



**WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL  
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING**

June 20, 2013

Room 172, WA State Natural Resources Building  
Olympia, Washington

---

**WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (WISC) MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

**PRESENT:**

Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chris Christopher/Ray Willard	Department of Transportation
Raquel Crosier	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Doug Daoust	U.S. Forest Service
Alison Halpern	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Mike Mackey	Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Rob Pederson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Allen Pleus	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pene Speaks, Vice Chair	Department of Natural Resources
Curtis Tanner	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LT Eric Young	U.S. Coast Guard
Lisa Younger	The Nature Conservancy

**GUESTS AND PRESENTERS:**

Mike Leech

**STAFF:**

Wendy Brown  
Rachel LeBaron Anderson  
Molly Sullivan

---

**CONVENE AND WELCOME:**

Pene Speaks opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with welcome announcements and facility safety information, introductions, and a review of the agenda.

Curtis Tanner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, introduced himself as a new council member replacing Tom McDowell.

**HOT TOPICS:**

**PNW IPC Volunteer Trainings**

Lizbeth Seebacher was unable to attend today's meeting, this agenda item is on hold for the next meeting. However, Wendy Brown says the trainings were well attended.

### SEPA Update

The SEPA definitions were open for editing, so Wendy Brown has been coordinating invasive species changes and has requested to have some items added to the checklist itself. Ecology is hesitant to add items to the checklist, but is discussing it at the advisory committee meeting in July. If anyone has suggestions, please send them to Wendy.

### Gypsy Moth

Clinton Campbell reported for Brad White. Four ground treatments have been done in Tukwila and have gone well. Next month will be a one-time aerial spray of mating disruption treatment. This is the first time mating disruption that has been used in our state. It is generally used in the Midwest. There will be a lot of monitoring to follow the treatment, including an extra year of trapping. Washington was the first state in the U.S. to use ground treatments and is leading the way in this new process too.

### ANS Committee and 2013 Boat Inspections

Allen Pleus gave an update on the passage of SSB 5702 in the 2013 Legislative Session. One sub-section of the bill was to eliminate the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) committee. Their resources have been dwindling and they felt some of their work was duplicating the efforts of other groups. The ANS committee voted to have the committee sunset, and the request has passed in the legislature. Future Aquatic Nuisance Species issues will be brought in front of the Invasive Species Council as needed. The council can create subcommittees as needed to handle these issues.

State law mandates that a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer conduct boat inspections. There will be a minimum of 36 inspection days this year, but the Department of Fish and Wildlife expects to have many more. They are using detailed inspection forms to assist with more in-depth inspections, but also have a slightly less-detailed form when quicker inspections are needed. Fish and Wildlife officers do the most basic inspection each time they encounter the public (with anglers, boaters, etc.). They also plan to increase the contacts with the public throughout the year. Department of Fish and Wildlife resources are somewhat limited this year, but they were able to dedicate more time to the ANS officer. There has been a lot of discussion about boat inspections in the Columbia Basin where there is some protection from neighboring states. WDFW is looking at ways to make it more efficient and use their resources in the best ways possible, rather than have inspections on both sides of the borders one after another. They are also working with the other states on timing. Our inspections are random so the public cannot try to plan around schedules to bypass inspections. Officer trainings will be done in July. Inspections are usually morning to late afternoon, when they see the most boats.

Mike Mackey says the provincial government of British Columbia is getting more involved in prevention. They are also working on the “passport system,” so that if they are inspected in one state or place they can show that it has already been done at the next stop.

### Boat Inspections at the Local Level

Allison Halpern updated the council on how encouraging it is to have PNWER working on regional inspections. She suggests some of the most important checkpoint locations right now are along the B.C. border, because they are still in the process of getting set up. Whatcom county recently hired an ANS coordinator to conduct boat inspections at Lake Whatcom boat ramps. However, authorities are not clear-cut as the city, county, and state have jurisdiction over different sections of the lake. In addition, Lake Whatcom boaters are being charged fees by two jurisdictions – the city and state. Lake Whatcom boaters have a \$7 fee if they use any launch except the PUD launches, which are very few in number. The locals tend to know where the PUD launches are so the visitors pay the fee and are checked.

