

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group: Marine Subcommittee audio Conference

Thursday August 16, 2007

Hosted via NMFS bridge number

Participants

Dan Gilson- PWSRCAC, Valdez

Deena Jallen- UAF CES, Fairbanks

Lisa Ka'aihue- PWSRCAC, Anchorage

Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau

Whitney Rapp- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Gustavus

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on invasive species activities
- Set next meeting time
- Additional Resources

Update on Invasive Species Activities

Linda Shaw opened the meeting. She said they had an excellent green crab monitoring training session the previous Monday and Tuesday in Juneau. The training went very well, and used the habitat model to pick trap sites. Traps were set on Monday, and then retrieved on Tuesday. Participants went over modeling protocol, and discussed monitoring efforts in communities.

The traps deployed were the folding mesh type, baited with herring, and anchored to rebar stakes. Dan Gilson from PWSRCAC has the traps set up to reduce unintended bycatch by cutting a section of the mesh and re-sewing it with 'rotten cotton' (see picture). This can be found in most marine supply stores. Dan separates the 3 strands of the cotton, and then uses a paperclip to sew the opening in the trap shut with one strand.



Linda Shaw said that Shorezone models should be available soon for other trapping areas. Ketchikan was imaged last summer. The mapping for Ketchikan and the west side of Prince William Sound should be available soon. Glacier Bay was not mapped because the Park Service already has data in that area. For Glacier Bay, monitors can use habitat suitability parameters. Whitney Rapp said that only a couple areas in Glacier Bay are accessible without using a boat. She will look into selecting a couple of accessible sites for trapping. Dan Gilson said that Gary Freitag was also willing to fly south from Ketchikan to monitor in remote areas using a private plane.

Dan Gilson has been looking into working with Dan Gillespie in Northern Vancouver to see if he can travel there and see green crab in their habitats there. Linda Shaw said that she had met Dan Gillespie at the ASLO conference, and that Sylvia Yamada had done some trapping with him in Vancouver as well.

The State of Alaska is doing its triennial review process, and is soliciting comments on water quality standards. Suggested topics are ballast water and invasive species. There is a form circulating with the top issues asking if people would be interested in being on advisory committees. Linda has made the case at NOAA about flagging ballast water. Whitney Rapp said that in Glacier Bay the ship traffic is mostly cruise ships, which do not constitute much of a ballast water concern. Lisa Ka'aihue from PWSRCAC said that they have recently submitted their comments on NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitting. The EPA was looking at clean water act as a result as a lawsuit. Regulation of ballast water might come under the Clean Water Act as a result.

Linda Shaw also said that she has been working with Lisa Ka'aihue on a hull fouling Request for Proposals. She thinks that invasive species will be getting more attention in fiscal year 09. The RFP can be used to show that the issue of invasive species is of importance in the region. In Washington state, invasives are getting a new look. They were on a maintenance track, but might be getting more funding and interest in FY09.

Deena Jallen has been setting up an Invasive Species of Coastal Alaska course on the UAF Blackboard website. The Blackboard site has resources for hosting documents, forums, etc. that can be used to support green crab monitoring efforts in different communities. All that participants need to supply is their full name and email address to be added to the UAF Blackboard system.

Next Meeting for the AISWG Marine Subcommittee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am, October 11, 2007.

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

Additional Resources:

Links to AKDEC Triennial review comment forms

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/news.html>

UAF Blackboard

<https://classes.uaf.edu/webapps/login>

Group photo from the Juneau Green Crab Monitoring Training. Photo taken by Richard Enriquez of the USFWS.



Top Row:

Tammy Davis, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cindy Hartmann, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dan Gilson, Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council
Gary Frietag, Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Alan Unmack, Sitka Tribe
Heather Woody, Sitka Tribe

Front Row:

Whitney Rapp, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Linda Shaw, National Marine Fisheries Service