

## **Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference**

July 30, 2007, 10am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

### **Participants:**

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Dan Proulx- AK DNR, Division of Agriculture, Fairbanks

Barbara Schrader- Forest Service, Juneau

Heidi Veach- UAF-CES, Glenallen

Stoney Wright- AK DNR, Palmer

### **Agenda: Items to discuss**

- Update on Activities
- November Agenda
- Teleconferences
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

### **Additional Resources**

SAGA website

State of Alaska Revegetation Manual website

AISWG agenda

### **Update on Activities**

Tammy Davis said that several crawfish have been found in Soldotna. ADF&G caught one in a trap, one turned up on private property, and one was caught in a fishing net. So far it is unknown if the crawfish were alive/established in the stream, or were dumped in the river. Also in Soldotna, 10-12 goldfish were found in a rock dump pond. The pond was drained, and the fish removed and disposed of. The area biologist believes he know the kids responsible for placing the fish there, and will speak to them. Sport fisherman on the Alaska Peninsula near Sand Point captured an Atlantic salmon. ADF&G is planning to do genetic analysis on the fish.

Barbara Schrader said that Forest Service still has folks out doing contract inventories, and inventorying plants along road systems. SAGA (South Alaska Guidance Association) crews and community volunteers are also involved in invasive plant control projects.

Stoney Wright from AKDNR said that the State of Alaska Revegetation Manual is available online, and they have been getting requests for a more printer friendly format.

Jeff Heys from the Park Service said that the national level Invasive Species Advisory Committee may be holding their next annual meeting in Anchorage next year. It might be possible to have the Secretary of the Interior attend, and would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of invasive species issues in Alaska. Park Service has a lot of field work ongoing this summer. Katie Villano is finding white sweetclover moving on to burned areas, and will likely present some of her findings at the fall CNIPM meeting.

There has been some concern raised about *Didymo* (*Didymosphenia geminata*), an invasive diatom. It is definitely found in multiple regions of Alaska and forms dense mats, however it might be a native species that is flourishing and may be expanding its range, and not an invasive species. There are some people looking into it, and Jeff Heys asks that people forward information on *Didymo* in Alaska to him ([jeff\\_heys@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_heys@nps.gov)).

Representative Craig Johnson and Senator Fred Dyson have expressed interest in streamlining the process of adding new weeds to the noxious weed list. At a recent meeting in Anchorage they mentioned adding the issue to the legislative agenda. Senators Lesil McGuire and Gene Therriault also had staff members at the meeting. Representative Johnson recently contacted Diane Claasen at UAF-CES, and Deena Jallen added his email to the AISWG listserv, and passed on the address for the [alaskainvasives.org](http://alaskainvasives.org) website.

Larry Johnson will be coordinating an introduction in Juneau between Park Service plant inventory people and DOT employees. CNIPM will also be starting discussions on updating their strategic plan.

Michele Hebert from UAF-CES will be going on sabbatical soon. CES IPM (Integrated Pest Management) agents have been working with ARS, and with USDA and Forest Service entomologists on insect identifications. They are seeing new insects in Alaska all the time. Entomologists are also tracking and monitoring 28 species of ladybugs in Alaska. Some of these species are exotic, but not necessarily invasive. The new publication 'Beneficial Insects and Spiders of Alaska' is also available, free, from UAF-CES.

Deena Jallen from UAF-CES will be designing a poster on green crab identification. Linda Shaw from NMFS has some funds for this project. There will also be a training in Juneau August 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> to 'Train the Trainer' for green crab and tunicate monitoring protocol.

### **November AISWG Meeting Agenda**

The agenda for the November meeting has largely been finalized. There has not yet been someone from the governor's office identified to give the opening address. Michele Hebert suggested asking Tom Irwin from AK DNR to open the meeting if another speaker isn't found. Larry Johnson suggested scheduling a teleconference to allow further discussion on action items prior to the meeting (3:40 to 4:40 on the Agenda)

Ronda Halvarson from UAF-CES will be putting together the brochure and mailing for the meeting. The registration fee will be \$55 for the day. The revenue will cover meals and travel for out-of-state speakers (Vanessa Morgan from Oregon). UAF-CES is

looking for an organization to cover the costs of a mailing (\$350 with the bulk mail discount). This mailing could possibly be coordinated with CNIPM, and will mention the CNIPM meeting.