That being said, Raquel commented that she is impressed with the work at Lake Whatcom in inspecting every boat that comes in to protect their water supply. Alison agreed but does not know if it is practical to have an individual program at each water body. She also feels that we are putting the cart before the horse

and not educating the public first, leading to harassment of workers by a confused public. Better coordination between jurisdictions is needed, as well as better public outreach. Perhaps the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife could produce a one or two page outreach document for the public so people feel informed and are not surprised by fees or inspections.

#### WSDOT AIS Update

Ray Willard shared a PowerPoint presentation about what they have been learning as an agency while working on the 520 bridge. WSDOT conducted detailed surveys on the all the crossings, nearby creeks, and shorelines and did not find any more snails. They are educating their employees, field biologists, and project engineers so everyone knows where and how to pay attention to the AIS issue. With maintenance work, they are looking at work going on in waters near known infestations, such as the lower Columbia River, Upper Snake River, Capital Lake, Kelsey Creek, and Thornton Creek. At those locations, employees will go in the water in waders to carefully check for the presence of AIS. If no AIS are found, they will do a level one cleanup of equipment. If there is anything present, they will conduct a thorough decontamination of all equipment to ensure there is nothing spread from these sights. Vulnerable areas will also require full decontamination. This work will happen prior to going to bid on projects in order to make sure all costs are addressed. Once they find a problem, nothing can be transported away from the location without full decontamination.

#### Eelgrass Meeting Update

Allison Halpern reminded the Council that *Arundo donax* was proposed by the Council as a class C weed. The hearing for it and other proposed species will take place in November.

Last year, the Japanese eelgrass (*Zostera japonica*) listing was amended as a Class C weed statewide for 2014. This year, the Weed Board has two Japanese eelgrass proposals – one to remove it from the weed list entirely and the other to revert to the 2012 rules and re-designated it as a Class C weed on commercial shellfish beds only. Ecology recently hosted a science and policy forum on Japanese eelgrass to discuss the state of the science and if there is new information on ecological and economic impacts. Following the scientific presentations was a policy discussion with the agencies. Ecology and WDFW have made changes in their rules to clarify the definition of seagrasses to native species only, such that regulatory protections are not provided to non-native species.

The Weed board is working on better coordination and agreement between agencies. Diane Cooper with Taylor Shellfish has asked why WISC has not made a statement on our opinion of Japanese eelgrass. Pene feels we should take a lead on coordination, but it will need further discussion. Wendy will pull a group together of agencies to begin discussion and will report at the next council meeting. Then we may also pull some industry stakeholders in to discuss the issue. We may also want to consider how we work with the Weed Board so we do not duplicate their coordination work.

#### Scotch Broom Listing Petition

Alison Halpern says there is a citizen in Port Townsend who started a MoveOn.org petition to control Scotch broom in our state and has received over 500 signatures. Alison is working with this person to organize Scotch broom control efforts at a local level and to educate him regarding the costs required to control Scotch broom at the state level. It is estimated to cost \$5 million per year for 5 years to just begin to control Scotch broom. It is not currently economically feasible to eradicate this species on the west side of our state, but they plan on brainstorming some local solutions. Anyone who would like to join the brainstorm in July in Port Townsend is welcome to attend.

#### Regional Zebra/Quagga Mussel Meeting

Raquel Crosier said there was a recent stakeholder meeting on the zebra/quagga mussel issue in our region with over 100 people in attendance. The meeting featured presentations that covered the background of the issue and the economic and operational impacts experienced in the Great Lakes and

lower Colorado River. Following the presentations, attendees created a plan of action items including funding and research ideas, which Raquel shared with the council. The meeting broadened the advocacy base of informed people who will pursue the efforts with legislatures and other decision makers.

#### Meeting on HR 1823

Raquel Crosier said yesterday she, Bill Tweit, Mike Mackey, and Phil Rockefeller met with Representative Hastings' and Reichard's staffers in Wenatchee. They met to discuss support for the quagga-listing bill. There was general support expressed for stronger prevention measures on the zebra and quagga mussel, but not necessarily for the bill itself. Many Senators and Representatives are not inclined to support changes to the Lacey Act. The meeting was a great first step, with more work to follow.

