friday, April 18th, 9:30am

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

Tunicate coordination

Tuesday, April 22nd, 9:30am

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

Marine Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 29, 9:30 am.

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

AISWG

April 30th, 10:30 am

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

Preliminary agenda:

Discuss the in-person meetings for the AISWG surrounding the ISAC meetings

Additional Resources

Elmendorf State Fish Hatchery

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Statewide/hatchery/index.cfm/FA/existing.elmendorf>