

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

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SUMMARY

The meeting came to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Maryland Room of the Silver Spring Hilton, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD. Ship Bright, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT:

LORI WILLIAMS	NISC Executive Director
SHIP BRIGHT	Acting ISAC Chair
GEORGE BECK	Acting ISAC Vice Chair
DIANE COOPER	Acting ISAC Secretary
GARY BEIL	Member
DAVID BRUNNER	Member
ALLEGRA CANGELOSI	Member
TIM CARLSON	Member
JOE CORN	Member
WILLARD DICKERSON	Member
PATTY DOERR	Member
LU ELDREDGE	Member
CHRIS FISHER	Member
MARTIN HUGH-JONES	Member
JERRY JACKSON	Member
NELROY JACKSON	Member
MARILYN LELAND	Member
MARI LOU LIVINGOOD	Member
MARSHALL MEYERS	Member
CHUCK O-NEILL	Member
CRAIG REGELBRUGGE	Member
SARAH REICHARD	Member
JEFF SCHARDT	Member
JEFFREY STONE	Member
JOHN PETER THOMPSON	Member
KEN ZIMMERMAN	Member
ANNA CHERRY	NISC Outreach Coordinator
PHILLIP ANDREOZZI	NISC Staff Member
KELSEY BRANTLEY	NISC Staff Member
DEAN WILKINSON	DOC/NOAA Co-Chair Liaison

HILDA DIAZ-SOLTERO	USDA Co-Chair Liaison
GORDON BROWN	DOI Co-Chair Liaison
CHRIS DIONIGI	NISC Staff Member
RICHARD ORR	NISC Staff Member
MARY JOSIAH	NISC Staff Member
BRITTA MUZIENEKS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PENNY KREISCH	USDA/APHIS

**NISC Staff Report, Lori Williams, NISC Executive Director**

Ms. Williams first addressed the charter amendments discussed at the last meeting, saying that they had been approved by the National Invasive Species Council, but that they had not yet received final approval by the Department of the Interior and the GSA. She then listed the amendments that had been approved by NISC, including amendments relating to the limit on the number of members in ISAC, and to the length of terms for members of ISAC. She said that the one amendment that had been recommended by ISAC but not approved by NISC was the removal of term limits. She then explained how the amendment regarding length of terms would ensure continuity of membership to the Committee. She also explained NISC's recommendation that, since the amendments had not yet been finally approved, ISAC continue with its acting officers until the meeting in Puerto Rico. Ms. Williams then announced that Linda Sheehan had left Ocean Conservancy.

Mr. Bright suggested that he join the nominations committee and work with people who are interested in leadership positions before the Puerto Rico meeting, that the acting chairs run the first day of the Puerto Rico meeting, that an election taking place the following day, and that the new officers take over from that point on.

Ms. Diaz-Soltero suggested that the Puerto Rico meeting might run more smoothly if the staff were able to coordinate with the same people that they are planning the meeting with, to which Mr. Bright responded that he, Ms. Cooper and Mr. Beck would still be there to help with the transition.

Dr. Nelroy Jackson pointed out that the terms of the members of the original ISAC would expire in October of 2006, rather than 2005.

Ms. Williams announced the open house of the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week on March 3rd, as well as a special invasive species day being held by the North American Wildlife Society on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Zimmerman moved to accept the minutes**, Dr. Hugh-Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

## **Subcommittee Meeting Reports**

### **Leadership and Coordination**

Ms. Diaz-Soltero began her report by saying that the Leadership and Coordination Group had gone through the different action items under leadership and coordination in order to assess whether the action items were completely done, in progress, or not even started. She also said that they discussed the three-year action plan that is being prepared, as well as suggestions to streamline agency reporting and individual questions in the survey that is going to be used in ISAC to determine and rank which of the action items should be contained in the action plan.

### **Prevention**

Dr. Reichard reported that APHIS had issued an advanced notice of rulemaking related to The Propagated Plants working group, and that the Hawaiian Island screen working group had not been very active on the federal level, but had been active on the state level. She also explained how the Risk Analysis working group had been working to extend the existing models. She also said that the committee had decided that they could provide feedback to the working groups about what's in the management plan, and that, if anyone wished to participate in this review process, they should speak to Ms. Cangelosi. She explained how they would nominate a short list of action items that are doable within the three-year-period.

### **Research and Info Management**

Dr. Jerome Jackson said that the research team had begun with the charge of looking at the process revision of the section of the management plan on research and information management. He also said that many of the action items included in the current plan were continuing action items which could never really be completed, and which therefore needed to be re-characterized. He also stated that milestones and timetables needed to be identified for the actionable items. He then commented on several issues with regard to research. He also said that major invasive species research foci needed to be identified for each NISC member, and that this information could be used later for such projects as the National Science Foundation's Neon Project. He emphasized the need to separate real action items from action item categories.

Ms. Cangelosi asked how the Prevention Group could interact with the Research Group with regard to three-year

priority objectives. Mr. Bright replied that it might be helpful if everyone served on multiple committees. Several other ideas were then shared as to how interactions between committees might be encouraged.

