

**GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL  
ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 30 - Thursday, December 1, 2005  
Corpus Christi, Texas**

Ron Lukens called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The meeting began with introductions of the Panel members and guests. The following were in attendance:

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**Members**

Diane Altzman, EPA/GOMP, Stennis Space Center, MS  
Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary, Louisiana Sea Grant, Baton Rouge, LA  
Paul Carangelo, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Corpus Christi, TX  
Earl Chilton, TPWD, Austin, TX  
Steven de Kozlowski, SCDNR, Columbia, SC  
Dale Diaz, MDMR, Biloxi, MS  
Pam Fuller, U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, FL  
Leslie Hartman, AL Marine Resources Division, Dauphin Island, AL  
Ted Hendrickx, Georgia DNR, Social Circle, GA  
Tom Herrington, FDA, Stennis Space Center, MS  
Jim Kruse, TTI/Texas Sea Grant, Houston, TX  
Jim Lester, HARC, The Woodlands, TX  
Jim Long, National Park Service, Atlanta, GA  
Scott Longman, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
Ronald R. Lukens, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS  
Doran Mason, NOAA, Miami, FL  
Roberto Mendoza, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
Harriet Perry, USM/GCRL, Ocean Springs, MS  
Bob Pitman, USFWS, Albuquerque, NM  
George Ramseur, The Nature Conservancy, Ocean Springs, MS  
Steve Rider, AL Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Montgomery, AL  
Dennis Riecke, MDWFP, Jackson, MS  
Don Schmitz, FDEP, Tallahassee, FL  
John Teem, FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, FL  
Dale Theiling, SCDNR, Charleston, SC  
Bruce Thompson, LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute, Baton Rouge, LA  
Jay Troxel, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

**Staff**

Nancy K. Marcellus, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

**Others**

David Britton, USFWS, Arlington, TX  
Nicole Cass, Port of Houston Authority, Houston, TX

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Beau Hardegree, USFWS, Corpus Christi, TX  
Dewayne Hollin, Texas Sea Grant, College Station, TX  
Jonathan Moczygemba, Texas A&M University, Kingston, TX  
Scott Newsham, ANSTF/USFWS, Arlington, VA  
Pamela J. Schofield, U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, FL

**Public Comment**

Lukens provided the opportunity for public comment. No public comments were received.

**Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Due to schedules, Lukens recommended changes to the order of agenda items. Lukens also removed the agenda item entitled “Tri-lateral Invasive Species Initiative (Canada, Mexico, and the US)” since Richard Orr was unable to attend the meeting. A handout on that agenda item was distributed to the Panel members. **With those changes noted, Paul Carangelo made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bruce Thompson, and the agenda was adopted.**

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by Steve de Kozlowski to approve the minutes from the May 12-13, 2005 meeting held in Key West, Florida, as written. The motion was seconded by Bruce Thompson. Without objection the minutes were approved.**

**Pathways Analysis Report**

Pam Fuller gave a presentation entitled “Pathway Analysis for the Gulf and South Atlantic States.” Fuller explained that all data was based on data entered into the USGS/NAS database as of 7/25/05. A single species could be counted in multiple pathways. The data are based on the best available information and may include educated guesses about a species. The data also include species that did not persist (including single individuals). Details of the presentation can be found in the written report.

Fuller also discussed the AIS Database Summit held in September 2005 in Gibraltar Island, Ohio. The reason for the summit resulted from concerns from Congress about overlap in existing databases.

Goals of the Summit:

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- to familiarize participants with the variety of database projects/programs while delineating the mission of each as well as the type of information available through each system
- to identify both gaps and overlaps among the various databases, systems, and audiences
- to explore the potential for database consolidation via distributed database systems, including outlining technical and political obstacles to integration, and
- to establish or modify interagency agreements among the three agencies covering AIS database coordination, sharing, and management.

