

New York Invasive Species Advisory Committee

Annual Report

2013

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) prepared a 2013 work plan that outlined objectives for the year. A primary focus was to provide input on the draft regulations to implement the Invasive Species Prevention Act and to advance planning for coordinated education and outreach programming. The ISAC members are pleased to report on their collaboration on the following activities in 2013:

MEETINGS

- Hold quarterly meetings: two in person, two calls
 - o *Held quarterly meetings March 26, June 11, September 17, and December 9*
- Invite ISC agencies, partners, or specialists to present status reports or project findings, as appropriate
 - o *Invited the following ISC agencies to present on invasive species regulations and aquatic invasive species program planning: Thomas Berkman and Phil Hulbert, Department of Environmental Conservation and Tim Sweeney, Department of Agriculture and Markets*
 - o *Invited partners and specialists to present on invasive species programming: Lisa DeBruyckere, Coordinator, Oregon Invasive Species Council, and James Balyszak, NY/Finger Lakes Hydrilla Program Manager*

STRUCTURE

- Sustain active membership
 - o *Average participation at quarterly meetings of 17 members or 68% of the membership*
- Maintain member contact information
 - o *Maintained contact information for 25 members*
- Identify annual deadline to submit changes to member representation to the Invasive Species Coordination Unit and Invasive Species Council
 - o *Established April 1 as annual date to submit changes to member information*
- Identify nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair in 2014
 - o *Nominated and elected Hilary Smith, representing the Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management, as Chair and David Morabito, representing the New York Forest Owners Association, as Vice-Chair for a one year term*

INITIATIVES

- In collaboration with NYIS.INFO, CCE IS Program, ISCU, and ISC, identify statewide education and outreach gaps and submit recommendations for priority needs
 - o *Conducted Invasive Species Awareness Questionnaire among ISAC members to determine strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement in statewide education and outreach programming*
 - o *Developed a NYS Framework for Invasive Species Education/Outreach*
 - o *Established an Education and Outreach Work Group that met three times and identified four priority projects within the Framework that ISAC members are advancing: public opinion poll; slogan and logo; invasive species awareness week; and, invasive species bookshelf*
- Assist implementation of the Invasive Species Prevention Act
 - o *Members participated in the socio-economic ranking process as requested.*
 - o *Requested briefings from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and provided feedback at three meetings*
- Identify priority pathways to minimize invasive species spread and submit recommended action steps to ISC
 - o *No activities to report this year. In 2012, ISAC identified priority pathways via a questionnaire distributed to the members: 1) recreational boats; 2) highway and utility right of way; pet/aquarium trade; plant trade; firewood; 3) connected waterways; bait/cultural releases; packing materials; 4) live food, mail/internet sales; ballast water/hull fouling; 5) plant and animal products; dredge spoil; Other) topsoil and fill material.*
- Respond to ISC directives
 - o *Provided ongoing feedback to the Invasive Species Prevention Act draft regulations and will provide guidance on communications, education, and outreach about the regulations once they are finalized*
- Develop recommendations to be considered by ISC
 - o *Submitted memo to reinstitute the Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program*
 - o *See above regarding recommendations on statewide education and outreach initiatives.*
- Provide guidance to ISCU, as needed/requested
 - o *No activities to report beyond the Invasive Species Prevention Act.*
- Provide guidance to draft legislation, as needed/requested
 - o *No activities to report this year beyond the Invasive Species Prevention Act. Prior activity in 2010 included contributing language to draft legislation addressing the transport of aquatic invasive species on recreational watercraft. This legislation is still pending.*

COMMUNICATION

- Set 2013 Objectives and prepare a 1-2 page summary of outcomes at year end
 - o *Developed the 2013 ISAC work plan and completed the 2013 ISAC annual report*
- Inform ISAC members about invasive species related news
 - o *The ISCU distributed invasive species news via the ISAC Listserv, as appropriate.*
- Participate in ISC meetings and convey ISAC recommendations to Invasive Species Coordination Unit, Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the NY Invasive Species Council
 - o *Participated in four regular ISC meetings and special ISC-ISAC joint meeting and presented an ISAC report at each meeting*
- Participate in monthly PRISM calls, as able / appropriate
 - o *The ISCU distributed monthly PRISM call info to the ISAC Listserv.*
- Utilize ISAC Listserv
 - o *Used the ISAC Listserv as the primary mechanism for ISAC correspondence*
- Populate NYIS.INFO with information about NYISAC
 - o *Submitted ISAC info to be posted on NYIS.INFO that describes the ISAC charge, membership, and initiatives. Preliminary posting is available on http://www.nyis.info/index.php?action=state_advisory.*
- Identify appropriate press opportunities
 - o *Submitted a quote on behalf of ISAC to be included in a press release regarding implementation of NYS invasive species program*

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee approved the 2013 Annual Report on 12/18/2013.