### **Presentation on Gambian Pouched Rats, Britta Muiznieks**

Ms. Muiznieks began her presentation by offering background information on Gambian Pouched Rats, including how they came to populate Grassy Key in Florida. She also described how several trappings had been conducted in order to ascertain the distribution of the rats. She then explained how the rats may potentially become distributed on the peninsula of Florida and the Gulf Coast, and thus pose a threat to the Florida citrus and other agricultural industries. She said that Wildlife Services had offered five thousand dollars of assistance in developing a strategic plan for Pouched Rat eradication, and described several possible means of eradication. She stressed that they still needed money to carry out the actual eradication.

Ms. Cooper asked what the difference was between the environmental role played by a Gambian rat and a native rat, to which Ms. Muiznieks replied that, because of their size, Gambian rats have no natural predators. This led to a discussion on the issue of exotic pets, and the overall effectiveness of quarantine and control efforts.

Dr. Corn commented that the fact that all awareness of the growing Gambian rat population was due to the efforts of two people demonstrated ISAC's lack of response capability, and suggested the committee try to address this issue.

Mr. Bright asked if Florida has a state invasive species council, to which Mr. Shardt replied that it did have an invasive species working group, and that she would ask them if they would address the Gambian rat issue. Mr. Bright then commented that it would be helpful to have some sort of rapid response on the state level.

Ms. Cooper asked if anyone from the citrus or other threatened agricultural industries had come forward to help, to which Ms. Muiznieks replied that they had not. The potential risks to human health associated with the rats were then discussed, and it was concluded that the major concern is potential ecologic and economic damage to agriculture. A brief discussion of rapid response measures ensued.

Ms. Livingwood suggested that Ms. Muiznieks seek help from the boating industry. She also commented on the need for ISAC to engage FDA and CDC on a federal level, but also said that, with the exception of specific endangered species issues, most issues should be handled by the states first.

Mr. Brunner, representing the National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation, said that he would see whether or not they would be able to fund the project.

Mr. Bright began a discussion on whether or not ISAC should make a recommendation to NISC regarding Gambian rats. A discussion of possible avenues for rapid response ensued, and Mr. Carlson suggested that the National Fish and Wildlife Association be used as such an avenue. Dr. Nelroy Jackson suggested that the EDRR subcommittee discuss the issue of the recommendation to NISC and bring back a proposed recommendation to ISAC within the next several days.

#### **Update on International and Prevention Activities, Richard Orr, NISC**

Mr. Orr related to the committee that NAFTA has an environmental component including invasive species under the trade an environment pillar, and how USTR and EPA are responsible for developing the U.S. position on this pillar. He also described the panel created by IPPC on invasive species, as well as efforts on the part of IMO and APEC.

#### **Pathways Report, Penny Kriesch, USDA/APHIS**

Ms. Kriesch began her report by describing how the Pathways team had developed both an assessment tool for evaluating the relative risk of pathways and a comprehensive list of all potential pathways for invasive species to enter the United States. She also said that this information had been placed on the NISC website in October of 2003. She then stated that, since reconvening in 2004, the team had amended its assessment tool based on comments received from the Government, stakeholders and private industry, and that the tool had been tested with a focus group. She then described various research efforts on the part of the Pathway team, and said that they were in the process of creating an inventory of various informational databases to support the quantitative assessment portion of the pathways.

She then said that the team's desired short term goal was to have their assessment tool validated so that they could begin to disseminate it. Afterwards, they would work to develop information tools and set up integrated information networks for datamining. Their long term goal is to develop a process method for the continued evaluation, coordination and information gathering and response relevant to invasive species pathways.

Dr. Nelroy Jackson asked about the implications for invasive species in the Kyoto Approach on Global Warming Treaty, which lead to a discussion on the effects of climatic changes on invasive species.

## **Education and Outreach Update, Anna Cherry, NISC**

Ms. Cherry, Assistant Director for Public Affairs with NISC, highlighted several outreach programs, including the Species of the Month program. She said that this program was evolving as more agencies were becoming engaged in it. She also described efforts that were being made to catalog educational opportunities, materials and volunteer programs and to make this information web accessible, as well as to make enhancements to the [invasivespecies.gov](http://invasivespecies.gov) website.

## **Members' Forum, ISAC Members**

Mr. Regelbrugge commented on the challenges of phytophthora ramorum, the cause of so-called sudden oak death. Mr. Meyers stated that Habitattitude had been launched, and outlined several features of the project, including the monitoring of 54 proposed bills in the states involving invasive species in 13 sets of regulations. Mr. Brunner commented on an initiative by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to prioritize and develop specific protocols for the eradication of vertebrates, particularly on islands in North America. He then listed several eradication projects which had been funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He then commented some of the difficulties involved in doing eradications, and suggested that a presentation on this issue be given at the Puerto Rico meeting.

Mr. Carlson, from the Tamarisk Coalition, said that they were working with a number of states developing strategic plans for nonnative phreatophytes, and also for watershed management. Mr. Zimmerman updated the committee on a consortium meeting held in Davis, California and hosted by Hudson Glimp and Dr. Wolfgang Petroff on Plant Herbivores. Ms. Cangelosi said that they had successfully obtained \$500,000 to start a ballast treatment technology development incubator in the Great Lakes region. Mr. Randall updated the committee on the hiring of Valerie Vartanian to work with the nursery community around the country.

