

## **ANSTF Meeting Presentation Information**

### **1) Name and affiliation of presenter:**

Leslie J. Matthews, PhD  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

-and-

Karen A. Hahnel  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

### **2) Background information about presentation**

Field guides to aquatic invasive species are essential for education and outreach activities by volunteer organizations, law enforcement personnel and other stakeholders, and are designed to provide information in a user-friendly format that is accessible to the lay audience. Producing such guides can be a time consuming endeavor; in particular acquiring drawings and photographs with copyright permission can be an arduous task. Much duplicate effort has been expended by various NEANS Panel member organizations who have created regionally specific guides that nevertheless contain a great deal of overlapping content. To streamline future regional guide development efforts, the NEANS Communications, Education and Outreach Committee created an interactive online application that provides access to a repository of freely-available, downloadable images, along with identification characteristics, natural history, and other information about freshwater and marine invasive species in or threatening the northeast. The online guide provides a user-friendly interface through which users can create a viewable and printable (pdf format) guide that can be distributed to target audiences. We will present the guide and discuss plans for future enhancements.

### **3) If the presentation supports a decision, what is the decision point to be considered by the ANSTF?**

not applicable

### **4) Does the subject matter relate to an objective(s) identified in the 2007-2012 ANS Strategic Plan? If so, explain.**

### **5) What is the ANSTF role(s) regarding the subject and decision points?**