

Meeting Notes for Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group
Tuesday, July 28, 2015

ATTENDEES

Bruce Michael
Harry Cage
Joe Love
Carol Jacobs
Lisa Eutsler
Jonathan McKnight
Jay Kilian
Margie Brassil (Delegate Stein's Office)

Gary Burnett
Rich Norling
Donna Morrow

Via Phone
Eric Null
Barbara Beelar

B. Michael - Reviewed the affiliations of the workgroup participants; representatives from all major MDNR units, including four members of the ISMT – J. McKnight, J. Love, J., Kilian, M. Lewandowski

Potential Speakers for Future Meetings:

- Fredrika Moser (MD SeaGrant)
- Nancy Rybicki (USGS)
- SERC/Whitman Miller, etc. - not best but willing

If there are any others, please let Bruce know.

Major Species of concern for Maryland:

Some of the major concerns are Northern Snakehead, invasive crayfish, fishhook water fleas, round goby, hydrilla, and zebra mussels.

- J. McKnight – The MD Invasive Species Council, Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, and other groups provide large lists of species of concern online. http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/Invasive_Species_of_Concern_in_Maryland.pdf
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatics/main.shtml>
<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/soc.php> . These lists are worth looking at because they include many species that are a problem in adjacent states.
- J. McKnight – Although it is important to talk about individual species, prevention needs to move beyond a species focus and instead on interrupting the pathways that make introductions happen.
- C. Jacobs - feels that the bill should cover all waters in Maryland – not just lakes
- B. Beelar - stated that the bill is just the first step; wants this to be a model/test

Deep Creek Lake AIS:

- C. Jacobs - Education outreach is still a priority; Gave two examples of a sticker that could be used on all boats – it's a check list about aquatic "hitchhikers" so a boater can be made aware of what to look for on their boat. She wasn't sure of the expense but thought it was a good idea.

- B. Michael – Workgroup will need to estimate cost of implementing recommendations in Bill Report

Review of DCL Launch Steward Program:

- E. Null – Approximately \$28,000 for current launch steward program with Garrett Community College.
 - B. Michael - this includes two people present at the launch from 7am – 7pm, seven days a week; this does not include J. Bortz contract
- B. Michael – The DCL yacht club regatta contacted participants about ANS concerns prior to event
 - B. Beelar – J. Bortz provided excellent assistance with recent Regatta
- J. Love – Has media been contacted regarding ANS concerns at DCL?
 - C. Jacobs – outreach to the Chambers of Commerce to add the decontamination process to the website.
 - B. Michael – information sent to property owners, county commissioners, etc.
 - B. Beelar – Friends of DCL have done some reach outs.
- J. Love – Where are most DCL tourists coming from?
 - B. Beelar – many from Great Lakes region
- C. Jacobs – provided statistics on numbers of boat launches per year at DCL; there are approximately 18,500 launches per year – this includes “on-lake” launches
- B. Beelar – requested a list of all state-owned or managed lakes with boat ramps
- B. Michael – provided statistics on current inspection program (posted on <http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/ais/index.cfm>); So far in 2015, 1,451 boats have been inspected by launch stewards. Out of this, 23 had some invasive material on it; 23 refused the free inspection.
 - J. Love – would a better explanation of inspection reduce refusals?
 - This inspection did include live wells; however, stewards are not allowed on the boats or into personal property.
 - The 23 boaters who wouldn’t allow the inspection was more of they were in a hurry and didn’t want to take the time.
 - E. Null – reasons for refusals included “didn’t want to take the time” and there is a cultural issue with government and locals within DCL community
 - C. Jacobs – If 23 are not going on the lake, how much long-term loss in revenue?
 - J. McKnight – there is no law that requires inspection before launch; HB860 will only make it unlawful to launch boat w/ ANS
- C. Jacobs – provided ideas on funding sources; Why doesn’t a portion of the license fees go to AIS prevention; ATV/Off-road MVA Excise Tax sales fees should go to MDNR; suggested increasing Boat Excise Tax by 1% and Boat Title Fee by 1% to raise money to spend on outreach for AIS
- J. Love – Outreach efforts should target those stakeholders most dissatisfied with inspection process so that word-of-mouth causes an economic issue and a cultural issue.; There is a lot of mistrust in government in Garrett County

Hydrilla Control Strategy Update:

- C. Jacobs – Are we wasting our time with Hydrilla? Do animals transport Hydrilla?

