

Reply To  
Attn Of: ECO-083

Informational Memo

**Subject:** Regional Invasive Species Update #6: May-July, 2004

**From:** Joan Cabreza  
Regional Invasive Species Coordinator

**To:** R10 OETPA Management Team

**ecc:** Internal EPA mail group, & interested outside parties

The purpose of this memo is to update the EPA OETPA Management Team on recent Invasive Species (IS) Program activity, so my apologies if it seems a bit “EPA-centric” to the large number of non-EPA recipients now requesting this summary. However, I try to include other national, regional and state activities as well, and will be happy to include updates or activities from any reader who submits them. Credit for any errors is entirely mine.

**Regional Office Activity: Building Inter-Agency Bridges**

Regional Invasion Pathways Project. I submitted a RARE\* proposal to the Regional Science Council in July. The project proposes to prove two hypotheses: (1) that San Francisco Bay (the nation’s most invaded location), is the source of most of the Pacific Northwest invasive organisms, and (2) that these species are transported to the Northwest via ballast water. A genetic screening tool will be developed to genetically compare various coastal populations and determine historical invasion pathways, and to conduct genetic analysis of ballast water. Findings will have significant implications for coastal ballast water regulation development, and the methodology will also provide a badly-needed efficient ballast water enforcement tool. ORD Cincinnati lab and labs, universities, and agencies in WA, OR, and CA will be involved. This proposal is supported by EPA Regions 5 (Great Lakes) and 9 (San Francisco) and would build on previously funded work in those regions. (\**Regional Applied Research Effort, sponsored by ORD*)

Western Regional Panel\* Activity. The annual WRP meeting will be held in Anchorage in September. Agenda items include national, state and agency updates, updates on various invasions, and selection of this years grants. I plan to attend, and will also provide an update for Henry Lee on the EPA/USGS estuarine database still under development in the Newport lab. (\**56-member international group chaired by USFWS; includes Mexico, Canada, and 17 western states.*)

(AK) Forum on the Environment. I have agreed to assist USDOJ in planning a piece of this year's Alaska Forum On The Environment, to be held February 7-11, 2005, in Anchorage. This year it will include sessions on invasive species in Alaska, with particular focus on marine organisms, fresh-water fishes, rats, and noxious weeds. The Forum is an annual environmental conference put together by a coalition of State, Federal, private, and Tribal organizers, and includes presentations and panels, a session on environmental career opportunities, a variety of organizational meetings training classes, social events, vendor displays/information booths, and a "talking circle" with community leaders and Tribal elders. Last year's Forum attracted nearly 1,200 participants. (*More information is available at <http://www.akforum.com/>*)

Idaho Strategic Plan Development. The Governor's office has contracted with the Northwest Natural Resource Group to create a state strategic plan, based on information from last February's Governor's IS summit. Four workgroups have been established: education & training; Program coordination; legal and political; and technical. I participate on the Program Coordination workgroup; so far we have had one meeting.

Idaho IS Grant. EPA is providing the Idaho Department of Agriculture with a \$50,000 Wetland Protection Development Grant to complete an assessment of non-native aquatic species threats to Idaho's wetlands, riparian areas, and waterways. Results will provide the Idaho Invasive Species Council with the information necessary to develop a system to classify species, to identify and direct proper management for each class, to coordinate current authorities and programs, and to set objectives to accomplish effective management goals. (*Contact John Olson 208/378-5756 for more information.*)

Invasives and Wetlands: Under an EPA grant, Ecology, the Corps and EPA have jointly revised the 1994 and 1996 WA wetland mitigation policy and guidance documents to reflect the last decade's many new developments. We have included new sections on invasive species and an appendix of expected noxious weeds to watch for in restoration and mitigation work.

