



## New York Invasive Species Advisory Committee

### Annual Report

2015

*The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) prepared a 2015 work plan that outlined objectives for the year. These objectives included continued efforts on three education and outreach initiatives that had started in 2014: a public awareness poll, Invasive Species Awareness Week, and the Invasive Species Bookshelf. ISAC also took an in-depth look at the development and distribution of curriculum in NYS. The ISAC members are pleased to report on their collaboration on the following activities in 2015:*

#### SUMMARY

- **Held 4 in-person meetings, including one joint with Council**
- **Worked with the ISC, ISCU and PRISMs to continue with the Invasive Species Awareness Week initiative.**
- **Received and reviewed the Cornell University Human Dimensions Research Unit public awareness survey, “New York Residents’ Awareness of Invasive Species”.**
- **Helped to populate the Invasive Species Bookshelf.**
- **Provided feedback on the Statewide Boat Launch Regulations.**
- **Two new members came on to represent their respective organizations.**

#### MEETINGS

- Hold quarterly meetings:
  - *Held in person meetings March 31; joint meeting with Invasive Species Council June 26; and October 7, and December 16.*
- Invite Invasive Species Council (ISC) agencies, partners, or specialists, including other states, regions and programs with successful invasive species initiatives, to present status reports or project findings; consider using Webinars for information sharing
  - *Invited National ISAC representative to discuss their recent initiatives*
  - *Invited NYS DEC staff to discuss new statewide boat launch regulations*
  - *Held joint meeting with Invasive Species Council and reviewed the new Adirondack voluntary boat cleaning program*
  - *Invited USDA APHIS to discuss Hungry Pests Public Outreach/Curriculum*
  - *Invited NYS Education Department staff to discuss invasive species curriculum*

- *Invited NYS DEC staff to discuss implementation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*
- *Invited USDA APHIS staff to provide an update on feral swine*

## **STRUCTURE**

- Sustain active membership
  - *Average participation at meetings of 14 members or 56% of the membership (18 attended March meeting, 8 attended June meeting, 16 attended October meeting, and 15 attended the December meeting)*
- Maintain member contact information
  - *Maintained contact information for 25 members; John Bartow identified as new Empire State Forest Products Association representative to replace Eric Carlson and Mary Austerman was identified as the NY Sea Grant representative to replace Chuck O'Neill.*

## **INITIATIVES**

- In collaboration with NYIS.INFO, CCE IS Program, ISCU, ISC, and PRISMs, implement three priority education and outreach initiatives:
  - Invasive Species Public Awareness Poll
    - *Chuck O'Neill presented final report and reviewed with the ISAC*
  - Invasive Species Awareness Week
    - *PRISMs took on an active role to maintain a statewide Invasive Species Awareness Week July 12-18, including Governor's proclamation, webpages on NYIS.INFO, promotional materials and more than 100 events*
  - Invasive Species Bookshelf
    - *Chuck O'Neill was lead; is partially populated and needs a new host*
- Assist with education and outreach associated with implementation of Invasive Species Prevention Act regulations, as needed/requested
  - *Distributed information and print materials to our member groups*
- Explore options for incorporation of AIS information in the OPRHP Boater Safety Course
  - *Began discussions on this topic – follow-up is still needed*
- Consider inviting Department of Education to present future of Core Curriculum and Invasive Species
  - *Discussed this topic with Science Curriculum specialists with NYS Dept. of Ed's Ann Crotty and Will Jaacks at the October meeting. They provided advice on appropriate avenues to pursue this effort further.*
- Review data derived from existing Boat Steward programs currently established
  - *Presentation and report on the 10+ years of Adirondack stewardship programs was delivered and reviewed by the ISAC at the March meeting.*
- Respond to ISC directives
  - *No directives were given*
- Develop recommendations to be considered by ISC

- *No recommendations were given*
- Provide guidance to ISCU, as needed/requested
  - *Discussed implementation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan with ISCU.*
- Provide guidance to draft legislation and regulations, as needed/requested
  - *Discussed and provided verbal feedback on the Statewide Boat Launch Regulations.*
- Provide comments on draft management plans, as needed/requested
  - *Discussed existing management plans and need for an all-taxa management plan.*

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Set 2015 Objectives and prepare 1-2 page summary of outcomes at year end
  - *Developed the 2015 ISAC work plan and completed the 2015 ISAC annual report*
- Inform ISAC members about invasive species related news
  - *The ISCU and ISAC Chair distributed invasive species news via the ISAC Listserve, as appropriate.*
- Participate in ISC meetings and convey ISAC recommendations to the ISCU and ISC
  - *Participated in 3 regular ISC meetings and presented an ISAC report at each meeting*
- Participate in monthly PRISM calls, as able / appropriate
  - *The ISCU distributed monthly PRISM call info to the ISAC Listserv.*
- Continue to utilize ISAC Listserve for correspondence among the membership
  - *Used the ISAC Listserv as the primary mechanism for ISAC correspondence*
- Contribute current ISAC information to NYIS.INFO
  - *No updates were submitted*
- Identify appropriate press opportunities, as appropriate
  - *No opportunities were identified*

*Initial draft of report drafted by Meredith Taylor, January 8, 2016. The Invasive Species Advisory Committee approved the revised 2015 Annual Report on 3/3/2016.*