

Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Update

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Staff Report

1. Chris Dionigi was promoted to Deputy Director of NISC.
2. Federal travel budgets are under increasing scrutiny and 30% cut is expected.
3. Due to budget cuts the spring meeting will be in Washington the week of NISAW.

Agency Budgets

APHIS – Earmarks (Emerald Ash Borer, etc.) removed and/or scaled back.

ERS – Only funding intramural research.

ARS – Decline in systematics funding and scientist positions.

NIFA – Decline of 36% and program eliminations.

NRCS – Increased overall but not for invasive species.

USFS – Over 5% of the research budget was lost and acres reduced.

USDA – Specific increases in APHIS. Decreases in prevention positions.

DOI – No overall decline. Increases in research.

USGS - Increases for Asian Carp and Brown Tree Snake.

NOAA – No longer has Sea Grant dollars.

Other NISC agencies – Homeland Security, Defense, State, Transportation, AID reported general declines.

Subcommittee Reports

Prevention

Working on an e-commerce white paper

Control and Management

Working on a bio-control white paper

Early Detection Rapid Response

Working on a PCR paper

Recommendations

- 1) DOI/USFWS and USDA/APHIS: Expedite listing processes for national importation of injurious wildlife and other animals and noxious plants under the Lacey Act, the Plant Protection Act, and the Animal Health Protection Act to better assess and address emerging invasive species threats, including those associated with e-commerce.
- 2) DOI/USFWS: Incorporate all species-specific data submitted with Form 3-177 declarations for wildlife imports into LEMIS or another accessible database.
- 3) DHS: Expand cooperation with USPS to monitor and increase the capability to interdict international mail containing potentially invasive species and encourage USPS to expedite requirements for advance electronic manifests associated with packages sent through international mail similar to current practice for international express mail and consignments.

Recommendations

- 4) USDA/APHIS: Expand the scope of webcrawlers and related enforcement and monitoring activities used by the Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) unit to include a broader array of invasive plants and plant pests, and enhance cooperation with USFWS to address injurious wildlife.
- 5) USDA/Agricultural Research Service: Support development of and capacity for an Internet clearinghouse of federal and state-listed invasive species such as injurious wildlife, other animals, and noxious weeds and of relevant regulations.
- 6) DOI/USFWS, USDA/APHIS, DOC/NOAA and other relevant agencies: Provide a reference catalog or database of taxonomic resources that commercial interests can use to verify the taxonomic identity of organisms in trade.

Recommendations

- 7) Department of State and Office of the US Trade Representative: Given that a significant portion of e-commerce entities are based outside the U.S., explore further cooperative and legal measures with foreign trading partners and relevant international institutions and other bodies to address the illegal import of invasive species into the U.S.
- 8) DOI/USFWS, USDA/APHIS and DOC/NOAA: Promote outreach to individuals and businesses involved in the sale and exchange of species over the Internet to reduce intentional and unintentional sales or purchases of species listed as invasive in the U.S. or particular states.
- 9) DOI/USFWS and USDA/APHIS: All commercial imports of living species should be labeled with the scientific name of the species.

Recommendations

- 10) Encourage and develop funding for the National Academy of Sciences to undertake a review of the reliability and effectiveness of PCR and other DNA-based applications for detecting AIS, focusing on establishment of appropriate validation processes and a framework and standards for this new and potentially invaluable tool in the early detection, eradication, prevention and control of AIS.
- 11) Establish and fund an ongoing independent performance testing program for laboratories utilizing DNA-based AIS detection methodologies such as that recently undertaken for evaluating laboratory performance in PCR detection of dreissenid mussel larvae (Frischer et al. 2011). Testing results should be made public so that managers may make informed decisions about the accuracy and reliability of a laboratory's performance when including an eDNA component in an AIS monitoring and early detection system.

Recommendations

- 12) Utilize lessons learned in establishing a laboratory performance testing system to fully develop a validation/accreditation program(s) for other invasive species eDNA methodologies and laboratories.
- 13) Utilize FHWA/USDOT - Inventory and control of existing corridor vegetation before project begins.
- 14) FHWA/USDOT - Specify weed-free gravel, soils and mulches on each project.
- 15) FHWA/USDOT - Clean construction/maintenance equipment before, during and after project.
- 16) FHWA?USDOT - Construction funding be accountable for the costs associated with invasive and noxious vegetation monitoring/control following the project until a stable, sustainable plant community is reached, not to exceed 5 years following the project completion.

Action Items

- 1) From the Communication, Education and Outreach Subcommittee: Presented the communications Plan, with changes, for approval by ISAC. **Approved.**
- 2) DOI/USFWS and USDA/APHIS: All commercial imports of living species should be labeled with the scientific name of the species. **Referred back to the Prevention Subcommittee.**