Lower Columbia Basin/100th Meridian\* ANS Workgroup: During the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, an estimated 1.5 million people are expected to retrace the original route from Illinois, bringing their boats, vehicles, and potentially a host of zebra mussels, milfoil, and other exotic weeds, insects and pathogens. For the last two years, the workgroup has made a massive research and education effort to minimize the chance of unintended introductions. Progress to-date includes: placing 128 substrate plates in western lakes for early detection; sending public service announcements to 249 radio stations; conducting 489 boater surveys to determine areas most at risk; developing boat washing videos and training state patrol inspectors; and contacting 130 marinas, boating facilities and visitor centers as possible outreach partners. I attended the July 27<sup>th</sup> workgroup meeting in Portland, and EPA is providing funding for publication of zebra mussel watch cards, and plastic boat ramp signs. (*\* Bi-national workgroup established to prevent the spread of zebra mussels west of the 100th meridian, and chaired by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. EPA is one of about 20 member agencies.*)

Pacific Ballast Water Group: This group of US and Canadian agencies and industry was formed a few years back to discuss ballast water issues. It has been inactive for some time, but efforts are being made to re-start it; the first meeting was held in Portland on June 29.

(OR) Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership. The Partnership is a collaborative network of public and private interests in the Willamette Basin and adjacent coastal areas that seeks to prevent the introduction and control the spread of the most harmful invasive plant species in NW Oregon by facilitating cooperative management among willing land managers. Over fifty federal and state agencies, county departments, watershed councils, and non-profits participate. At the local level, the Partnership supports coordination which may lead to development of Cooperative Weed Management Areas to implement on-the-ground activities. (Alan Henning represents EPA on this group; for more info call him at 541/686-7838 x 251.)

Earth Day Projects: About 80 R10 staff signed up for EPA Earth “month” invasive species projects. We partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to flag *Spartina* in the Stillaquamish Estuary (May 6) and with EarthCorps to remove ivy in the Seattle Cheasty Greenspace (May 27 & 28, July 29 and upcoming August 19). So far EPA has cleared about 1400 ft<sup>2</sup> of ivy and saved about 40 large trees. We also assisted TNC in an August 10 research project to determine impact of various herbicide dosages and injection locations in Japanese knotweed. All those who volunteered did a great job....these projects are HARD work!

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign. EPA has now joined the *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* campaign as a formal partner. This commitment costs nothing and also allow us to take partial credit for the campaign and its prevention message. I’ll be working with our outreach folks to integrate the campaign into our outreach efforts.

### **Regional 10 Activity: Outreach/Education**

PNW Invasive Species Book. A book, *100 (of the worst) invasive species of the Pacific Northwest* is going to press at UW soon. It will contain both aquatic and terrestrial species, and is intended to be interesting to both biologists and non-biologists. Each species will have a map, species picture, and description of the species and range, impacts, control and management methods, life history, and invasive history. It is co-edited by Sarah Reichard and Amy Van Buren, with multiple authors. I am contributing the sections on carp (silver, bighead, grass, black and common carp) and the marine algae dead-man’s fingers (*Codium fragile ssp. Tomentosoides*).

Water Quality Publication. One recommendation from the February NISWG conference was the development of a publication, describing impacts of invasive species on water quality. Since I was one of the water quality presenters, I agreed to take the lead on this, but HQ is currently hoping to add a work assignment to their mission contract to assist with literature review, and ORD and HQ will also be contributing sections and/or providing review.

SWS International Conference. The 2004 Society of Wetland Scientists international conference in Seattle, July 18-23, contained an entire day of 19 presentations on invasive species. I gave a presentation on new federal activity and ways that wetland scientists can reduce the impact of invasives. There were also a large number of presentations on *Spartina* and reed canary grass, and several on purple loosestrife, *Phragmites* reed, knotweed and nutria.

SER International Conference. The Society for Ecological Restoration will hold an international conference in Victoria, B.C., August 23-27. This conference will also contain an invasives session, and I will be give an update on new national activity.

Bellevue Natural Resources Week: Krista Rave and I provided two days of invasive species education to about 150 school children at the Bellevue Natural Resources Week May 18 & 21. Sponsored by the Bellevue schools, this involved primarily on fifth and sixth graders. Our focus was to raise awareness of invasive species and their impacts. Knotweed specimens were a big hit.

