

AISWG Marine Subcommittee audio Conference: Tunicate Monitoring

Monday, February 19, 2008, 9:30am

Hosted via NMFS bridge number. Minutes taken by Deena Jallen

Participants

Kris Benson- AKDOT

Ingrid Harrald- KBRR, Homer

Deena Jallen- AISWG, Fairbanks

Lance Lerum- Forestry Service, Juneau

Cheri Murphy- AKDOT, Ketchikan

Whitney Rapp- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Gustavus

Greg Ruiz- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau

Chela Zabin- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center & University of California, Davis

Agenda: Items discussed

- Discuss progress from last meeting
- Potential sites along ferry system
- Shipping materials via the ferry system
- Project summaries, timeline
- Set next meeting time
- Possible agenda items for next meeting

Additional Resources

- Link to additional documents
- Contact information

Discuss progress from last meeting

Linda reviewed the three main tasks from the last tunicate teleconference. Chela Zabin sent out the protocol. It was emailed, attached to the draft minutes, and is available as one pdf on the www.alaskainvasives.org website (see Additional resources for link). Gary Freitag has been difficult to reach, Cheri Murphy will continue to try to contact him about monitoring in Ketchikan. Greg Ruiz looked at the map of the ferry system routes.

Potential sites along ferry system

Greg Ruiz and Chela Zabin reviewed the map of the marine highway system. Their objective was to pick out 2-4 sites to monitor in, and then expand to other sites. The first sites would be Ketchikan and Sitka. Sitka already has several of the tunicates of interest, and monitoring can see if those populations are changing over time. Sitka is the site of the northernmost extent of tunicates establishment that SERC knows of. Greg Ruiz said he thinks there may be some in Tatitlek, but their presence hasn't been verified in a few years.

Additional sites would be Tatitlek, Chenega, and Prince Rupert. Greg and Chela will look at using GoogleMaps images and more detailed harbor/shore maps to pick out actual sampling sites focused on the five terminals. Cheri Murphy will send contact information for the longshoreman personnel in Tatitlek and Chenega. In Tatitlek, the ferry terminal is adjacent to a floating dock, but the ownership is unknown.

Concerns: Tatitlek, Chenega, and Prince Rupert docks are not owned by the state. Prince Rupert is about to undergo expansion, and will likely get more shipping traffic from Asia.

Cheri Murphy said that she has a good relationship with Prince Rupert, and doesn't expect that the city or port will object to monitoring. She will contact Murray Shephard in Prince Rupert. He

will likely be willing to participate. So far all of the managers she has talked to have been willing to help.

Salinity may be an issue at some locations. Kris Benson pointed out that many of the ferry terminals are at or near freshwater creeks. Greg Ruiz said he will examine maps of the area. Sampling would be better in areas with salinity above 20 parts per thousand. In Ketchikan, there is a creek ¼ mile away. Cheri Murphy said that most of the locations picked out for the first round should not have a problem with salinity. Greg Ruiz will examine maps of the areas to see if the freshwater sources are too close. Some ferry terminals may monitor salinity at their docks, Greg Ruiz said they could also send out materials to get water samples, or sampling instruments. Oyster farmers in Chenega Bay may also know what their salinity levels are. Tammy Davis will see if there is an ADF&G contact in Chenega Bay, and will take on the task of finding someone who knows what the salinity is in Chenega. Linda Shaw will contact Gary Freitag about salinity and sampling in Prince Rupert.

Shipping materials via the ferry system

Cheri Murphy will contact the ferry system to see if the ferries can be used to transport the bricks and plates for the monitoring. Chela Zabin said that it may be helpful to mention that it will be a one time shipment of bricks to each location. She would like to get 20-21 bricks to each site, which can then be reused for the sampling.

Project summaries, timeline

Linda Shaw and Tammy Davis offered to write project summaries or letters of support in the project. Greg Ruiz and Chela Zabin will write a letter with project timeline and introduction. They would like to see the plates deployed in May or June. Chela Zabin recommended mid-June, to give adequate time to distribute materials and get personnel.

Greg Ruiz said that SERC is pursuing funding to expand the scope of the monitoring network. They have submitted a proposal to national Sea Grant. He envisions sophisticated web based tools, online background information, network activities, guides for organisms, history of invasions, etc. They will pursue several different funding avenues. He would eventually like to see the monitoring expanded to collecting data on some environmental variables as well. The ability to work with DOT is a great opportunity.

Next Tunicate teleconference

March 25th, 9:30 am

To attend, call into 907-586-7977. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

Next Green crab teleconference

TO BE ANNOUNCED OVER EMAIL/LISTSERV

Additional Resources

Link to .pdf compiling the documents from Chela Zabin (protocol, identification guides, etc.)

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/aiswg/pdf-documents/TunicateMonitoring-1-28-additional.pdf>

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