Mr. Nelroy Jackson updated the committee on the publishing of the proceedings of the IPINAMS conference as a special issue of Weed Technology. He also mentioned that there will be a grant workshop on all the grants that are available within USDA, and that both the Northeastern Weed Science Society and the Weed Science Society of America had recently held symposiums relating to invasive species.

Dr. Reichard said that legislation to develop a Washington Invasive Species Council had been introduced into both the Senate and House companion bills. She also said

that he and the Nature Conservancy had been working as a advisors to a task force formed by the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association, and that the University of Washington and the Forest Service are in the planning stages for what will be the first major meeting on invasives in the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. O'Neill described a meeting of the New York State Invasive Species Task Force on the management of invasive species at the Port of New York. Ms. Leland said that the section of the webpage regarding ballast water treatment technology would be completed soon, and described what information it will include. She also said that the state of Alaska is making plans for an invasive species council.

Mr. Eldredge described several projects being conducted by the Alohi Invasive Species Council and the Alohi Coral Reef Initiative. Dr. Jerome Jackson said that his students were working on a project to control or optimally eradicate spiny tail iguanas from two islands off the west coast of Florida. Dr. Beck shared several issues from Colorado, including the changing of the weed law.

#### **Review of Day 1 Action Items, Diane Cooper, ISAC**

Ms. Cooper identified several action items for the day, the first being that anyone interested in serving as an ISAC officer should contact Ms. Leland or Mr. Regelbrugge, and the second being a plan to integrate the subcommittee work through some currently undefined process. She also said that the Early Detection and Rapid Response Subcommittee would follow-up on the Gambian Rat discussion with a recommendation to NISC, and that ISAC members will provide comments on the Strange Days video to Ms. Cherry.

Ms. Diaz-Soltero added that Ms. Williams had been requested to send out the list of names of the ISAC members and the dates of expiration on their terms. She also said that there had been a recommendation in the Leadership Subcommittee to invite TVA and the Energy Department to be members of NISC, as well as a request that Ms. Williams consider writing a letter to the editor of Horticulture magazine on the cogon grass publication. Finally, she said that there had been a request to consider for the October ISAC a presentation by the Forest Service on the Healthy Forest Initiative.

#### **Public Comment**

Bob Nowierski, from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service in Washington, D.C., commented that they were working to increase public awareness of the pink hibiscus mealy bug, and that two

parasitoids had been successfully used against this species throughout the Caribbean.

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JEFFREY STONE	Member
JOHN PETER THOMPSON	Member
KEN ZIMMERMAN	Member
CHUCK LAMBERT	USDA
TIM KEENEY	DOC/NOAA
BILL CLAY	USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services
ANNA CHERRY	NISC Outreach Coordinator
PHILLIP ANDREOZZI	NISC Staff Member

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CHRIS DIONIGI	NISC Staff Member
RICHARD ORR	NISC Staff Member
MARY JOSIAH	NISC Staff Member
ED SHEFFNER	NISC Policy Liaison (NASA)
ARNOLD KONHEIM	NISC Policy Liaison (DOT)
CAROL HOLKO	MD Dept. of Agriculture
JOHNATHAN McKNIGHT	MD Dept. of Nat. Resources
STEVE KENDROT	MD Nutria Program

**Federal Highway Administration: Arnold Konheim**

Mr. Konheim began his presentation by stating that the Department of Transportation's vision is to provide safer, smarter transportation solutions. He then stated that, although they did not have any statutory role with regard to invasive species, the President had issued the Department an Invasive Species Policy Statement indicating that they should pursue authorities in funding for invasive species and coordinate with other agencies. He then described several efforts being made with regard to invasive species on the part of agencies with the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration and the Maritime Administration. He also said that the Department had been successful in introducing a resolution calling for ICAO to assist other agencies of the United Nations and for member states to act through regarding invasive species that may be transported through civil aviation. Finally, he explained the Departments efforts to encourage non-chemical disinsection alternatives for passenger aircrafts, and discussed this topic with the Committee.

**NASA: Ed Sheffner**

Mr. Sheffner began his presentation by explaining how NASA is concerned with both the protection of life on other planets and maintaining the integrity of life on this planet, and how NASA studies the Earth to understand planetary processes. He further explained how NASA's Terrestrial studies provide observations and measurements, predictive models and systems engineering to the community, and that many of the observations acquired by NASA for research purposes turn out to have significant operational utility. He then listed research focus areas such as climate variability and change, carbon cycle and ecosystems, and atmosphere composition in order to demonstrate to the

Committee how NASA's research could impact operational issues involving invasive species.

Mr. Sheffner then explained in greater detail how NASA partners with operational users, and in particular directed the Committee's attention to a list of national application areas in invasive species, explaining how NASA already had ongoing partnerships with the Geological Survey, the Department of Agriculture and NOAA. He next directed the Committee's attention to an overview chart of the Invasive Species Program element within NASA, as well as a road map for the development of the invasive species work within NASA. Finally, he explained how NASA had been partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a National Invasive Species Forecasting System having three components: a data access component, a data processing component, and a product generation component.

Chair Bright expressed his desire to see a presentation on predictive modeling, to which Mr. Sheffner replied that he would be happy to cooperate.