#### Invasive Fish & Wildlife Prevention Act

Wendy Brown says there is another federal bill being introduced by Senator Gillibrand of NY, the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act (S.1153). The Bill establishes an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of nonnative wildlife and wild animal pathogens and parasites that are likely to cause harm. The bill requires an expedited process to list species under the Lacey Act using risk assessments. There is a companion bill in the House.

Wendy reported that the state of Oregon is continuing their feral pig aerial gunning program. Oregon started the program in spring 2011 and have conducted shootings each year. To date, they have shot 310 pigs and trapped 136.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

#### Action Item: Approval of March Minutes

Raquel Crosier moved to **APPROVE** the March 14, 2013 minutes. Doug Daoust **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** the March 14, 2013 minutes. Mike Mackey abstained since he did not attend the last meeting.

### **BREAK**

### **COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS**

Wendy Brown will present the survey results later if time allows.

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP AND PLANNING FOR 2014**

Allen Pleus reported that the WDFW invasive species bill, Substitute Senate Bill 5702, passed. The bill requires documentation of an invasive species-free vessel coming into the state, creates an infraction for people entering without proper documentation, and sunsets the ANS committee.

Senator Honeyford, an active PNWER participant, also requested \$10,000 in general funds to support a state passport system similar to Idaho's program. The passport allows for expedited inspections at checkpoints. PNWER is also considering how to expand the regional passport system to other western states. Last year there was an effort by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to craft a comprehensive aquatic invasive species bill, but they did not have everything they needed to continue the effort. Since then, they have gained more interest and support in having such a comprehensive bill on invasive species. They are looking at having both terrestrial and aquatic species in the bill, but it may start smaller and expand later. Allen shared a handout of the proposed request legislation. They are looking at rapid response in the early stages of infestations and authorities for closing waterways in an emergency. The

challenge is in using similar language as other states in our region and looking at models already in our state, like the WSDA quarantine authority. Allen hopes to have a final draft of the bill to the code reviser in the next week so it will be available for stakeholder review by July 1.

The review will be a lot of work given the size of the proposal. Last year they asked for agency letters of support, which may carry more weight than a single letter from the council. The council would like to weigh in also, but there may be confusion over Bill Tweit signing it on behalf of the council. If the Council votes on it, then Wendy can sign it. Allen is proposing and requesting that Wendy help with the stakeholder review process to give it a bigger push. He needs help with some regional meetings in July and early August or presentations to go over the proposal. Having Wendy do this really puts the council behind the bill showing support. Pene is concerned there is not enough time for the council to approve Wendy as the representative; the council will not meet again until September. Allen asked if we could say the Council agrees in concept but reserves final approval until the end. The Council would be supporting the concept of having legislation and stakeholder input. We can then review the final bill when we meet again on September 19, 2013.

The Council will draft language over lunch of what they mean by having Wendy give support.

### **NWPCC AMENDMENT PROCESS**

Raquel Crosier and Wendy Brown sent a letter for Council review in advance of this meeting. Raquel gave a review of how the NWPCC became involved. Their program is written through an outreach process that has many stakeholders, and they revise their program plan every 5 years. Raquel and Wendy reviewed the draft recommendations (funding, specifics in contracts, coordination) that would come from the Council, including adding language about preventing spread of invasive species during BPA restoration and construction projects, similar to what SRFB now does.

Mike Mackey suggested making it clearer that it covers flora and fauna and not just zebra and quagga mussels. Doug Daoust also wants to include language about careful consideration of fuel sources such as *Arundo donax*, and the vetting of new fuel sources. Raquel feels they could provide some recommendations on guidance for invasive species used as power sources. Pene is concerned if we add too much it will water down the request and make it more likely that someone would be resistant to the effort. Lisa Younger feels it is a good idea to plant the idea that we could look at ancillary impacts of invasive species fuels. Their council may change the language somewhat. The weed board has some good language regarding industrial use of invasive plants. The closing date on comments is July 19, but there are requests to extend the date and it is likely to be extended for 60 days.

