

**Mid-Atlantic Panel Recommendations and Activities**  
**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, Arlington, Virginia**  
**October 28-29, 2008**

Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel (MARP)  
Panel Coordinator: TBD

Panel Chair: Jonathan McKnight  
Vice Chair: Steve Minkkinen

**High-Priority and/or Emerging Regional Issues:**

High Priorities:

1. The Panel has just completed a Model Rapid Response Plan which incorporates the Incident Command System process. So far, Maryland and Delaware have tailored the plan to meet their needs. The Executive Committee of the Panel would like to send letters to heads of other states in the panel to hopefully provide more visibility and interest in adopting the plan. The Panel would like to get ANSTF support of the plan before sending letters out to the states. The plan will be available on the MAP website (<http://midatlanticpanel.org>).
2. The Panel is planning a regional workshop which would address aquatic invasive species prevention in the Mid-Atlantic by focusing on vectors. The discussions will most likely be focused around policies and regulations surrounding these vectors and how the different states differ with these regulations.
3. The Environmental Law Institute completed a report on AIS prevention efforts in the Chesapeake Bay in 2007. The Panel will be working on some of the priorities and recommendations identified in that report and will try to work with the Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesapeake Bay Commission to try to address some policy issues identified in the report (i.e., harmonization of species lists).

Emerging Issues:

The Draft Chesapeake Bay Oyster Environmental Impact Statement, which proposes to introduce Asian Oysters to the Chesapeake Bay was released on October 17, 2008. A link to the Notice of Availability and the entire text of the document is available online at the following: <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/OysterEIS/>

**Panel Recommendation to the ANS Task Force:**

The Environmental Law Institute believes that the proposed Non-Native Wildlife Invasion Act (H.R. 6311) will pass and that the Regional Panels and the Task Force should be discussing this legislation to determine whether it is adequate to meet our needs for prevention.