**Update on NAISA Reauthorization: Allegra Cangelosi and Kristen Sarri**

Ms. Cangelosi began the presentation by giving background information on NANPCA, saying that it is legislation created in 1990 and addressing the prevention, management, control and research of aquatic invasive species, and, more particularly, requiring ships entering the Great Lakes to undertake certain operations to reduce to risk of bringing in new organisms. She said that it also included a planned importation policy review, and that it expanded the Ballast Program to be national in scope. She then said that it is now time for reauthorization of NANPCA, and that bills were introduced in 2003 in both the House and the Senate which were comprehensive reauthorizations of NANPCA, now called the National Aquatic Invasive species Act (NAISA).

Ms. Sarri, from the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition, said that they planned to reintroduce the bill for a second time in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. She also said that they would work very closely with the House on the legislation, and that there would probably be two House bills: one focused on research and science, and the other on ballast water planning, prevention and rapid response.

Ms. Cangelosi said that she believed there would be several key challenges to this legislation, one being whether or not there will be an update of the programmatic aspects other than those that relate to ships. She also explained how she felt that the Rapid Response Program was at risk. Ms. Sarri countered that Senators Levin and Collins were committed to having a comprehensive approach to aquatic

invasive species, rather than merely addressing ballast water. She also said that they would maintain a comprehensive approach on the Senate side of the legislation, since it is easier to move bills through the Senate than through the House.

Ms. Livingood asked what changes had been made to the bill, and how many sponsors there had been in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. Ms. Sarri replied that no major changes had been made to the legislation, and Ms. Cangelosi offered to provide information on the number of sponsors by the end of the day.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if the Coalition had bipartisan support with California, since the bill could potentially have a major impact on California's economy. Ms. Cangelosi replied that California was unhappy about the legislation because it was not aggressive enough, and in response established a state law imposing a fee on ships to support the program at the state level. This led to a discussion of state versus national policy. Ms. Willaims stimulated a discussion on why the legislation had not been moved in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Secretary Cooper asked if there were any plans to address the question of screening, and how recommendations from the Pew Oceans Report and the Oceans Policy Commission Report were interfacing with NAISA. To the first question, Ms. Cangelosi replied that the best remedy would be a periodic review and revision requirement.

Returning to the question of state versus national legislation, Mr. O'Neill brought up the point that state legislation might cause more harm than proposals at the federal level, because state legislation is more likely to be proposed without discussion with industry and affected stake holders.

To Chair Bright's query as to whether or not she had an action item in mind for ISAC, Ms. Cangelosi replied that an action item was not necessary at the moment, but might be once the bill is introduced.

### **Invasive Species Definitions: George Beck**

Vice Chair Beck began his presentation by saying that the potential to cause harm seems to be the basis for defining invasive species. He then said that it is important to also explain what is meant and not meant by harm. He then stated that ISAC's goal with regard to definitions is to produce a White Paper that could be either a free standing policy interpretation or provide the basis for a chapter in the upcoming revision of the Management Plan. He also explained their challenge to create guidance and help different sectors of society work together with the Federal Government on invasive species issues, particularly with

regard to implementing appropriate preventive action. He then stressed the importance of providing an explanation that can be understood by a non-expert, as well as of recognizing that biological and ecological definitions do not always parallel regulatory or policy definitions.

Vice Chair Beck then went through a chart with the Committee outlining definitions of alien, casual alien, naturalized, and invasive plants, as well as of weeds and transformers. He then gave a definition of invasive species from the Executive Order, as well as three possible ways to address and clarify the definition of invasive species from a draft of the White Paper. He then listed and explained several negative ecological effects that would lead to the classification of plants producing these effects as invasive species.

Finally, Vice Chair Beck stressed that the issue of definitions cannot be looked at from a strictly biological/ecological standpoint, since societal response must be taken into consideration.

Dr. Jerome Jackson pointed out that, even within the natural ecosystem of a species, a native plant can become invasive if that ecosystem is altered. Vice Chair Beck replied that Colorado state law defines an invasive weed as one that is not native to Colorado, and so this must be taken into account in definition.

Ms. Cangelosi suggested that the degradation of the nutritional value of forage for higher trophic levels might be another example of a negative effect of an invasive plant. She also expressed her confusion between the definitions for invasive and transformer plants, suggesting that all invasives are likewise transformers.

Dr. Stone expressed his concern that the altering of soil chemistry is an ambiguous negative effect. He also suggested that the ability to effect keystone or foundation species is another example of a negative effect of invasive species.

Secretary Cooper suggested that the basis of the problem is not so much the definition of terms as the use of terms.

Dr. Hugh-Jones stressed the need to consider both positive and negative impacts in defining species as invasive or non-invasive, and Mr. Brunner suggested that other human values beyond health be included in the third proposed definition.

Mr. Randall explained his preference for the broader, pest definition of invasives over the transformer definition.

Dr. Reichard stressed the futility of trying to offer an exhaustive list of impacts, and suggested that they offer merely examples.

Dr. Stone expressed his concerns over the connotations

associated with the word "naturalized," and suggested that it be replaced with the word "established."