Presentations: I still receive a large number of requests for invasive species presentations:

May-July Presentations included:

- 05/08/04 United Methodists - Redmond, WA (invasive plants and gardening)
- 05/18 -21/04 Natural Resources Week - Bellevue WA (invasive species workshops)
- 05/26/04 Native Plant Appreciation Week - UW, Seattle WA (invasive plants & gardening)
- 07/19/04 International Soc. of Wetland Scientists Conference- Seattle WA (national update)

Upcoming Presentations Scheduled:

- 08/23/04 International Soc. for Ecological Restoration Conf.- Victoria BC (national update)
- 10/02/04 Bellevue Demonstration Garden - Bellevue WA (invasive plants & gardening)
- 11/01/04 Bellevue garden club - Bellevue WA (invasive plants & gardening)
- 02/07?/05 AK Forum on the Environment Anchorage, AK (national/regional update)-
- 3/10/05 Highline garden club - Seattle, WA (invasive plants and gardening)

### **EPA 10 Internal Program Development**

Region 10 EO Compliance Plan. Work continues on development of the Regional Compliance Plan. This quarter I worked with OEA and Superfund; the next groups targeted are nonpoint source and the Tribal office. It is expected that HQ will soon ask for evidence of Regional compliance with the National IS Management Plan and Executive Order 13112. This will help us get ahead of the curve, and also provide a model for other regions.

NISWG\* Conference Proceedings: In addition to monthly conference calls, the workgroup is finalizing materials from the national conference at Research Triangle Park. Proceedings will be available this month in hard copy and CD. They will include a copy of the dozens of action items identified at the conference and the OWOW strategy, which was revised based on input from the meeting. (\*EPA internal Non Indigenous Species Workgroup, chaired by Henry Lee)

Environmental Indicators. The Region has recommended HQ include an invasive species indicator in the national indicator development process. No word yet on a final outcome.

(Contact Mike Rylko at 553-4014 or Gretchen Hayslip at 553-1685 for more info.)

### **National and International Activity**

New Federal Interagency Committee. A new Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Animals and Pathogens (ITAP) has been established to coordinate invasive species program planning and technical advice among Federal entities. It will focus on terrestrial animals and pathogens not currently addressed by either the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) or the Invasive Species Council's Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). A major ITAP function will be establishing an

infrastructure to provide rapid technical expertise and advice in response to new invaders. ITAP has established six permanent subcommittees: Animal Pathogens, Plant Pathogens, Invertebrates, Vertebrates, Systematics, and International/Agro& BioSecurity. Sixty representatives of groups within USDA, USDO, DOD, DHS, CDC, Dept. of State, EPA and the Smithsonian Institute attended the June meeting, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is now being circulated to enlist Federal entities as partners. It is assumed that several EPA offices will be signatories. (*Russell S. Jones 703/308-5071 has additional information*).

New Alert System. The USGS has launched an alert system allowing users to register to receive e-mails on new US aquatic introductions. Users can sign up for "State Watches", "Group Watches" and/or "Species Watches". The system also allows unregistered users to review and query archives of alerts that are sent. (*For more information contact Pam Fuller, [Pam\\_Fuller@usgs.gov](mailto:Pam_Fuller@usgs.gov)*.)  
To receive e-mail alerts: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/register.asp>  
To view alert archives: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/>

Ballast Water Update: Seven state Attorney Generals ( IL, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, WI) filed an Amicus brief with the court on July 14, supporting the plaintiffs in the appeal of EPA's decision last year to not regulate BW under NPDES.

TMDL lawsuit. Ocean Conservancy is suing EPA for supporting California's decision to exclude invaded waters from the TMDL list. This originated when a San Francisco TMDL that included IS was submitted. Three CA Water Control Boards are involved. Since some 700-800 waters already in the TMDL database indicate they are impaired by aquatic or noxious weeds, and this represents only a few states, this could become a larger issue.

IUCN Conference. The State Department has requested that EPA's Office of International Activities help the Union of Concerned Scientists (IUCN) host an invasive species conference, with a specific reference to trade pathways. EPA/OIA is a member of IUCN, and IUCN has worked on invasives in the Caribbean and Central America. Both State and EPA are working to integrate discussions of invasives into the environmental reviews of trade agreements, and State hopes to include invasives as an area of cooperation as part of the environmental cooperation agreement being negotiated for the Central America Free Trade Agreement.