- B. Michael - the source of Hydrilla to DCL is unknown; regardless of source, efforts are aimed to control Hydrilla
- C. Jacobs – If boats are source of Hydrilla, why do you not find Hydrilla near the boat ramps? J. Love – that is a pattern similar to the tidal Potomac River near Smallwood State Park
- J. McKnight – inspecting boats and removing vegetation will reduce likelihood of other ANS (spiny water flea, etc.)
- C. Jacobs – Fisheries article showed that visual inspection most effective over other decontamination techniques
- J. Love - stated that a decontamination station should not be at every launch - needs to be somewhere in-between. With the outreach program, it should be stated to wash your boat before inspection
- B. Michael – the carwash near DCL is large enough to accommodate most boats for cleaning; this could be a business opportunity for local businesses
- C. Jacobs – there is a zoning issue (minimum of 2 acres) required in Garrett County; getting mud off a boat is very difficult and a lot of hard work
- J. McKnight – recommend that workgroup views the instructional video (next meeting?) from Washington State to understand what a boat inspection program entails.
- J. McKnight - the western model of boat inspection is aimed at zebra and quagga mussels
- J. McKnight – no other states address mud in regulations

Discussion on whether or not the bill includes “mud” – It was clarified that the current bill does NOT include “mud”. The current enrolled bill prohibits launching a boat with “visible organic material”

- B. Beelar – reiterated the need for all ANS-related laws and regulations be posted on the workgroup website.
- C. Jacobs – Are stickers good?
- J. McKnight – yes, stickers include a checklist for boaters
- J. Kilian – making people aware using a checklist is good, having them actually follow the checklist is the hard part
- C. Jacobs – to E. Null, do you want a wash station, or is it not economically feasible?
 - E. Null – engineers would need to be consulted; traffic patterns would need to change
- C. Jacobs – What constitutes a “clean” boat in HB860?
 - J. Love - need to know what this means for enforcement

Maryland Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Update:

J. Love gave the timeline as of right now:

- Draft by mid August to be sent out to internal folks for review by 9/1
- By October, send report to outside folks for their review (MDE, MDA, AG, MD SeaGrant, non-profits, etc.)
- Will probably post as a public notice on the website
- By spring of 2016, ANSTF will review for approval

- B. Michael – much of the background information compiled in ANS plan could be used in HB860 Bill Report
- C. Jacobs – Are calcium concentrations high enough in DCL to support zebra mussels?
 - B. Beelar – there was a report that suggested that calcium concentrations were too low for zebra mussels
 - J. McKnight – clarified that zebra mussels are a potential invader to DCL despite claims in previous reports; calcium levels could support a zebra mussel population

Bill Report Discussion:

Development of Report Outline:

- Will provide the science and what other states are doing.
- It will provide options looking at cost associated and what delays/impacts that it may have.

Information Needs:

- The report will be an executive summary with bullets for the legislators to read. All the background will be behind the report for the folks to actually read all the details.
- D. Morrow – recommended that a list of inspection/decontamination options be provided to the workgroup
- J. McKnight and D. Morrow – recommended providing a cost/benefit analysis of options in report in a matrix table
 - A sub-committee (M. Lewandowski, J. McKnight, J. Kilian, B. Beelar, C. Jacobs) will provide a “strawman” matrix of biosecurity options
 - C. Jacobs and E. Campbell on economic analysis once list of options is completed
 - J. McKnight – another option not yet discussed is a permit approach whereby vessels are only inspected if they have been used in another body of water
 - J. Love – recommended using a survey monkey to assess ANS awareness among public prior to inspection program and other efforts
 - C. Jacobs – provided a draft outline of a bill report

Establish Time Line:

- Still looking at having the report in draft by November.
- J. Love – will compile ANS background for report from ANS plan

Other Business:

- **AIS Website Update:**
 - B. Michael – website has been updated with minutes from last meeting, etc.
- C. Jacobs – What was motivation for AIS prevention from all of Maryland to only lakes?
 - B. Beelar – the decision was made because 1) lakes have a controlled entry point; 2) the state is the owner – responsible for resources; 3) prevention is realistic; and 4) start small – use as a model for other systems.

Next Meeting: Tentative Date – Thursday, September 10th in the afternoon

Handout – DCL Launch Steward Program Summary Statistics – See website:
<http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/ais/index.cfm>