Dr. Nelroy Jackson asked if the subcommittee had gone through the thought process for taxa other than plants, to which Vice Chair Beck replied that they were looking for input on animal and pathogen issues.

Chair Bright then said that the Definitions Team's question to the Committee was, did they agree with the thought process so far outlined, and if not, what would they change. He then stated that everyone seemed to agree with the process, and that therefore, after submitting their written comments, they should be able to produce a draft White Paper by the Puerto Rico meeting.

Ms. Cherry said that they wished to have a first draft by the summer and a final draft to send to the Council by the end of the calendar year. She also said that they would be able to have an ISAC meeting on this issue which would be open to the public and public call ins through teleconferencing.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if a preamble would be included in the White Paper, explaining how to use the definitions. Chair Bright said that it would be a good idea to write one. Ms. Cherry reminded everyone who wanted to be on the Definitions Task Team to sign up for it.

### **Invasive Species Projects and Activities in Maryland: Carol Holko and Jonathan McKnight**

After being introduced by Dr. Thompson, Ms. Holko, acting chief of the Plant Protection and Weed Management Division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, began her presentation by stating that she would present invasive species issues in Maryland from an agricultural point of view. She said that the Maryland Invasive Species Council covered all taxa, and that its membership represented all levels of government. She also said that they had no legal authority or mandate, and that they had 35 voting members representing 15 entities. She then said that they had developed a list of invasive species of concern in Maryland, and that they had an Invader of the Month Campaign. In terms of formal partnerships, she said that they were developing an MOU between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Holko then listed invasive species of concern in Maryland, including Sudden Oak Death, emerald ash borer, giant hogweed, southern bacterial wilt, chrysanthemum white rust, soybean rust and others. She also described efforts that had been made to address these concerns, including surveys, partnerships and eradication programs.

She then expressed the need to build infrastructures and identify key players, and stressed the importance of

communication in partnering.

Mr. McKnight, Underassociate Director for Habitat Conservation at the Department of Natural Resources, said that their concern was mostly with invasive species in natural areas. He said that they had prioritized first prevention, then eradication. He then listed several species of concern, using the snakehead as an example of a case in which the public would respond to a species given enough attention from the media.

Finally, Mr. McKnight said that DNR was looking forward to working with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel under the ANS Task Force.

### **Maryland Nutria Program: Bill Clay and Steve Kendrot**

Mr. Clay, Deputy Administrator for the Wildlife Services Program, began the presentation by saying that, besides the nutria project, they also had two other vertebrate invasive species projects: the Brown Tree Snake Program in Guam, and a pilot program to deal with coqui tree frogs in Hawaii.

Mr. Kendrot then explained how nutria are not only a problem in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, but have become a nationwide problem, and described their spread. As an example of their impact in Maryland, he described how they had impacted the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. He then said that, as a result, 27 federal, state, private entities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland DNR and the U.S. Geological Survey, and formed the Maryland Nutria Partnership. He then said that the first phase of the project had been to look at the life history of nutria in the Chesapeake Bay, and the second phase had been eradication. He said that they had two goals for the project: to eradicate and to monitor the reappearance of nutria. He then described each of these effort in greater detail. Finally, he said that their budget this year was a quarter million dollars short of what they had expected, and described their monetary requirements over the next several years.

Mr. O'Neill asked if they had any opposition from any organizations such as PETA, to which Mr. Kendrot replied that they had not. Mr. Dickerson asked if South Carolina were, in fact, nutria free, to which Mr. Kendrot replied that they were probably not.

### **Nominations Committee: Marilyn Leland**

Ms. Leland began announced that anyone interested in being an officer on the Steering Group should let her know by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FICMNEW Update: Mike Ielmini**

Mike Ielmini, co-chair of FICMNEW, or the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic weeds, made three announcements. He said that FICMNEW would be putting together a small group to update their MOU and charter, that they would be helping to put on the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, and that they would be updating the Weed Factbook. With regard to National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, he said that they were looking at the event as a way to rally together the invasive species community broadly, and that they would be showing a preview of the Strange Days on Planet Earth Series as a way to open discuss on how they will react with the public when this series goes on the air. With regard to the updating of the Weed Factbook, he invited members of ISAC to participate in the design, content and review of this publication.

**ANSTF Update: Don MacLean**

Mr. MacLean began by expressing his disappointment that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force had not yet advertised for the executive secretary. Secondly, he stated that Pam Meacham from Washington State had come in and had been acting as the executive secretary since the beginning of January. Finally, he said that the next task force meeting would occur on May 24, 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> in Monterey, California.

**U.S. Trade Representative: Mark Linscott**

Mr. Linscott began his presentation by giving a brief overview of what the U.S. Trade Representative's Office does, saying that they develop and coordinate all U.S./International trade policy, commodity policy and direct investment policy, as well as lead all negotiations on behalf of the United States in international trade. He also said that, in doing so, they coordinated among 19 federal agencies.

He then explained that USTR had its own advisory committee system covering a variety of sectors, including Agriculture, Trade and Environment. He then went through several highlights of USTR's responsibilities in international trade negotiations, including its work with the World Trade Organization. He also said that they had been collaborating recently with EPA to further develop the trade and environment overlap agenda, with invasive species being one issue among six priority areas that had been identified as needing better collaboration between trade and environment officials of the three parties of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation.

