



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge.

Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem.

PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.

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December 17, 2009

**TO:** Members of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations to NISC from the ISAC Meeting held December 1-2, 2009

During the December 1-2, 2009 meeting at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, DC, ISAC agreed upon the following recommendations:

**Recommendation #1:** ISAC recognizes the Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration for its commitment to planting and maintaining appropriate roadside vegetation. **ISAC recommends that DOT/FHWA maintain its capacity to provide support and expertise to State departments of transportation, and coordinate with other Agencies regarding invasive species management.**

**Recommendation #2:** The spread of invasive species in natural terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is widely recognized as a major environmental and economic problem in the U.S. It is also clear that our ability to manage this problem is limited by our insufficient understanding of invasions of natural systems in general as well as by our insufficient understanding of specific invasions.

One reason for this limitation is the lack of a focused, strategic, and sustained emphasis at the federal level on support for research on the management of invasive species in natural systems, including reservoirs. On-going programs support applied research on invasive species in agricultural systems on the one hand and transformative, basic research on the dynamics of natural systems on the other hand. However, research directed toward the management of invasions in nature falls in a gap in between. Current support for this research is largely opportunistic and piecemeal. The lack of a more strategic approach tends to leave out research on important ecosystems and invasive species, and to respond to management needs only after invasions have become emergencies.

**ISAC therefore recommends that NISC agencies develop strategic plans and implement mechanisms for sustained support of research on the management of invasive species in natural systems, including prevention, control, and restoration.** Agencies might approach this by broadening the scope of existing programs, reallocating resources between or within programs, or adopting policies for the consistent inclusion of management of invasive species in requests for proposals for research on natural ecosystems.

**Recommendation #3:** Currently Ballast Water regulation is directed by multiple entities including Coast Guard, EPA, and State Agencies. ISAC recognizes the need for a strong national program to regulate vessel discharge including, but not exclusive to, ballast water and hull fouling and thus producing a nationally consistent set of requirements, including performance standards, which provide the needed environmental protection and predictability to the regulated community. **ISAC urges NISC to assist Congress in the development of such a program.**

**Recommendation #4: ISAC recommends that federal biological control programs, as well as research performance measures, incorporate IPM principles with the goal of achieving the greatest potential for successful management of the target pest, while maximizing the desired ecosystem functions and other appropriate management objectives.** This includes incorporating niche based modeling, monitoring procedures, efficient data access, and integration with other control options and/or active restoration efforts, where necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Ann Gibbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

E. Ann Gibbs  
Chair, Invasive Species Advisory Committee  
Maine Department of Agriculture

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