

NISC

Updates, News & Notes¹

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A. Update on the implementation of past recommendations/action items²:

During the Spring 2015 ISAC Meeting it was recommended that the NISC member agencies develop the early detection and rapid response framework and emergency funding plan called for in the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and Natural Resources Working Group's Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources (October 2014); and, that they seek the involvement and advice of non-federal stakeholders, A1:M174 matter experts, tribal, state, and local government representatives who will be critical partners in the successful implementation of this framework and fund. In response, NOAA experts participated in the formulation of Safeguarding America's Lands and Waters from Invasive Species: A National Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response.

During the Spring 2014 Meeting, ISAC has made a number of eleven separate recommendations for using harvest incentives with invasive species. In response, NOAA staff has been conducting policy analysis of invasive species fisheries interaction with existing fisheries policy and law.

During the Fall 2010 Meeting, ISAC recommended increasing research and development targeted at climate change and invasive species by supporting and expanding NOAA's Sea Grant program. In 2015, \$1,501,205 was awarded by Sea Grant for Invasive species work.

¹ Limit each section to one type written page. Links (URLs) to additional information are welcomed.

² Restate recommendation/action item and provide date of ISAC meeting.

B. Departmental news of relevance to ISAC priorities³:

Habitat Blueprint is NOAA's strategy to integrate habitat conservation throughout the agency focus efforts in priority areas, and leverage internal and external collaborations to achieve measurable benefits within key habitats such as rivers, coral reefs, and wetlands. NOAA has identified state and federal invasive species experts and plans to consider invasive species prevention and management while developing Habitat Blueprint Focus Area Implementation Plans. For example, \$185,909 will be used in Kachemak Bay, AK, to promote native bivalve population recovery efforts that are consistent with the long-term sustainability of a healthy and functional ecosystem. The 3-5 year objectives for this area includes planning and monitoring for invasive species. In January of this year, the implementation plan for the St. Louis River Estuary Habitat focus area, which prioritizes invasive species monitoring and removal for the Wisconsin Point Dune area and Lake Superior Coastal Wetland Manoomin (Wild Rice) restoration.

NOAA also continues to serve in its leadership role as co-chair to ANSTF and NISC. The Agency has been involved in numerous projects including the ANSTF Report to Congress, Review of the Maryland and New York ANS Plans, and planning the response to the GAO assessment of federal spending on aquatic invasive species. For NOAA's involvement with the NISC, we continued to maintain the AIS cross-cut budget, worked on next steps for addressing the movement of aquatic invasive species onto and off of federal lands, responded to congressional requests, and reviewed a position paper for the conservation on biological diversity.

\$251,478 to the National Estuarine Research Reserve System for Control, Management, and Restoration for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System for control, management, and restoration.

Other NOAA efforts include:

- Sample processing for the 2015 Lake Michigan Combined Science and Monitoring Initiative Benthic Survey is underway and on-schedule. Ultimately, this survey will produce updated lake-wide estimates for dreissenids and other benthos.
- The Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab also has field growth experiments in progress, which will help to improve year-round, in situ, growth estimates for quagga mussels.
- GLERL field experiments are being done to measure in-situ growth of invasive quagga mussels in Lake Michigan, and laboratory experiments to estimate size and preference of invasive quagga mussels for plankton prey.
- Simulations are being run of Asian carp effects on food webs in Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, and sharing those results with Army Corps of Engineers for their evaluation of the GLMRIS project. Modeling habitat suitability of grass carp in the Great Lakes
- Removal of >9,000 pounds of the invasive algae *Sargassum horneri* from Catalina Island, CA.
- eDNA sampling of Lake Washington to gather information on walleye spatio-temporal habitat Lionfish distribution, prevention, and removal (\$25,757)
- Research predicting the establishment potential of invasive tiger shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico Management of Waterweed *Hydrilla verticillata* in Albemarle Sound, NC
- Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for the Chinese Mitten Crab Coordination of Invasive Catfish Taskforce (Chesapeake Bay)

³ Focus on technical issues of substantial merit – release of reports, policy actions, etc.

C. *Departmental notes of relevance to ISAC*⁴:

NOAA does not receive allocated funding for invasive species efforts. The Agency's work is reflective of impacts to NOAA's trust resources.

In addition to chairing the ISAC, NOAA is a co-chair of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). The November ANSTF Meeting will be held at FWS headquarters in November 2016.

⁴ Focus on organizational/logistical information relevant to ISAC – staff changes, upcoming meetings, etc.