He then gave an overview of free trade agreements, saying that environment chapters had been negotiated in each of these agreements, and that parallel environmental cooperation agreements had been negotiated by the State Department. In conclusion, he said, although USTR is a trade agency, there is a great deal of overlap in terms of developments on the invasive species front.

Mr. Randall asked if, in the trade agreements that had either just been signed or were on their way to Congress or being negotiated, invasive species are discussed, and if they are, if Mr. Linscott could outline how they are addressed. Mr. Linscott replied that, in his experience, invasive species have not been specifically negotiated, but may be a subtext of which the negotiators are aware.

Mr. Meyers asked if the same language was being used in all the FTAs on environmental issues, or if they were being customized by country through negotiations. Mr. Linscott replied that, in certain areas, they were replicating almost across the board certain provisions, but that in others areas, such as CAFTA, they had customized.

#### **Cross-Cut Budget: Lori Williams**

Ms. Williams began her report by saying that the FY06 cross-cut budget was in the process of being finalized. She also expressed her hope that they manage to put together their communications piece and briefing for the OMB and get this information to Capitol Hill in a timely fashion. She then said that, when they have this information, they will send it out to everyone. She also asked for input on how to tie together the revision of the Management Plan and the cross-cut.

She then gave an overview of the FY06 cross-cut, including a list of specific initiatives, pointing out that screening, although included in the '05 cross-cut, is no longer a cross-cutting initiative, but will instead go under the purview of the ANSTF NISC Prevention Committee.

Ms. Cangelosi asked which effort from '05 had survived the Congressional appropriations process, to which Ms. Williams replied by listing several areas that had received increased funding.

Ms. Williams concluded by reminding the committee that, if they had any input on the cross-cut, then they should offer it either at the next day's meeting or through the Leadership and Coordination Committee.

#### **Review of Day 2 Action Items: Diane Cooper**

Ms. Cooper listed the action items as such: NISC staff will provide copies of the PowerPoint presentations of federal updates, ISAC members are encouraged to provide

written comments on the definitions for development of a Definitions White Paper, The White Paper should be presented as a draft at the Puerto Rico meeting in October, FICMNEW is encouraging ISAC members to comment on the update and revision work of the Weeds Factbook, ISAC members are encouraged to think about the new collaboration opportunities with USTR and NASA, comments on the '07 budget items should be submitted to Ms. Williams, and nominations to the Steering Group should be submitted to Mr. Regelbrugge by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

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SUMMARY

The meeting came to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Maryland Room of the Silver Spring Hilton, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD. Ship Bright, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT:

LORI WILLIAMS	NISC Executive Director
SHIP BRIGHT	Acting ISAC Chair
GEORGE BECK	Acting ISAC Vice Chair
DIANE COOPER	Acting ISAC Secretary
GARY BEIL	Member
DAVID BRUNNER	Member
ALLEGRA CANGELOSI	Member
TIM CARLSON	Member
JOE CORN	Member
WILLARD DICKERSON	Member
PATTY DOERR	Member
LU ELDREDGE	Member
CHRIS FISHER	Member
MARTIN HUGH-JONES	Member
JERRY JACKSON	Member
NELROY JACKSON	Member
MARILYN LELAND	Member
MARI LOU LIVINGOOD	Member
MARSHALL MEYERS	Member
CHUCK O-NEILL	Member
CRAIG REGELBRUGGE	Member
SARAH REICHARD	Member
JEFF SCHARDT	Member
JEFFREY STONE	Member
JOHN PETER THOMPSON	Member
KEN ZIMMERMAN	Member
ANNA CHERRY	NISC Outreach Coordinator
PHILLIP ANDREOZZI	NISC Staff Member
KELSEY BRANTLEY	NISC Staff Member
SCOTT CAMERON	DOI
DEAN WILKINSON	DOC/NOAA Co-Chair Liaison

HILDA DIAZ-SOLTERO  
GORDON BROWN  
CHRIS DIONIGI  
RICHARD ORR  
MARY JOSIAH  
JOHN FAY

USDA Co-Chair Liaison  
DOI Co-Chair Liaison  
NISC Staff Member  
NISC Staff Member  
NISC Staff Member  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**USDA Update: Hilda Diaz-Soltero, USDA/APHIS**

Ms. Diaz-Soltero began her presentation by describing various efforts made by the USDA within the last six months in response to ISAC's recommendation to increase efforts in education and public awareness. She next described two efforts that had been made in economic analysis, again in response to a recommendation from ISAC. These two efforts were the continuation of the Economic Research Service's program for research on the economics of invasive species management, and the creation of a program by the Forest Service to assess the economic impacts of invasive species in natural environments. She then went over several aspects of a draft report called the USDA Forest Service Invasive Species Do No Harm, in response to ISAC's query as to what NISC agencies were doing to avoid harm. She also said that the Forest Service had used their environmental education programs to increase public awareness and knowledge about the threat of invasive species.

Ms. Diaz-Soltero then reported that, in response to a request from ISAC, a document had just been published in which Federal agencies identified existing grant programs, cooperative agreements, and other mechanisms that could be potential sources of funds for invasive species projects. She then went over this document in greater detail. She also said that, in response to another request, several NISC policy liaisons were in attendance at the meeting.