Spartina Conference. The Third International Spartina Conference will be held Nov. 8-10 in San Francisco. *Learn more at <http://www.spartina.org/2004conference>*

ASTM Invasive Species Symposium. The ASTM Committee on Biological Effects and Environmental Fate is planning a "Symposium on Invasive Species: Their Ecological Impacts and Alternatives for Control". It will be held April 19-20, 2005, in Reno, Nevada. They are seeking international participation, and plan to focus on both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. *A call for papers (August 31 deadline) and other information is available at: [http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/SYMPOSIA/E47\\_CallforPapers04.htm?L+mystore+qirr7232+1088116928](http://www.astm.org/cgi-bin/SoftCart.exe/SYMPOSIA/E47_CallforPapers04.htm?L+mystore+qirr7232+1088116928)*

## **Legislation**

Final Ballast Water Rule. On July 28, the U.S. Coast Guard published final regulations establishing a mandatory national ballast water management program. These regulations increase the Coast Guard's ability to prevent the introduction of non-indigenous species via ballast water.

Effective September 27, 2004, all ballast-water carrying vessels entering or operating within U.S. waters are required to maintain a vessel-specific ballast water management plan. Future regulations are expected to provide specific ballast water discharge standards, and approval procedures for ballast water treatment systems. See the final rule at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

*(Ballast water is the major pathway for the introduction of non-native species into U.S. coastal waters. An average 21 billion gallons are discharged into US waters each year, and each cubic yard contains an average of 12,600 organisms...bacteria, cysts, eggs, resting stages, and larvae, from nearly every phylum.)*

Final Aquaculture Rule. On June 30, EPA published the final aquaculture rule for concentrated aquatic animal production (fish farm) facilities. This has implications for Atlantic salmon, which when they escape, are considered invasive species. *More info is available at <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/anaquilaw.html> or call Lisa McGuire 206/553-0226).*

Other Bills. A number of significant bills did not make it through Congress this year, perhaps due to focus on Iraq. They will likely be introduced next session. These include:

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA)

The Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act (NAISA's companion research bill)

HB 266/S536, (would codify the National Invasive Species Council)

The Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003. (At one point authorized \$500 million over five years to address the problem of invasive weeds on public lands. )

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### **Activity in Pacific Northwest States**

(WA) Exotic Species Detection in Puget Sound. The San Francisco Estuary institute has developed an *Exotic Species Detection Program for Puget Sound* for the Puget Sound Action Team. It suggests criteria for determining the presence and status of exotic organisms; environments and species to monitor; sampling methods; sampling station locations and numbers, sampling frequency and timing; and a system to facilitate recognition of new organisms discovered in the Sound. The report also estimates monitoring plan implementation costs. Similar plans are underway for the Lower Columbia and Tillamook Bay, so that all three estuaries will collect comparable data. *(View and download the report at [http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/esdp\\_oth04-02.pdf](http://www.psat.wa.gov/Publications/esdp_oth04-02.pdf) or call (800)54-SOUND.)*

(WA) Rapid Response Plan: WDFW has contracted for development of a state rapid response plan to more effectively deal with new invasions. A draft will hopefully be available for comment this summer. *(Contact Scott Smith for more information, 360/392-2724)*

(WA) UW Forum. The June 2 UW Denman Forestry Issues Series focused on "The Impact of Invasive Species on PNW Ecosystems". This three hour seminar provided 7 speakers on invasive plants, invasive forest insects, invasive tree diseases, and biological control of *Spartina*.

(WA) *Spartina* Control. This year is a key control year for Washington *Spartina*. The Coastal Resources Alliance Sponsored a *Spartina* meeting in Willapa Bay on June 17, featuring

presentations by the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, UW, and USDA, and also included a discussion of the 2004 wordplay and information on a new approved herbicide for Spartina.

(WA) Knotweed Roundtable. The WA State Noxious Weed Board hosted a knotweed roundtable on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Puyallup. The meeting was an opportunity for working groups and interested parties to share information on state-wide knotweed control and on field activities. Knotweed is exploding in WA, and a coordinated approach is critical.