Participants of the Summit:

- SERC
  - National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC)
  - National Exotic Marine & Estuarine Species Information System (NEMESIS)
  - Aquatic Invasions Research Directory (AIRD)
- USGS
  - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database (NAS)
- NOAA/Sea Grant
  - National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse)
  - Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Site (SGNIS)
  - Projects Inventory (SG)
- NOAA/NOS
  - Aquatic Species National Inventory and Introduced Species Early Warning System (EDIS)
- IJC/CGLRM
  - Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Research Inventory (GLSLRI)
- NISbase (SERC/USGS)

The Summit identified the following 4 categories:

- Project/Researcher Databases
  - AIRD - international, AIS researchers
  - SG - US agency, AIS projects
  - GLSLRI - bi-national Great Lakes, water quality projects
- Reference Databases
  - SGNIS - electronic references
  - Clearinghouse - card catalog to a lending library
- Species Databases
  - NEMESIS - international marine and estuarine
  - NAS - US freshwater
  - GLANSIS - Great Lakes node of NAS
  - EDIS - taxonomic lists of native and non-native species by region

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- Ballast Databases
  - NBIC - ship traffic and ballast information

Conclusions from the Summit:

- Reduce overlap where it exists
- Work together
- Development of a common portal for data access and agree that NISbase should serve as that portal.

**Joint Panel Recommendation/Taxonomic Experts Database**

Each Regional Panel, under the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), has spent considerable time addressing regional rapid response plans in the last 2 years. One of the issues that arose from those discussions is the need for access to taxonomic experts to provide species identification services to state and federal agencies for plants and animals that have been sighted and/or reported as being potentially non-native. This is needed for any type of response, whether it is rapid or otherwise, in order to craft an effective response to the sighting or report.

On July 7, 2005, the Pathways and Prevention Work Group of the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) convened a teleconference to discuss Work Plan tasks for 2005. One of the issues contained in that Work Plan is the need for a taxonomic experts database. After some discussion, the Work Group agreed that the GSARP should coordinate with the administrators of the other regional panels to see if it would be possible to provide a joint recommendation to the ANSTF regarding this issue.

Beginning July 18, 2005, the GSARP administrator began contacting the other regional panel administrators asking about the possibility of crafting a joint recommendation regarding the development of a database of taxonomic (and perhaps others) experts. Each administrator, or other regional panel representative, was contacted individually and asked if they would support such a recommendation. By Monday, July 25, 2005, all panel representatives had been contacted, and all agreed to proceed with crafting a joint regional panel recommendation.

On August 18, 2005, the following recommendation was sent to the ANSTF:

By this letter, the Great Lakes, Western, Gulf and South Atlantic, Mississippi River Basin, Mid-Atlantic, and North East Regional Panels recommend that the ANSTF support the development of a database of taxonomic, and possibly other, experts. Since this has been identified by the regional panels as a national need, the ANSTF should encourage all affiliated agencies to explore the possibility of identifying funds

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as soon as possible to accomplish the development of the database structure. A preliminary approach to this task has already been developed and will jump start the process.

At this time it appears that funding will be made available for this task. Since this is a work group activity, the Research and Development Work Group will address the topic in the work group breakouts.

Harriet Perry also discussed the need for a photographic database. Lukens advised that he would record this as a need and investigate how to proceed.

**Status of State Plans/Programs**

Florida - Don Schmitz reported that they intend to send their plan as is to the ANS Task Force. They have been tracking state expenditures to coordinate an educational push in Florida about invasive species. \$104 million has been spent by state agencies on invasive species. Schmitz added that his agency has funded 2 channel apple snail studies since they have recently shown up all over Florida. A workshop is planned for next week to discuss future management aspects.

Alabama - Steve Rider reported that the Alabama ANS task force is online since the Governor signed the Executive Order on June 2. The first steering committee meeting was held August 3, 2005, and a second meeting was held November 8, 2005. Hopes are to have a draft copy of their ANS plan by the summer of 2006.

Mississippi - Dale Diaz reported that no work has been accomplished on their state plan since the last meeting. A meeting is planned in January 2006 in Jackson, Mississippi. Tulane University, the subcontractor for the plan, has also been affected by Hurricane Katrina. Diaz added that Marilyn O'Leary has been very helpful in their development of their state plan.

Giant salvinia was recently found in the lower Pascagoula River. It was widespread by the time it was found, so eradication was not a possibility. Since then, Hurricane Katrina pushed a lot of it onshore, so eradication may be possible now. The range current range is not yet established.