### **AISWG Chairing and ongoing Teleconferences**

Michele Hebert will be on sabbatical from August until September. Deena Jallen has funding available until mid-September. The AISWG holds 1 hour teleconferences once a month. Tammy Davis from ADF&G and Stoney Wright from AKDNR would have to wait until their commissioners are sorted out before being able to address chairing the AISWG. Rose Lombardi said that the AISWG does not fit in with the AK DEC Pesticide main mission, and Larry Johnson from AKDOT has not gotten a response from his bosses regarding state chairing of the AISWG.

Stoney Wright said he would check on running teleconferences in Michele's absence (**NOTE:** Tammy Davis replied by email afterwards that she would also be available to lead teleconferences. Stoney Wright will not be leading the teleconferences). NRCS will continue to provide the bridge number for teleconferences.

Larry Johnson brought up the possibility of having a federal member of the AISWG to chair it temporarily. Michele Hebert said that the federal people have generally wanted the state to take leadership. She would recommend waiting to see how things are sorted out at the state level before seeking out a chairperson from a federal agency. A representative from the governor's office could also be a possibility for an AISWG chair.

### **Next teleconference for the AISWG**

10am Thursday, August 30th.

To attend, call into 907-271-1405. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

### **Marine Subcommittee**

9 am Thursday, August 16th.

To attend, call into **907-586-7060** (note new number). Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

### **Additional Resources**

<http://www.servealaska.org/index.htm>

SAGA website

[http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag/pmcweb/PMC\\_reveg.htm](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag/pmcweb/PMC_reveg.htm)

State of Alaska Revegetation Manual

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/>

EPA Didymosphenia page

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/International%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Didymo international factsheet

## ***Agenda***

### ***2007 Alaska Invasive Species Conference***

**November 13, 2007**

- 8:00-8:30**      **Registration**
- 8:30-8:45**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 8:45-9:00**      **Alaska Invasive Species Working Group, Addressing All Taxa**  
*Michele Hebert, UAF Cooperative Extension Service-Tanana District*
- 9:00-9:15**      **Pulling Together Against Invasive Plants: An Overview of the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management**  
*Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts*
- 9:15-9:45**      **Early Detection and Rapid Response – All Taxa Efforts**  
*Alan V. Tasker, Ph.D., USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, PPQ*
- 9:45-10:00**      **Break**
- 10:00-10:20**    **Invasive Defoliators in Alaska: If You Plant It, They Will Come**  
*James J. Kruse, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry*
- 10:20-10:40**    **Plant Pathogens of Concern**  
*Michele Hebert, UAF Cooperative Extension Service-Tanana District*
- 10:40-11:00**    **Invasive Species Includes Disease Pathogens: How Will the State Respond?**  
*Robert Gerlach, Ph.D., State Veterinarian, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health*
- 11:00-11:20**    **Management of Invasive Mammals on Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**  
*Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge*
- 11:20-11:40**    **Shipwreck Response**  
*Steve Ebbert, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge*
- 11:40-1:00**      **Lunch**
- 1:00-1:40**      **Coastal Marine Invasions in Alaska: Patterns, Processes and Predictions**  
*Gregory M. Ruiz, Ph.D., Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Marine Invasion Research Laboratory*
- 1:40-2:00**      **Spartina Early Detection and Rapid Response: The Oregon Experience**  
*Vanessa Morgan, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University*
- 2:00-2:20**      **Green Crab Habitat Suitability Modeling in Southeast Alaska, British Columbia and Washington Using the Shorezone Coastal Mapping Project**  
*Linda Shaw, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service*
- 2:20-2:40**      **Break**
- 2:40-3:00**      **A Citizen Monitoring Program for Marine Invasive Species in Alaska**  
*Judy Hamilton, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve*
- 3:00-3:20**      **Invasive Northern Pike: A Growing Threat in Southcentral Alaska**  
*Kristine Dunker, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division*

**3:20-3:40**

**Rats: Reputations, Revelations, Regulations and Rumors**

*Ronald G. Clarke, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation*

**3:40-4:40**

**Open Discussion on Needed Action Items for All Taxa Working Group**

**(Speaker and exhibitor contact information on reverse side.)**