

## PRESENTATION SUMMARIES AND SPEAKER BIOS

### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting November 6 - 7, 2019

#### Wednesday: November 6, 2019

10:00 - 10:25	<b>USGS NAS Database: New Invasions and Actionable Tools</b> <i>Wesley M. Daniel, U.S. Geological Survey</i>
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Presentation Summary: The USGS NAS Database will provide an update on new US invasions of ANS along with highlighting efforts by the program to create and enhance tools for use in biosurveillance.

Bio: Dr. Wesley Daniel is a fisheries biologist with the USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) Program. He is the lead for the NAS program and curates all the invertebrates and mollusks records for the database. His current research focuses on the development of tools for managers and stakeholders that assesses the potential spread of non-native and invasive species within and across drainage basins.

10:40 – 11:00	<b>Department of the Interior Update</b> <i>Hilary Smith, Department of the Interior</i>
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Presentation Summary: This presentation will provide an update on select initiatives underway at the Department of the Interior, such as the implementation of Safeguarding the West, application of the incident command system to address invasive mussels in the West, and development of a DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan, among others.

Bio: Hilary Smith is the Senior Advisor for invasive species for the Department of the Interior. She provides leadership and coordination on cross-cutting invasive species policies, planning, and programs at Interior, working closely with Interior bureaus and offices.

11:00 – 11:20	<b>National Invasive Species Council Management Plan Update</b> <i>Stas Burgiel, National Invasive Species Council</i>
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Presentation Summary: This update will provide a brief wrap up of NISC 2016-2018 Management Plan activities, as well as an overview of NISC's future directions. This includes a discussion of recently approved NISC terms of reference and a FY2020 work plan. There will be a specific focus on general coordination responsibilities as well as more species thematic priority activities, including how they potentially overlap with the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan.

Bio: Stas currently serves as the Acting Executive Director of the National Invasive Species Council, where he facilitates high-level policy dialogue across federal departments and White House offices on invasive species issues. Stas has worked and consulted for a range of nongovernmental, governmental and intergovernmental organizations. He received his Ph.D. in international service from the American University and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College.

11:20 – 11:40	<p><b>Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds Update</b>  <i>Mike Ielmini, U.S. Forest Service and Gina Ramos, Bureau of Land Management</i></p>
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Presentation Summary: Co-chairpersons Gina Ramos (of the Bureau of Land Management) and Mike Ielmini (of the U.S. Forest Service) will present highlights of the history, status, key accomplishments, and operations of FICMNEW over the past 25 years. The FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NOXIOUS AND EXOTIC WEEDS (FICMNEW) was established in 1994 to coordinate the work of federal agencies across 6 federal departments against invasive plants and regulated noxious weeds for the United States. FICMNEW was identified in the 1999 Presidential Executive Order 13112. Following the presentation, questions will be taken from the audience.

Bio: Gina Ramos has been with the Bureau of Land Management for 38 years, and is the BLM’s National Program Leader for the Weeds, Invasive species and Grasshopper & Mormon cricket program, directing policy and budget development for BLM administered public lands in 17 western and 3 eastern states. Gina has served as the project manager, and lead two national programmatic environmental impact statements (PEIS) that address vegetation management and the use of pesticides on the BLM’s public lands. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Range Management from New Mexico State University and Master Business Administration with an emphasis in Economics from the University of Phoenix.

1:00 – 2:00	<p><b>VIDA / Ballast Water Update</b>  <i>John Morris, U.S. Coast Guard and Jack Faulk, Environmental Protection Agency</i></p>
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Presentation Summary: The U.S. Coast Guard updated its Ballast Water Management regulations in 2012, to establish a discharge standard and a type-approval program for ballast water management systems (BWMS). Since that time, it has developed guidance documents to educate vessel owners and operators, accepted Independent Laboratories to conduct BWMS type-approval testing, and managed both extensions to compliance dates and enforcement actions to help the maritime industry come into compliance. These efforts will continue through the next several years, as the Coast Guard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency work closely to implement the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018. EPA will provide an overview of current Agency efforts required in response to the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) enacted in December 2018. Most notably, EPA and the Coast Guard have been working together closely over the previous 10 months to create a new joint EPA/USCG regulatory framework for incidental discharges from vessels. While new regulations are being developed, existing VGP and USCG regulations remain in full force and effect with these programs generating a great deal of information about efforts to control discharges from ships.