Diaz also reported that AMRAT received a first place Gulf Guardian Award, awarded by the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program. The award was presented January 28 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dennis Riecke asked for permission to use the "Aquatic Hitchhiker" logo on all boat registration renewals. They would also like to put logo and text in their outdoor digest containing all hunting and fishing regulations. They are in the process of rewriting legislation to prohibit the use of anything that is nonnative for bait. There have been increasing reports of bighead and silverhead carp being caught. There are also reports of hydrilla in the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

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Louisiana - Scott Longman reported that he has replaced Mark McElroy as the ANS Task Force member. Louisiana is currently working on their state plan, and was progressing well before Hurricane Katrina. They are ready to have their management plan approved. Longman also mentioned that Marilyn O'Leary has been very helpful with their plan development.

Since the Hurricane they have been looking at the formosan termite and the issue of them being in storm debris and mulch made from woody storm debris. Notifications have been issued, along with a quarantine, regarding the potential for unintentional formosan termite distribution.

Texas - Earl Chilton reported that Texas is trying to finish their comprehensive management plan. He also thanked Marilyn O'Leary for her help. It has been submitted for ANS Task Force review, and they are addressing those comments now. Hopes are to have a plan for the Governor to submit in 2006. Texas is also in the process of establishing an invasive species council, a coalition of 6 state agencies. The draft of the bylaws will be finalized in about 2 weeks, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding among the agencies.

In Lake Austin, plans are to use grass carp to remove hydrilla without removing all other vegetation. They plan to use that project as a model on controlling hydrilla in other parts of the state.

Georgia - Ted Hendrickx reported that Georgia has not formed any official groups yet for their ANS management plan, but have done a lot of informal outreach to stakeholders. Like the others, Hendrickx gave thanks to Marilyn O'Leary for her support.

Georgia is currently using channel apple snails as a test case on how to handle an invasive species. They have 3 confirmed areas with established populations and are trying to get a genetic identification. An internal task force has been formed. This might be a case for a rapid response project.

They continue to have pacu reports coming in but do not think they are reproducing. They also have an unverified zebra mussel report. They have also had reports of Asian swamp eels and believe they are a different species than reported in Florida. Georgia now has the largest aquarium in the world, the Georgia Aquarium. The Aquarium is having problems with people flooding them with requests on what to do with their unwanted aquatic pets.

South Carolina - Steve de Kozlowski reported that South Carolina has been working on pilot study for IAFWA's communication project for the past couple of years. That report is anticipated to be complete by the spring. They are waiting on completion of the communications plan to proceed with development of the state plan. Plans are to have a consultant, D. J. Case and Associates, help with development of that state plan. They hope to launch into that process in 2006.

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A plant of concern in South Carolina is phragmites. He also mentioned that hydrilla, another plant of concern, is reasonably under control.

**2006 Operations Plan and Work Group Assignments**

Lukens discussed the 2006 Work Plan for the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel. He indicated that that plan is not exclusive as workgroups can add tasks throughout the year. Steve de Kozlowski mentioned a few typographical errors in the Plan. Lukens advised that he would make those changes and then the Plan would be available on the Panel website.

**A motion to approve the 2006 Work Plan was made by Bruce Thompson. Leslie Harman seconded the motion, and the 2006 Work Plan was approved.**

**ANSTF Report**

Scott Newsham reported that this is the first time to have a full time position for Executive Secretary of the Task Force. A meeting of the Task Force was held in October. At that meeting a national management plan was approved. A copy of the plan is on the new and improved website of the ANSTF. Newsham indicated that state management plans are a key aspect of his job. The next meeting of the ANSTF will be held May 22 in the northeast.

Lukens added that one change Newsham has made in his short tenure, is that Regional Panels do not have to advertise their meetings in the *Federal Register* since they have to report all activities to the Task Force. He did, however, encourage the Panels to continue to advertise their meetings and invite the general public to attend.

**Administrative Report**

Legislative Update - A handout of new invasive species bills, prepared by ISAC staff, was included in the Panel's folder. One bill that has generated considerable interest is S. 363, "Ballast Water Management Act of 2005."

NISC/ISAC Update - A handout on recent NISC/ISAC activities was included in the Panel's folder for informational purposes.

**Implications of Hurricanes for Aquatic Invasive Species**

In light of a very active hurricane season for 2005, this topic was included on the agenda to generate discussion on impacts hurricanes can have on aquatic invasive species.

General thoughts and observations:

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- hurricanes are a pathway of moving animals around
- when working with disease and pathogens, this is a problem for all laboratories on the water, and needs to be considered when a hurricane approaches
- follow up on how some of the management plans were affected during Hurricane warning
- get the message out for people to think about this issue
- mechanism to make others aware of the possibility of things being in the debris after a storm
- raise as an issue on a national level on the impact of natural disasters.

