

2008 International Activities Report for Regions 3 and 4.

Steve Munson (USFS Region 4 FHP), Joel McMillin (USFS Region 3 FHP), Vic Mastro (APHIS PPQ), Mike Simon (APHIS PPQ), and Nancy Kummel (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) traveled to the Russian Far East in early August 2008 to review the joint Russia/United States Lymantriid Monitoring Program. The program was established in 1993 and designed to prevent introductions of native Russian insects into North America via infested ships or cargo. The three major Russian Far East ports were reviewed during this visit – Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Vostochnyy.

Meetings were held with officials from the All-Russian Center of Plant Quarantine and Forestry Protection Centre to discuss the effectiveness of the existing program. Outbreak populations of Asian gypsy moth and rosy gypsy moth have occurred in the Russian Far East since 2006. Egg masses of both Lymantriid species have been detected on vessels entering western North American ports that had made previous port of calls in Asia during 2008.

Although the Russian inspection procedures have been very effective, the high moth populations in 2006-2007 have resulted in a few ships with egg masses not removed and subsequently discovered by Canadian and American inspectors upon arrival in North American ports. The Russians have corresponded with their Canadian and American colleagues to notify us of ships with high mass numbers and that the Russian inspection may not have removed all the egg masses while the ship was berthed in the Russian port. The Russians indicate populations of Asian gypsy moth and Rosy gypsy moth have declined in 2008 in most of the areas where outbreaks of both insects occurred in 2006-07. The U.S and Canadian delegations will receive the final reports summarizing the 2008 pheromone trap and egg mass survey data in January of 2009.

The U.S. delegation also asked for the assistance of the two Russian agencies to monitor ambrosia beetle populations near the three larger Russian ports. The Russians have agreed to install Lindgren funnel traps baited with attractants for ambrosia beetles in and near the port boundaries in 2009.

Monitoring programs have been initiated in targeted Korean, Chinese and Japanese ports where populations of AGM have been observed. Pheromone trap data was collected in 2006-07 to determine risk designations for the Japanese ports. In 2008, Japan began an inspection program within ports designated as high risk due to AGM populations in or near the port areas. 2008 represents only the second year of data collection for Korea and the first for several ports in China. Depending on the results of the 2008 information collected, similar inspection programs may be initiated in designated high risk ports within China and Korea. This program is jointly funded by APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and the U.S. Forest Service - Forest Health Protection.