### **EARLY DETECTION PLANNING PROJECT**

Molly Sullivan gave a recap of the project she has completed as an intern to the Council. Molly reviewed the five invasive species or species groups (European green crab, invasive tunicates, Asian kelp (*Undaria*), New Zealand mud snail, and invasive knotweed species) selected for her project. She contacted 60 different organizations asking about their existing monitoring efforts and if they would add one or more of the 5 invasive species to it. She had a 50% response rate and 25% participation from those organizations. Molly reviewed the participants and the ways they have agreed to assist in invasive species monitoring. She gave examples of sharing data and working together on existing efforts. Molly made a 30-page document of all of her correspondence and what was completed and where we left off with each group so that Wendy can continue with follow up where it is needed. One concern for Molly was that everyone had their own separate database; there is no central database among them for reporting. Allen says the central database is in reporting through the council. Perhaps we need a portal for them to attach/upload their compiled reports of information so we have them on file. There would still be questions on how to pull that information together later but would be a good start. We could just have a

list of the reports available to the public for review too. So in the pilot study of “can we tag on to existing efforts?” the answer is “yes,” but there are still many questions on what the next steps would be. Pene feels the outreach of the council in letting these groups know what we do has been very useful on its own. The data gathering is a separate piece. Many council members made comments on how helpful Molly’s outreach work has been.

## **LUNCH**

### **BASELINE ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Mike Leech reviewed current progress made on the baseline assessment project. Expert workgroup sessions were held on March 18 and 19, 2013. He has included the outcomes of those workgroup sessions on the website and gave examples of what was done for each species, including a map showing current distribution. They will add a distribution-by-county map to give a better idea of the acreage of the species of concern. They included information about the known impacts of each species. Hyperlinks could be added to the boxes to show what work is being done. They hope to have the project completed by the end of December and are on track for budget and possibly ahead on timing. He showed samples of summary species reports that give an overview of management, species information, funding, pathways, areas of concern, etc. If you have any data information that may be helpful, please forward your information to Wendy (data, GIS files, management information, and funding efforts). Mike is looking for specific information about work an agency might be doing for a specific species. The next workgroup sessions are on June 25, 2013 in Tacoma. The council is invited to attend. There is also an opportunity to call in if you cannot come in person.

Mike is also working on a WISC web application launch for reporting invasive species. He showed slides of what the app will look like on a smart phone and showed different screen images. The data can be cached on phones so it will work even if they are out of a Wi-Fi area. Once they return to a Wi-Fi area, the information will update. When we receive the information, it is validated and either accepted or rejected. If accepted it goes back to the app and is available for others to view. Mike feels this app will be really useful for county weed boards to be able to standardize their data, right now they all have varying levels of handling data. Ray Willard suggests presenting the app at a weed board meeting. Mike Mackey said that all the weed coordinators will meet in March at Campbell’s in Chelan. A similar app would work for the Native Plant Society, Natural Heritage Program and many of the other groups. We may need to add species to the app at some point – for example, it does not have all the Class A weeds listed. Many schools (K-12) are very excited to add the app to their science curriculum.

### **OUTREACH**

Wendy Brown and Molly Sullivan presented information about the outreach program they have been working on. They formed an outreach team with the USFWS to share common messaging across different social media outlets, including ‘Clean, Drain, Dry,’ ‘Don’t let it loose,’ and ‘Buy it where you burn it’. WISC also created its own Facebook page.

### **ACTION ITEM: COMPREHENSIVE INVASIVE SPECIES LEGISLATION OUTREACH SUPPORT**

Allen Pleus moved to **APPROVE** adopt the WISC Comprehensive Invasive Species Legislation Outreach Support per the language below. Mike Mackey **SECONDED**. The Council unanimously **APPROVED** adopting the WISC Comprehensive Invasive Species Legislation Outreach Support per the language below.

WISC Comprehensive Invasive Species Legislation Outreach Support:

The Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) endorses efforts by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to develop draft comprehensive legislation concerning the management of invasive species for consideration by the 2014 legislature. WISC specifically supports WDFW plans to engage stakeholders in review of draft language prior to advancing for consideration of WDFW-Request legislation in the fall of 2013. WISC will work to ensure broad stakeholder participation in this process by supporting outreach efforts and identifying parties that should be included in proposed regional stakeholder meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment today.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. Pene thanked everyone for attending. Molly thanked the Council for the opportunity to work for them.

Next meeting:  
September 19, 2013  
Natural Resources Building  
Room 172, Olympia, WA

Invasive Species Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Tweit, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date