It was also suggested that this would be a good opportunity to do another rapid assessment in the areas already completed - Alabama and Mississippi. It would be a great opportunity to learn what has changed since the hurricane. It is noted that the Panel supports the states of Alabama and Mississippi redoing their assessments in light of the hurricane. Marilyn O'Leary commented on spreading people too thin since she is trying to use these same people to do the rapid assessment for Louisiana. She emphasized that it is a good idea, just wait until next year.

Lukens mentioned that this agenda item was just an exercise to point out things to think about and things that the Panel can do. More discussion needs to take place before any action is taken. Perhaps the research and development work group could come up with items for the whole Panel to discuss.

**Risk Assessment Training Discussion**

Workshop Report - Pam Fuller reported that a workshop conducted in conjunction with the Mississippi River Basin Panel was held in Tampa, Florida, in August. The purpose of the workshop was to train people on the approaches to risk assessments. She received positive feedback from participants on the format and content of the workshop. The Mississippi River Basin Panel will hold another session in the January-February 2006 time frame.

The Gulf and South Atlantic Panel will hold a Risk Assessment Training Version 2. It would be helpful to do something more specific to the needs of state agencies in their processes.

**Risk Assessments - Proposed Next Steps:**

- Hold additional training opportunities, as necessary
- Panel establish Risk Assessment Work Group
- Panel charge appropriate work group to develop a prioritized list of species and pathways for which risk assessments are needed
- Panel consider work group product and approve as necessary
- Panel charge Risk Assessment Work Group to develop a plan to conduct risk assessments, including the type of assessment that should be used.

**Gulf and South Atlantic Invasive Species Symposium**

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Lukens reported that at the last meeting Herb Kumpf tried to generate interest within the Panel to sponsor a symposium. There was some hesitancy to organize such a symposium and the issue was tabled.

Subsequent to that meeting an opportunity arose to coordinate a session in conjunction with the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species. Conference organizers were seeking monetary support for the conference, and contributors would be able to sponsor a dedicated session during the conference. Lukens submitted a contribution on behalf of the Panel and requested a southeast regional session. Lukens sent out notification that the Panel was presentations. The request resulted in a number of presentations and a full day session entitled Invasive Species Plants and Animals in the Southeast Region.

It was suggested that the title of the session be changed to Invasive Species of the Southeast US. It was also suggested that perhaps the session could end with the status of the Regional Panel and what the Panel is working on. Lukens mentioned that he will be the moderator of the session and can make some of those comments.

**SARP Update**

Marilyn O'Leary included a table in the Panel's folder on where the states are in the process of developing their management plans. All of the Gulf states have started and most of the South Atlantic states are getting there. All are following national guidelines as appropriate. From a management standpoint SARP is making progress with invasive species.

Another SARP project is providing funding for 3 representatives from each state (aquaculture specialist, stocking person, and invasive species SARP person) to train on the HACCP process of keeping invasives out of aquaculture programs. She will be looking for your help in identifying these persons to attend this training.

**Election of Officers**

David Yeager was elected as Chairman of the Panel.

Earl Chilton, Jim Long, and Don Schmitz were nominated for Vice Chairman. After a paper ballot vote, Earl Chilton was elected as the new Vice Chairman.

**Public Comment**

Pam Schofield, USGS Gainesville, FL, informed the Panel members of an outreach meeting in Chicago in January 2006. It is expected to address compiling educational info on aquatic invasives and boating, aquaria, and water gardens as pathways.

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Schofield also reported that a paper on Asian swamp eels has been submitted for publication, addressing salinity tolerances. Also, a study on black salty goldfish, sometimes used for bait in estuarine and marine environments, has been completed. The general result of that study is that black saltys are no more salt tolerant than any other goldfish

**Next meeting time and place**

Charleston, South Carolina was selected as the location for the next Panel meeting. Lukens indicated that he would proceed with plans for Charleston in April 2006. The second choice location would be Savannah, Georgia.