Ms. Diaz-Soltero then spoke briefly on APHIS' latest strategic plan, saying that its mission was to safeguard animals, plants and ecosystems, as well as to facilitate safe agricultural trade, with most of its targets being protection activities dealing with invasive species. She then addressed several questions which had been raised by members of the committee at the October meeting, and gave an update on Senate Bill 144. She also gave an update on the compendium of invasive species, saying that CABI would now prepare the compendium.

After the presentation, Chairperson Bright recommended that ISAC encourage all of the other NISC agencies to put together a similar compendium on the grants, and put this down as an action item.

Dr. Stone asked a question regarding the difficulties of transporting plant pathogens for research, to which Ms.

Diaz-Soltero replied that she would research this issue.

Dr. Beil asked Ms. Daiz-Soltero to make a general statement as to the level of funding of the competitive grants proposed for the coming year, to which she replied that this would depend on the appropriation.

**Mr. Zimmerman moved that ISAC forward a letter in support for the compendium of global invasive species to USDA,** Dr. Jackson seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Tamarisk Issues and Updates on Southwestern Willow Flycatcher: John Fay and Joe Lewis**

Mr. Fay began by explaining how the tamarisk has taken over habitat used for nesting by the southwest willow flycatcher, an endangered species, and that therefore it is necessary to effect a transition back to native vegetation without going through a period in which there is no nesting habitat available for the willow flycatchers. He then said that they were currently working with APHIS, ARS and the Invasive Species Council to try and advise and provide help on managing this transition. Mr. Zimmerman then commented that it had not been demonstrated that the loss of willow flycatcher habitat would be an outcome of the available bio control efforts or mechanical control methods, also adding that the detrimental effects of tamarisk outweigh the loss of willow flycatcher habitat in certain areas. Mr. Fay then said that any information bearing on the feasibility of the transitions would be very helpful. Discussions on bio control releases and critical habitat designations ensued. Dr. Jackson remarked that the interaction between invasive species and endangered species is an opportunity for ISAC and NISC to act, the key being a paradigm shift.

Joe Lewis began his presentation by explaining how tamarisk arrived in the southwest, and why it is a problem. He then explained how his analysis was an attempt to weigh the consequences of some alternative strategies for dealing with tamarisk in order to determine the economic costs and benefits of controlling it, as well as to identify data gaps and make recommendations to policy makers. He then listed alternative strategies, as well as cost and benefit components. Finally, he expressed his hope that the final results of the analysis will be able to serve as a prototype for other invasive species.

Dr. Jackson made a comment on the cultural impact of tamarisk, and Mr. Lewis and Mr. Carlson addressed a question from Chairperson Bright regarding economic options and acre foot costs. Mr. Brunner asked when preliminary and final results were expected from the report, to which Mr. Lewis replied that he hoped to have the mapping part done in April, and the final product completed by the end of the year.

## **Subcommittee Reports from Day 2 Meetings: ISAC Subcommittee Chairs**

Mr. O'Neill reported that the Communications and Education Outreach Subcommittee had looked at the ISAC committee survey questions and adopted the changes that had been made to them by the leadership and coordination subcommittee. He then described their discussion of education activities directed at formal and informal science and non-science educators, as well as their discussion on the invasivespecies.gov website, saying that they were looking at using the website to establish the public identity and the enhance the public visibility of NISC and ISAC, as well as to broaden the website the better serve all stakeholders. He then described the recommendation that they were requesting ISAC to send to NISC regarding the mission of invasivespecies.gov and what its two major goals should be. **Ms. Leland moved to accept this recommendation**, Dr. Jerome Jackson seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Scott Cameron, Interior Department**

Scott Cameron, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Interior in the Policy Management and Budget element of the Department, gave an overview of the Interior Department's FY06 budget. He said that, overall, the President's '06 budget was about one percent beneath the enacted budget for '05, but that, in contrast, spending on invasive species was up by ten percent. He then described how the Department had requested its bureau directors to coordinate joint budget submissions to the Secretary in three targeted geographic areas, the result being a million dollar increase for invasive plants in Florida, and million dollar increase for tamarisk work in the southwest, and a million dollar increase for leafy spurge in the Dakotas and Montana. He then said that they anticipated giving their bureaus more time to coordinate on joint FY07 budget submissions, with the hope that this would produce an even more integrated product. Mr. Cameron also described several results of the tamarisk conference held last March and April, highlighting progress in interagency coordination.

Ms. Cangelosi commented that a four million dollar increase on an issue like invasive species was nominal, and that not enough money was being spent on this problem. Chairperson Bright asked if avoided costs resulting from the prevention actions were being calculated as a performance measure, to which Mr. Cameron replied that this is a difficult calculation to make, but that he would like to find a way to do so.

## **Subcommittee Reports from Day 2 Meetings: ISAC Subcommittee Chairs**

Dr. Nelroy Jackson reported on four areas of control and management, the first being that they had also accepted the changes in the questions that were agreed upon in the leadership and coordination meeting of the previous day. He then gave their recommendations on eight action items, ranking them with regard to priority. In summary, he said that the two items critical for the three-year action plan were the original action items number 27 and 31, which deal with management of invasive species on state and private lands on the one hand, and in Federal lands on the other.

