

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group: Marine Subcommittee audio Conference

Thursday November 8, 2007

Hosted via NMFS bridge number

Participants

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Ingrid Harrald- KBRR, Homer

Deena Jallen- UAF CES, Fairbanks

Lisa Ka'aihue- PWSRCAC, Anchorage

Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau

Joan Tovsen- UAA/UAF, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Upcoming Alaska Invasive Species Conference on November 13th
- Update on invasive species activities
- Set next meeting time
- Possible agenda items for next meeting
- Additional Resources
 - Radio clip link
 - Websites
 - Frogs and Tongass email from Lance Lerum

Upcoming Alaska Invasive Species Conference on November 13th

Roger Green from Prince William Sound RCAC will be attending the AISConference instead of Lisa Ka'aihue. Marine Subcommittee members and other interested folks will meet during lunch for additional discussion on marine invasive species concerns.

Update on Invasive Species Activities

Lisa Ka'aihue and Linda Shaw were recently featured on an NPR radio piece about aquatic invasive species (see Additional Resources)

Tammy Davis reported that Lance Lerum from US Forest Service is working on a final report and peer reviewed article about red legged frogs on Chichagof Island. Some of their findings are that the population was introduced by a science teacher. The frogs are doing well, and there is some concern they may impact boreal toads native to the area. They are looking at control measures. Red legged frogs are declining in their native North California areas. One possibility may be to capture and export the frogs to California. The population is on Forest Service lands in the Tongass National Forest.

Judy Hamilton said that the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve held a 2 day USFWS oil and rat spill workshop. They had a speaker from the New Zealand Channel Islands discuss eradications of hogs and other species. The focus of the workshop was shipwreck response; recovering from spills of oil, other pollutants, and invasive species. They workshop also looked at emergency response activities.

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has workshops coming up in 2008. Tammy Davis and Dan Gilson might attend the ballast water meeting, Linda Shaw and Lisa Ka'aihue are planning to go to the Green Crab meeting in March.

Linda Shaw said that Varina Wang (?) from the Smithsonian in California traveled to Sitka, Juneau and Ketchikan. Tunicate plates showed chain tunicates (Botrylloides) and Botryllus present in Ketchikan, and Botrylloides present in Sitka. There was some baseline population work done in 2002. Linda Shaw said that there are still non-native tunicates in the area. Gary Freitag sent in pictures of the plates being checked. Tunicate will be redeployed, and Tammy Davis will hopefully be available when the plates are picked up.

Next Meeting for the AISWG Marine Subcommittee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am, January 10th.

Call in number: 907-586-7977 (allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply)

Topics to discuss:

- General updates from each attendee
- Set next meeting time

Additional Resources**Radio piece on aquatic invasives**

aprn.org/2007/11/01/invasion-of-the-atlantic-salmon/

Link to the APRN radio broadcast audio from November 1. Linda Shaw and Lisa Ka'aihue contributed to the story

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

www.psmfc.org

USFS Tongass Forest

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/>

Subject: [AISC-L] introduced red-legged frog in Southeast Alaska

From: "Lance Lerum" <llerum@fs.fed.us>

Date: Wed, November 21, 2007 3:40 pm

To: aisc-l@lists.uaf.edu

Priority: Normal

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I just posted the following on the akherps listserv and since Deena just connected me up to this listserv will post the information here also:

As many of you know a population of red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*) has become established on Chichagof Island here in Southeast Alaska. For the last two field seasons Robbie Piehl and I from Admiralty Monument have been investigating the status of this population. I recently had several inquiries relating to this population and would like to use this forum to update the AK herp community.

Last January we prepared a brief internal progress report of our 2006 findings which is attached to this email. I have not yet found time to update this document with 2007 field results; however, we are currently in the process of completing our stated 2007 objectives. A manuscript authored by Greg Pauly, Santiago Ron, and myself is in draft form and near ready for peer review. This manuscript documents DNA work and ecological niche modeling we've completed for this species, and includes a brief discussion of management considerations. This manuscript will be submitted to the *Journal of Herpetology* in the near future.

In 2007 we were able to swab a few individuals for Chytrid testing although more is needed. I have not received the results of the analysis of those samples from the lab. Last winter's record snows in SE severely hampered several weeks of spring survey efforts and breeding was delayed by up to a month from 2006 timing. Our time was then needed on other projects so we were not able to complete field surveys to the extent that we wished. We

did not document significant range extensions from our 2006 findings and a brief mid-summer survey did not locate any frogs in the Game Creek drainage. In two years of searching we finally found one pond where probably only a single pair of toads had bred and observed newly hatched tadpoles and viable eggs. No adult toads were observed and red-legged frogs were breeding within 100m of this small toad pond. We were not able to return to monitor the reproductive success at this site.

A brief overview of action items that we hope to continue relating to management of this population includes:

- An education program to notify neighboring communities of the presence of this population and ramifications of transporting animals to new sites.
- Further work to define the known distribution extent
- More thorough Chytrid testing.
- Explore control techniques so that further spread or new introductions can be managed.
- Monitor known toad breeding sites to document any interspecific interaction
- Additional niche modeling that factors in any adaptation to biotic influences or ecological release.
- Secure funding for any or all of the above.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss further please contact me.

(See attached file: progress_report_2006.pdf)

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Info on Chytrid fungus and prevention:

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Frog+Chytrid+fungus>