**The meeting recessed at 5:31 pm.**

**The meeting reconvened at 8:30 am.**

Lukens mentioned questions raised regarding the Steering Committee. The Panel's standard operating procedures state that the Steering Committee will be comprised of 3 mandatory seats - the immediate past chairman, the current chairman, and the current vice-chairman. Those 3 will confer with each other and appoint 3 additional members, with no specifications about who those 3 additional members will be. That is how the Steering Committee gets appointed. When Lukens accepted the Chair at the beginning of the Panel's establishment, there was no immediate past chairman or vice-chairman. Panel members were asked to volunteer to sit on the Steering Committee, and Lukens appointed five members. This was done prior to establishing the Standard Operating Procedures. With the Standard Operating Procedures in place, a new Steering Committee needs to be established. Lukens asked for volunteers interested in being on the Steering Committee. He indicated that he would set up a teleconference with the new Chair and Vice Chair to appoint three additional members to serve on the Steering Committee following the current meeting.

**Update from the North American Brown Tree Snake Control Team**

Jonathan Moczygemba, a graduate student from Texas A&M, Kingston, gave a presentation on the North American Brown Tree Snake Control Team (NABTSCT).

NABTSCT was formed in 2002 to

- Compliment group of Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- Inspire and facilitate communication, cooperation, and understanding within and between agencies and organizations and to provide coordination of efforts between agencies concerning brown tree snake issues.

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A NABTSCT Working Meeting was held Tuesday, November 29, 2005. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Page by page presentation of *www.NABTSCT.net*
  - Conducted a page by page walk through of the site
  - Site was critiqued by meeting participants
- Rapid Response Plan
- Watch Card Distribution
  - In service training session in June for FWS wildlife inspectors
  - DOD and wildlife managers on staff at military bases
  - Commercial ports receiving shipments from Guam
  - Personnel handling luggage at airports receiving flights from Hawaii
- Prioritized Potential Pathways
  - Military and commercial cargo
  - Air traffic
  - FEMA
  - Pet trade
  - Mail, UPS, and FED-EX shipping crates
- Discussed Need for Photos
  - Actual photos of the brown tree snake
  - Images of brown tree snake habitat
  - Images of brown tree snake damage
  - Images of search efforts
  - Images of cargo
- Update and Expand Participants List
  - Participants list is out of date and in need of updating
  - Membership is needed to expand the control team and increase rapid response.

Moczygemba ended his presentation by informing the Panel that membership could be obtained by visiting their website *www.NABTSCT.net* or by giving him a business card.

**Species Update**

Pam Fuller gave a regional species update from May - November 2005.

- Channeled apple snail - St. Johns, Florida; Central Florida; Satilla, Georgia
- *Charybdis helleri* - Bogue-Core Sounds, North Carolina
- Anaconda - Arkansas
- African jewelfish - Big Cypress Swamp, Florida
- Pacus - galore!
- *Hyotissa hyotis* - giant coxcomb oyster

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- 6 nautical miles south of Marathon, Florida
- collected 2003
- FMNH 302010

**Other Places**

- Northern snakehead - Queens, New York
- Zebra mussels, round gobies, bighead carp all expanding
- Miscellaneous aquarium species in miscellaneous places
- Rough-skinned newt in Alaska
- Alligators in California
- Caiman in Minnesota

**Work Group Reports**

Education/Outreach Work Group - Marilyn O'Leary reviewed goals of the Education/Outreach Work Group, actions for the coming year, and actions that are already accomplished. The first goal, which is a continuing goal, is the development of an inventory of existing activities, which includes publications, programs, conferences, etc. They started developing this inventory in 2003. They have done considerable work on the inventory of publications and are now working on adding to that the programs that go with the publications and getting that to some searchable place for use. Plans were to put it on the Panel's website, but yesterday they discussed a group on the west coast who had contacted the Panel and are developing the same thing to put on a website. They are offering all the Panels to join in this effort. Chuck Jacoby will continue to investigate that.

In conjunction with this inventory, Dewayne Hollin pointed out that there are some programs or groups that could use the Panel's products or publications if guidance was provided. He is going to work with putting together a recommended packet for the Master Naturalist Program that the cooperative extension uses all over the country to distribute panel products.

The second goal is responsibility for the annual report. Since the Panel will now receive guidelines for format of the annual report, that goal is basically complete.

The third goal is to examine appropriate outreach activities and distributing information. The work group has had an accomplishment of that goal already. Roberto Mendoza had taken some of the publications that are general in nature and translated them into Spanish. This will help with educating individuals in Mexico on invasive species, and also the opportunity to distribute copies in the states with Spanish speaking populations. Plans are to explore finding a similar situation for Vietnamese translation.