Mr. Nowierski described how they had addressed an item dealing with the prohibition on hand carrying biological organisms into the U.S., saying that they felt current regulations to be overly restrictive, and therefore hoped to get some movement on this issue. He also addressed the issue of how to smooth the regulatory process, saying that APHIS PPQ was in the process of developing greater transparency in this process. He ended by recommending that ISAC send a letter to APHIS PPQ to help reach an agreement and compromise on this issue.

Dr. Jackson asked if restoration should remain a separate issue, or if it should be included in control and management, saying that there were four action items listed in the management plan on restoration. He then suggested that there be more dialogue, and that a paradigm shift be made away from preservation of pristine areas and directed more towards conservation. He also proposed that this item be included in the October agenda. Mr. Wilkinson commented that agencies which are currently involved in restoration activities have very extensive guidelines already in place, and that he doubted whether the involvement of ISAC or NISC would add any value to what already exists.

Mr. Carlson asked if the control and management guidelines were on the NISC website, to which Ms. Williams replied that these guidelines cannot be put on the website until they are approved by NISC, adding that she hoped this would happen soon.

### **Gambian Pouched Rat Recommendation: Joe Corn**

Dr. Joe Corn presented the recommendation put together by himself and Dr. Fisher as a result of the Gambian Rat presentation made by Ms. Britta Muiznieks on Wednesday. Committee members then made suggestions on the language of the recommendation, and Dr. Reichard asked where the figure of \$350,000 came from. Dr. Corn replied that the Group Island Conservation had made this estimate and given it to Ms. Muiznieks. A discussion on the use of the word "feral"

in the recommendation ensued, the ultimate result of which being that a decision was made to leave the word out of the recommendation. The motion to put forth the recommendation to NISC passed.

#### **EDRR Subcommittee: Lori Williams**

Ms. Williams said that one of the goals in redrafting the management plan would be to make it more strategic, saying that an opportunity would be provided for the Leadership and Coordination Committee to make some general recommendations on how the plan should be structured. She then said that they were looking to simplify their action items to create a more strategic goal. She then said that it might be a good idea to set out some clear goals as to what their databases should do, and to link them to the goals of early detection and rapid response.

With regard to rapid response, she addressed two major points, the first being that, with regard to the development of a national early detection and rapid response system, it might be more effective to set up some strategic goals for rapid response teams and rapid response planning rather than to attempt to develop a national system. Secondly, she addressed the need to set up a rapid response fund, saying that it might be wiser to seek initially a smaller, more targeted fund.

Finally, Ms. Williams suggested that, before the committees officially meet, a conference call be made involving all the committee co-chairs.

#### **Members' Forum and Administrative Issues: ISAC Members**

Dr. Stone made a clarification on the nomenclature of "sudden oak death," and Mr. Schardt suggested South Florida as a 2006 meeting venue. Dr. Hugh-Jones suggested that an update on Gambian pouched rats be made at the Puerto Rico meeting, and Mr. Brunner announced that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation would be presenting, through its pulling together initiative, the first ever community spirit award to recognize a truly outstanding community weed management partnership.

Dr. Dickerson expressed his concern that two meetings per year might not be sufficient to provide continuum, and suggested the possibility of a third meeting. This led Ms. Williams to comment on the importance of the subcommittees, stressing the need that these committees function in between full committee meetings, and saying that interim conference call meetings might be used in the future.

Ms. Sargent, Chair of the Risk Analysis Working Group under the Prevention Committee, said that they had a plan to revise the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force risk analysis

review process.

**Review of Action Items: Diane Cooper**

Ms. Cooper listed the days action items as follows: ISAC requests NISC agencies put together a compendium of grant programs and opportunities, which ISAC would like to have sent out electronically upon completion. ISAC will send a letter to NISC supporting the USDA compendium.

**Agenda Items: George Beck**

Dr. Beck listed the agenda items as follows: a presentation by the Forest Service on the health forest initiative relative to invasive species management, a presentation on the Island Conservation Group on the successes and failures of animal eradication efforts in the development of the national prioritization, a presentation by NOAA and Department of Commerce research projects on invasive species, a presentation by Tom Stohlgren on the invasive species prediction efforts, a presentation from one of the Caribbean countries on how they are dealing with invasive species issues, a presentation by APHIS on how they intend to administer the S144 fund, and update on tamarisk economic impact studies, and an update on the Gambian pouched rat issue.

Dr. Nelroy Jackson suggested that the issue regarding APHIS and the prohibition on hand carrying of organisms be revisited. Ms. Cangelosi suggested asked if they would be doing any follow-up on the issue of whether or not some kind of permit system and sterilization process should be established for pets such as the Gambian rat, and Chairperson Bright assigned the EDRR subcommittee to address this issue. Dr. Jackson suggested that ISAC use the Puerto Rico meeting as an opportunity to outreach to Grenada, Guyana and Venezuela.

**Public Comment**

Doug Holy, from the National Resources Conservation Service with the Department of Agriculture, announced three events: a two-day Ag Outlook Conference taking place next week in Washington, D.C., National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, and a session in March with the National Science Teacher's Association.