

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group: Marine Subcommittee audio Conference

Wednesday July 25, 2006 9am to 10am

Hosted via NMFS bridge number

Participants

Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau

Bob Piorkowski- AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Juneau

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Lisa Ka'aihue- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Dan Gilson- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Sherry Miller- Prince William Soundkeeper

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Discuss the top 10 worst Marine Species list
- Update on invasive species activities
- Set next meeting time

Discuss the top 10 worst Marine Species list

As developing criteria to rank invasive species could take years to finalize, it is agreed to go forward with a simple list for the website. Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council has worked with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center to develop an invasive species of concern list for the PWSRCAC website. This list does not have a ranking system attached, and is missing a few species, such as spartina (*Spartina sp.*) or New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*), which are of concern. Their list can be found at; <http://www.pwsrcac.org/projects/NIS/factsheets.html>

For the AISWG website, the group decided an informal list of 10-15 of the worst species with linked information should be sufficient for now, and can be updated later. Links should also be included to the website for the exhaustive Washington state non-indigenous species link, and the global invasive species list. (see Additional Resources)

Update on Invasive Species Activities

Each meeting participant provided updates on recent invasive species work. Following is a brief summary of the topics discussed;

Bob Piorkowski: Discussed work regarding the NOAA, ADF&G, PSMFC, SERC and PSU Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) Initiative. The goal is to assess the possibility of reduction or eradication of an existing green crab population. There is a west coast tunicate monitoring project with most of the same cooperators already listed along with SFSU. Fouling plates will be placed in Alaskan communities ranging from Ketchikan to Unalaska with the goal of early detection of invasive tunicates and other invasive species. Hopefully this is the start of both an effective and long term marine monitoring program for Alaska.

Bob reported on initial discussions about invasive species monitoring with the Canadian DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and other agencies in the BC provincial government. Recent surveys on Vancouver Island by DFO have confirmed several established green crab populations. Previous efforts to coordinate on invasive species monitoring with Canada have encountered to this date insurmountable challenges with getting samples and data back, especially in regard to Atlantic (*Salmo salar*) salmon scale and otolith samples from Alaska captures. The Atlantic salmon recently caught in Cook Inlet appears to have thermal markings on one of its otoliths indicating that the fish is from a Washington state hatchery. Canadian Atlantic salmon hatcheries are not known to thermally mark their fish.

ADF&G is also working on a short film about invasive species to be shown in public areas and events (airports, outdoor shows, etc.) and is close to finalizing a NIS (non-indigenous species) display that will be used at regional offices and educational events. A draft Alaska Invasive Rodent Management Plan has just been sent out to reviewers and is available for public review (go to:

<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/invasive.php>)

Linda Shaw stated she had been in talks about cooperative projects with the US Forest Service specifically regarding *Spartina sp.* and green crab suitability assessments using the Shore Zone data set. Several areas, including Bostwick Bay where a card from a PSU drift study was recovered, may be suitable for these species to colonize.

Lisa Ka'aihue is writing a proposal to have a film festival at the Alaska Forum on the Environment's February 2007 meeting. Any film citations will be useful to add to the proposal. To submit a film title, contact kaaihue@pwsrcac.org. One session of the festival will be devoted to invasive species. Films should be 30 minutes or less. PWSRCAC is anticipating a final report from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center titled; Biological Invasions in Alaska's Coastal Marine Ecosystems: Establishing a Baseline (see Additional Resources for full citation information). This report will be added to their existing invasive species publications list.

Dan Gilson said PWSRCAC is involved in partnerships with Youth Area Watch for green crab monitoring (<http://www.pwsrcac.org/outreach/education.html>). Surveys were conducted in the Kodiak area, and will take place in Unalaska in mid-August. Efforts are also being made to set up a green crab monitoring program with local native groups. Activities are also taking place in Kachemak Bay, and with the Prince William Science Center Youth Area Watch Program. Ongoing green crab trapping has been taking place at various locations in PWS, with no green crabs caught to date. Dan Gilson will be deploying monitoring plates for tunicates in Valdez as part of the cooperative coast-wide tunicate monitoring effort mentioned earlier.

Deena Jallen has been working on the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group website. The website name and release date will be discussed at the AISWG meeting August 1. The August issue of the AISWG newsletter is also being written. This issue will focus on invasive species research in the state. Contributions from agencies for a paragraph about research will be solicited over the listserv.

Next Meeting for the AISWG Marine Subcommittee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am, Thursday August 31st. 907-586-7060 (allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply)

Topics to discuss:

- General update on activities
- Discussion of results from AISWG meeting on August 1.
- Set next meeting time

Additional Resources

Washington State non-indigenous species
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/ans4.htm>

Global Invasive Species List
<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>

Rat plan draft for review
<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/invasive.php>

Prince William Sound RCAC educational outreach
<http://www.pwsrcac.org/outreach/education.html>

Title of the upcoming Smithsonian Environmental Research Center report:
Biological Invasions in Alaska's Coastal Marine Ecosystems:
Establishing a Baseline

Submitted by:

Gregory M. Ruiz, Tami Huber, Kristen Larson
Linda McCann, Brian Steves, & Anson H. Hines

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Edgewater, Maryland USA