

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group: Marine Subcommittee audio Conference

Thursday March 1, 2007

Hosted via NMFS bridge number, minutes taken by Deena Jallen

Participants

Reid Brewer- Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Unalaska

Dan Gilson- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC)

Judy Hamilton- ADF&G, Kachemak bay

Deena Jallen- UAF CES, Fairbanks

Lisa Ka'aihue- PWSRCAC, Anchorage

Whitney Rapp- National Park Service, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Juneau

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on invasive species activities
- Set next meeting time
- Possible agenda items for next meeting
- Additional Resources

Update on Invasive Species Activities

Linda Shaw opened the meeting. Since the Alaska Forum on the Environment meeting in Anchorage, She has been working with Ellen Fritts and Poppy Benson to bring a rat display to Juneau. Along with several other southeast Alaska communities, Juneau has invasive rats. The target audience for the display and possible presentation by Benson would be fishermen and vessel owners. Free rat kits are available at www.stoprats.org, and can assist vessel owners in preventing the spread of rats to and from infested port communities.

Dan Gilson from PWSRCAC has been working on green crab monitoring efforts. He is looking to find a graduate student to do monitoring, work with Kachemak Bay collaborators, and to establish sites in 6 pre-chosen areas, and set up additional monitoring in another 4 areas. Some school groups and volunteers in Kachemak bay are already involved in green crab monitoring. PWSRCAC provides green crab traps; these either come from a distributor in Canada, or from Japan. Traps cost about \$25.00 each, and deployed for two days at a time, preferably once a month from April to July. Volunteers set traps during low tide in intertidal areas, and then remove the traps after 2 tides. Persons interested in starting a monitoring program should contact Dan Gilson (gilson@pwsrcac.org) prior to the end of March, so the traps can be ordered ahead of time. See Additional Resources for a link to the protocol provided by Judy Hamilton of ADF&G KBRR.

Whitney Rapp would be interested in doing some green crab monitoring in Glacier Bay. Currently the trapping program is planned to take place in Valdez, Cordova, Tatitlek, and Dutch Harbor. Additional sites are proposed for Ketchikan, Chenega Bay, Whittier, and Seward. NMFS has some funds available for research/monitoring activities in Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau. A good contact in Ketchikan would be Gary Freitag; he is connected with the cruise ship berth mitigation settling plate project, and other marine issues. Reid Brewer also suggested contacting Sonny Rice in Petersburg, Ameer Howard from the Sitka Tribe, and Geof Smith (Sitka National Historical Park) or the Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka.

Other small scale monitoring projects are settling plates. Lisa Ka'aihue says that so far, the PWSRCAC settling plates in Valdez have not found any invasive species. The project has only been underway for one year as a pilot program. Whitney Rapp is interested in doing some settling plates in Glacier Bay as well.

Next Meeting for the AISWG Marine Subcommittee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am, Thursday April 5

Call in number: 907-586-7060 (allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply)

Possible agenda items for next meeting

- General updates from each attendee
- Set next meeting time

Additional Resources

Green Crab Monitoring Protocol (pdf)

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/resources-links.html#InvasiveMarine>

Potential contacts for Green crab monitoring projects

Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka

<http://www.sheldonjackson.edu/>

Sitka National Historical Park (Geof Smith)

<http://www.nps.gov/sitk/>

Sitka Tribe (Amee Howard)

<http://www.sitkatribe.org/>

Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc. (Gary Freitag)

<http://www.ssraa.org/>