

Regional Panel Recommendations and Activities for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, Bozeman, Montana, May 18-21, 2009

Panel Name

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High-Priority and/or Emerging Regional Issues:

- Didymo invasion
- Early detection and rapid response at the regional level
- Volunteer monitoring as an early detection strategy

Key ANS activities from November 2008 to May 2009:

Panel

- The Panel is convened its fall meeting during a remarkable (even for the North Country) cold snap in No Conway, NH in November. The Panel began a discussion about its governance structure and a focus on regional initiatives. There were presentations and updates on the Marine invader Monitoring and Information Collaborative, Habitattitude, and state risk assessments. The "Spotlight on Species" was *Corbicula fluminea* with Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Doug Morgan, Millstone Environmental Laboratory presenting.
- The Panel held its spring meeting in Burlington, VT on May 11-12 with a field trip to the Rubenstein Lab on the Lake Champlain waterfront. The group learned how to identify veligers and visited the city waterfront area. The Panel reviewed results from its governance survey and continued its discussion on structure and revising bylaws. The "Spotlight on Species" featured Snakehead eradication efforts by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 3.
- The Panel completed a Didymo webpage with resources including wader hygiene and is planning an online guide that will create customizable and up-to-the-minute current identification sheets for several key invasive species.
- The Panel helped support the Marine Invasive Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC) that was coordinated by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and included the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. MIMIC is a network of trained volunteers, scientists, and state agency staff who monitor for marine invasive species along the New England coastline. The goals of the project are to find introduced non-native marine species before they spread and/or become established in the ecosystem; to educate the general public about marine invasive species and how to reduce their spread; and to provide data to interested users via online database and other methods. Monitoring is conducted at least four times per season at fixed locations selected by local watershed groups. In 2008, the

MIMIC project found no new invaders and determined that the most established species had wide distribution.

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Panel Recommendations to the ANS Task Force:

1. The NEANS Panel is working with its sister regional panels and will lead a discussion on increased state management plan and panel funding. A briefing note on this recommendation is included with your meeting documents.