(WA) Butterfly Bush Information Needed. The State Noxious Weed Committee is considering adding Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) to Washington's state noxious weed list. It is already a Class B noxious weed in Oregon. The native Plant Society needs distribution information on escaped populations of Butterfly Bush, particularly those invading natural areas or areas where the population seems to be exploding rapidly. *Any information on these populations can be sent to Justin Haug (WDFW) at <haughelmut@hotmail.com>, or call 360-941-4666.*

(OR) Columbia River Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) study. In the next few weeks, PSU hopes to be able to expand the lower Columbia River ANS sample collection and literature searches upstream into the Mid Columbia River and Lower Snake Rivers, to include areas downstream of the Granite Dam and between Bonneville and Priest River Dams. *(For more information contact Robyn Draheim Waldeck 503-725-3833)*

(OR) Oregon Initiatives. The OR Invasive Species Council presently has two ongoing initiatives. The first is development of a feral swine management plan for Oregon. The current population is small, and needs eradication before it creates large-scale damage such as that in California. The second is development of an education/outreach strategy, and an RFP to assist in developing a strategy to raise invasive species awareness in Oregon was just released. Proposals are due September 3. *(Access it at [http://oda.state.or.us/plant/inv\\_spp](http://oda.state.or.us/plant/inv_spp), Or for more information, contact Mark Sytsma at 503-725-3833)*

(OR) HACCP For Field Biologists. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans analyze ways to minimize spread of invasives for various activities. Robyn Draheim Waldeck (PSU) has developed a HACCP plan for field biologists. Although developed primarily to help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails on field equipment, this should be a useful mechanism for preventing spread of a variety of invasive organisms and can be readily adapted to other situations. She has also developed a trial equipment cleaning checklist to comply with the HACCP plan. *(For a copy, contact Robyn Draheim Waldeck at 503/725-4994 or email me)*

(OR/WA) Ivy Day. In one year, NO Ivy Day has grown from a metro Portland event to a Pacific Northwest collaboration. At the May 8 NO Ivy Day, over 40 partners coordinated approximately 50 work sites in the Portland metropolitan region, in the Columbia Gorge, and in Southwestern Washington. This second year emphasized partnerships for decentralized coordination and management, and split the event into two parts: spring work parties to save trees, and fall outreach and action to stop the seeds. Last year 1000 people participated in saving over 3300 trees and clearing acres and acres of ground infestation.

(ID) New UI Center for Invasive Species The University of Idaho is proposing to develop a research center that would apply the methods of biotechnology to pressing problems in agriculture and resource management. They would specifically target the biology of invasive species and the management of small or declining populations, both subject areas with broad economic and environmental implications for the State of Idaho.

(AK) Prince Williams Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council Website. The Council has just established a new invasive species website. It includes information and pictures on 15 non-indigenous invasive species found in the Prince William Sound area and lists a series of studies that have been completed in collaboration with other agencies to assess the potential for further invasions of marine invasive species in Prince William Sound. View the website at <http://www.pwsrca.org/NIS/home.html>. (*Lisa Ka'aihue, PWSCAC*)

### **Grant Opportunities**

"Pulling Together Initiative" Grants. This grant program, now in its ninth year, provides small grants to support the creation of Cooperative Weed Management Area partnerships. The RAP is now available on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website, and applications will be accepted through the Foundation's online application system. For more information on application deadlines, program priorities, and detailed instructions regarding application procedures, visit the P.I. website at <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.htm>

Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Grants . Federal Funding Opportunity announcements are posted on the NAA webpage at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>  
Awards will be made in 2005.

National Sea Grant Program Grants: The National Sea Grant College program funds research and outreach projects that develop information and tools for prevention, monitoring, and control of aquatic invasive species. Individuals, universities, nonprofit and commercial organizations, State, local, Tribal and foreign governments, and international organizations are eligible to apply. The program has approximately \$4.6 million available and anticipates funding about 50 projects. Pre-proposals are due in late August. For information go to the National Sea Grant RAP web page at <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/funding/invasive/draft.html>

ORD STAR Grants. ORD expects to issue another request for applications with an aquatic invasive species focus in October, 2004. *For more information contact Iris Goodman at 202/564-0105.*