The fourth goal is also a distribution goal to identify public outreach opportunities and establish methods to distribute Panel information. One of the things they realized, is that all of the websites

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that are associated with ANS are not necessarily linked to the Panel's website. Chuck Jacoby did a survey of a first cut of which websites had a link to the Panel. Most of them did. The work group is going to work on approaching each of the organizations that host these websites that connect to the Panel's website and get a stronger connection.

O'Leary mentioned that the Education and Outreach Work Group plans to cooperate and work with Lukens regarding the international meeting in Key Biscayne.

O'Leary also discussed a program that has been developed identifying teachers as a pathway, because teachers sometimes use live specimens for teaching. In this particular case, there is a curriculum where teachers can order animals and plants from biological supply houses an animal, such as fish or crawfish, or hydrilla. They teach about the food web and about the changes in water quality, etc. When they have completed the curriculum, many are allowing the children to release the specimens into the wild rather than disposing of them permanently. There is documentation that it has resulted in a population of crawfish that is causing a great deal of problems. A teacher education poster has been developed that can be presented at teacher conferences to help teachers understand not to do this and to take advantage of that opportunity to teach the children about invasive species. Through the Panel's website, they plan to advertise that this poster is available for use in the Gulf and South Atlantic states at the teacher conferences and educational events.

O'Leary mentioned that SARP has produced a brochure on invasive species. It is available to all Gulf and South Atlantic states to distribute. This brochure targets anglers, boaters, aquaria, and divers, because those are elements of the public identified to raise the awareness about invasive species.

Pathways/Prevention Work Group - Pam Fuller reported that the Pathways and Prevention Work Group has 2 basic goals: 1) to conduct a regional or state by state pathway analysis; and, 2) to identify regional priorities for pathways and species. Plans are to identify a state contact who is willing to review the existing data. Fuller will query the data base and send them all the data for their state. They can look at all the introductions and their status to determine whether they are established or only collected. They will send that data back with corrections. They will also help identify what percentage of species has been established in each pathway. They will also identify which percent of those that became established, actually became a problem. After this first step, the work group will get back together to discuss which pathway would be a priority and what the categories may be.

The last thing on the work group's list was to conduct an inventory of state or federal "watch lists". There was some discussion about exactly what a "watch list" was, and basically decided that they would compile any existing lists per state, whether they were black lists, white lists, watch lists, etc. and everybody would send those to Nicole in the next month. She will compile those and post them on the Panel's website.

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Research/Development Work Group - John Teem indicated that the Research and Development Work Group has not been active this year. A meeting was planned, but changed due to Hurricane Katrina.

The main discussion item at this meeting was regarding the Sea Grant RFA for invasive species. This is a grant program on a 2 year cycle. Dorn Carlson requested text that he could include in the RFP to capture something of each Panel's research and/or outreach priorities. These might not be the Panel's overall priorities, just a priority for something the Panel would want done with a Sea Grant project. The priorities need to be NOAA relevant, which generally means relevant to oceans, Great Lakes, or coasts. Dorn would like the priorities by December 15 to allow time to work them into the next Sea Grant RFA, which will come out in the spring. This RFA will be for projects in 2007-08.

The following two priorities were identified:

Outreach priority - Research to determine the most effective means to change the attitudes and procedures of people in regard to practices leading to the release or spread of non-indigenous species.

Research priority - Investigations into methodology for predicting range extensions for known invaders based on basic life history biology with particular relevance to the effects of climate change and hurricanes.

There was a comment to make the research priority statement more general than specific to hurricanes, such as extreme climatic events or natural disasters.

When the Panel was questioned if only one guideline could be submitted, which one would they prefer, the consensus was the research priority.

At the conclusion of the work group reports, Lukens indicated that he would contact each of the work groups to discuss next steps such as conference calls or meetings.

**Other Business**

Lukens reviewed a possible action for the Panel's Steering Committee. He indicated that he would like to have the new Steering Committee compare the contents of the invasive species portion of the SARP action plan with the Panel's work plan to see how these actions mesh with activities of the Panel.

There was no objection to referring this task to the Panel's Steering Committee.

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**Public Comment**

Lukens again provided the opportunity for public comment. No comments were received.

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.*