Invasive Species Program (ISP)
Setting Research Priorities

A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board

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March 8, 2006

Outline

- **Purpose -** *solicit advice & input from SAB on research approach*
- **Issue -** *aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a threat to achievement of NOAA's Ecosystem Goal*
- **Presentation of Briefing**
  - *Background*
  - *The ISP Approach*
- **NOAA Coordination and Views**
  - *Coordination Within NOAA*
  - *Input from External Stakeholders*
  - *Proposed ISP Research Planning Approach*
  - *Limiting Factor – Budget Plan vs. Appropriations*
- **Desired Outcome**
  - *SAB reaction and advice on ISP approach & process for establishing research priorities*

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Purpose

- **Solicit advice from SAB on ISP approach and process to set aquatic invasive species (AIS) research priorities**

- **Provide the SAB opportunity to influence ISP approach to identifying and targeting priority research**

Issue

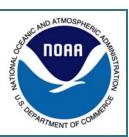**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are a threat to achievement of**

- **NOAA's Ecosystem Goals**
  - *healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society*

and

- **NOAA's 20-year Research Vision**
  - *reduce uncertainties associated with ecosystem structure and function*
  - *produce operational (ecosystem) forecasts*

Background

- *Invasive Species are "ecosystem engineers"*

- *AIS can act subtly and/or dramatically to change ecosystem structure and function*

- *AIS destabilize ecosystems*

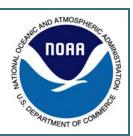- *Forecasts require ecosystem stability and predictability*

ISP Approach

ISP program components

- **PBBES program outcome**
  - *Prevention*
  - *Monitoring and Early Detection*
  - *Rapid Response*
  - *Control and Management*
  - *Restoration*
  - *Leadership and Coordination*
  - *Outreach and education are part of each component*
- ***Research underpins entire ISP***
- *Research must be targeted to priority topics*

ISP Approach

AIS research is needed at all levels

- *Research needs cross all components*

- *Research needs cross agencies*

- *Research needs range in scope from national to regional to local*

ISP is scoping research strategic planning and decision process

- *What is most appropriate role for research?*

- *How should NOAA determine research priorities*

- *Balance between scientific need and mission-application?*

NOAA Coordination & Views

Proposed ISP Research Planning Approach

- **Coordination Within NOAA**
  - *Habitat Matrix Program*
  - *Ecosystem Research Program*
  - *Other Programs*
  - *Across Line Offices*
  - *NCRAIS Research Planning Workshop*

- **Input from External Stakeholders**
  - *Congress*
  - *ANS Task Force, Regional Panels*
  - *ISAC, Nat'l Management Plan, Sea Grant Community*
  - *SAB*

NOAA Coordination & Views

Proposed ISP Research Planning Approach

1. **Compile stakeholder input**

2. **Align with PBA results, NOAA Strategic Plan and Research Vision**

   - **Scientific needs**
   - **What's realistic for NOAA??**
   - **Contribution to NOAA goals**
   - **Performance measures**

3. **Review and feedback**

4. **Reevaluate against NOAA plans and goals**
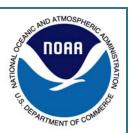
NOAA Coordination & Views

Limiting Factor – Budget Plan vs. Appropriations

- **NOAA can't do everything it needs to do**
- **Program plans based on priority setting**
- **FY06 Budget Plan: $2.5M**
  - $1M monitoring, $1M control, $0.5M general program
- **FY06 Appropriation: $6.25M (84% earmarks)**
  - $1M for general program
  - $5.25M for: Ballast Water Demonstration ($3M); Invasive Species Alaska ($1.5M), Water Milfoil in New Hampshire ($0.25M), Hawaii/Micronesia Invasive Species ($0.5M)
- **Earmarks redirect ISP resources/actions to topics not necessarily identified as NOAA priorities**
- **Earmarks are short-term (year-to-year) - limit ability to implement longer-term program plans & priorities**

Desired Outcome

ISP solicits SAB reaction and advice as a member of our stakeholder community on our approach and process to establish, set, and execute research priorities.