Bio: Mr. John Morris is an environmental protection specialist at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters. Previously, he was a director for the American Chemistry Council trade association, and an environmental protection specialist for the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Morris has a Masters in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver.

An engineer by training, Jack is an environmental protection specialist in the Office of Water at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC and is currently co-leading EPA’s development of discharge standards called for in the recently enacted Vessel Incidental Discharge Act having previously served as the Agency’s technical lead for the soon to be defunct Vessel General Permit. Mr. Faulk has more than 30 years of wastewater management experience, largely from a regulatory development and implementation perspective.

**Thursday: November 7, 2019**

3:00 – 3:30	<b>Updated Priorities for the Future Implementation of the QZAP for Western Waters</b> <i>Elizabeth Brown, Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>
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Presentation Summary: The Western Regional Panel members and partners recently completed a Status Report for the Quagga Zebra Action Plan for Western Waters (QZAP). The WRP is now considering developing a revised QZAP to guide future management priorities to stop the spread of invasive mussels in the West. This presentation will summarize the report and provide opportunity for ANS Task Force members to discuss invasive mussel issues that are common across the nation.

Bio: Elizabeth Brown has been working on Invasive Species for almost twenty years and has served as the Invasive Species Program Manager with Colorado Parks and Wildlife since 2008. Elizabeth’s current duties are centered around aquatic nuisance species management, including operating the largest mandatory watercraft inspection and decontamination network in the nation, along with invasive mammals, forest pests and noxious weed responsibilities. Elizabeth has served as the Chair of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species since 2012, and is the Co-Chair of the ANS Task Force’s Education Committee.

3:30 – 4:00	<b>Government eDNA Working Group Update</b> <i>Richard Lance, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center</i>
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Presentation Summary: The study, detection, and monitoring of environmental DNA in aquatic, terrestrial, and aerial systems is a rapidly growing field. Frequent advancement in capabilities for eDNA data collection, processing, analysis, and interpretation have characterized the field to date. The Government eDNA Working Group (GeDWG) was formed in May 2014 with the objectives of sharing best-practices, discussing technical and analytical innovations, and applying collective “wisdom” to technical and conceptual challenges. GeDWG is an informal group comprised primarily of researchers from numerous federal, state, provincial, tribal, and municipal agencies, and holds monthly teleconferences and annual eDNA Technical Exchange Workshops (eDTEWs).

Bio: Dr. Richard Lance is one of the founders and principal organizers of the Government eDNA Working Group (GeDWG). He is the team lead for Conservation and Ecological Genetics with the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center’s Environmental Laboratory in Vicksburg, MS. His team also comprises the Center for eDNA Application and Research (CeDAR). Dr. Lance has worked in the Environmental Laboratory for almost 19 years. Dr. Lance graduated with a BS in Zoology from Brigham Young University in 1994 and a PhD in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1999.

4:00 – 4:30

**Genetic Biocontrol Workshop Update**

*Kelly Pennington, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Presentation Summary: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is interested in exploring the issues related to genetic biocontrol of invasive species with partners and potentially affected interests. At a working group-sponsored meeting in June 2019, participants learned about genetic biocontrol research, regulatory processes, and public engagement. Meeting participants identified potential next steps for individuals and organizations interested in genetic biocontrol technologies for invasive species control, and we invite you to use those ideas as a starting place for your own proactive discussions on this emerging topic.

Bio: Dr. Kelly Pennington develops and implements aquatic invasive species prevention policy at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Prior to that, Kelly worked in Washington, D.C. for four years on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, covering issues related to oceans, fisheries, weather, climate, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Kelly earned a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota for environmental risk assessment research on genetically engineered fish.