



## OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

26–27 JUNE, 2012

MADRAS, OREGON

Council members present included Mark Hitchcox, Dominic Maze, Mark Porter, Judi Sanders, Glenn Dolphin, Vern Holm, Sam Chan, Rian Hooff, Dan Hilburn, Rick Boatner, and Mark Sytsma. Lisa DeBruyckere (OISC Coordinator) and Robyn Draheim (Special Assistant to the Council) were also present. Council members absent and organizations not represented included Doug Daoust (US Forest Service), Jeanne Standley (BLM), and Rosemary Mannix (OR Dept Forestry). Greg Loberg represented the Oregon Seed Trade on behalf of Council member John Cochran.

### JUNE 26 AGENDA

#### February 2012 meeting minutes:

**Decision Item:** Council members approved the meeting minutes from the February 2012 meeting [Attachment A] with the addendum of adding Mark Porter's name to the OISC Finance Committee on page 4 of the meeting minutes.

**Committee Reports**—The Finance, Legislative, Science, Tunicate and Outreach and Education Committees provided updates on their latest activities and issues they are addressing:

- **Finance:** Rian Hooff, Chair of the Finance Committee, discussed several options the Council has been exploring to provide funding to operate the Council, provide support for the OISC Coordinator, and fund the Invasive Species Control Account. Options being explored to date include an excise tax on tires, a percentage of the next generation gas tax in Oregon, a disposal tax on tires, fines for natural resource violations, and funds from the Federal Lands Recreation Program. Lisa will continue pursuing these options as she continues to work with staffers from Wyden and Merkley's offices.

Council members also discussed the pros and cons of changing the OISC financial manager from ODA to Cascade Pacific RC&D, after exploring several potential fiscal agents, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as well as ODA.

#### **Decision Items:**

- The Council approved by resolution for Cascade Pacific RC&D to be the grantee for the \$150,000 NFWF feral swine grant (if awarded).
- Dan Hilburn and Lisa were asked to contact ODA's Lauren Henderson at ODA regarding bringing Cascade Pacific RC&D aboard as the fiscal agent for future grants. If there are no legal complications, the Council will approve moving forward with the hybrid approach of having ODA manage the Invasive Species Control Account, as directed in statute, and run grants through Cascade Pacific RC&D.
- **Legislative:** 2013 legislation support/proposed by OISC (*Mark Sytsma, Chair*)—It was suggested that the Council support agency budgets as a priority, and that the Council would identify talking points with agencies prior to testifying. It was also suggested that the November summit would be an excellent venue to discuss 2013 proposed legislation and talking points as well as funding

invasive species programs (i.e., exploring in depth the options the Finance Committee is currently investigating).

Council members also discussed EPA's vessel permit. DEQ waived its right to do a certification on that permit, and there may be a statutory amendment in the coming legislative session or in 2014.

- **Science:** *Arundo donax* issue and the May legislative debrief—PGE has contracted with Portland State University re: volatile organic carbons, visibility, and other concerns relative to *Arundo donax*. *Arundo* could potentially cause air quality issues as a result of the growing process (not the torrefaction process). Draft statewide *Arundo* rules have been sent to the Dept. of Justice, and the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN). OAN is discussing potentially phasing out selling the “wild” *Arundo*, while allowing the variegated type to be sold. ODA will then be proposing new rules.
- **Tunicate:** Update on the tunicate survey work and citizen science/outreach (*Sam Chan, Chair*)—Sam noted that the heavily infested boat hulls in the Charleston boat basin could move tunicates. The Oregon Marine Board has provided \$18,000 to conduct AIS surveys of five Oregon bays and estuaries for tunicates, sample for invasive tunicates in the Umpqua River triangle, and conduct zebra/quagga mussel underwater survey training.
- **Outreach and Education:** Update on outcomes from last committee meeting (*Sam Chan, Chair*)—Sam informed the Council that the firewood smartphone application [Addendum 1] will be released to the public via iTunes the first week of July. Sam is participating in an outreach event (Folklife) at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC in early July; Sea Grant produced banners with the invasive themes approved by PNWER. Sam also shared information about the National Sea Grant project on the Analysis of Regulatory and Outreach Strategies for Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species Through Boating in Oregon.

**Hot Topics: Council members shared the following hot topics:**

- *Arundo donax*—OSU is evaluating herbicides that will kill the plant if the decision is made to revert back to crops. And the statewide rule on *Arundo* is moving forward.
- Alyssum—An aerial survey was conducted in the Cave Junction area—staff are gaining the upper hand on controlling this species.
- SOD—The quarantine area in Curry County shifted to “slow the spread” mode because of a reduction in funds. SOD is now expanding its range, and there is already a new site at the SW corner of the quarantine block, but outside the quarantine area. The Forest Service is clearing and burning the infestation. Nine nurseries have tested positive for SOD; one of the nine is in the quarantine block. There is a national standard for nursery cleanliness—nurseries that don't meet that standard won't be allowed to ship interstate.
- Spotted Wing Drosophila—This year is predicted to be worse, especially for organic and no-spray growers.
- Giant Hogweed—There is a new large (1/4 acre site) at a Gresham school that is being treated.
- Planning for the workshop ( Legal and Regulatory Efforts to Minimize Expansion of Zebra/Quagga Mussels through Watercraft Movement in Western States: A Collaborative Learning Workshop for Assistant Attorneys General, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinators,

and Law Enforcement Officials)—One of the sessions will be a legislative panel. I'd like to OISC to advise on a Oregon legislator(s) we wish to invite for the panel

**Feral Swine Field Tour**—Council members and interested participants participated in a field tour to discuss:

- the status of feral swine populations and management in the State of Oregon
- the status of the outreach campaign with private landowners
- the status of fundraising for feral swine eradication and management
- cooperative efforts with the Oregon Pork Producers and others that raise heirloom and pasture pigs.

The Council is launching the tri-state feral swine outreach campaign with Washington and Idaho in July.

## **JUNE 27 AGENDA**

**Council Housekeeping**—Review the status of the OISC budget and its respective accounts (including iMap funding) [Attachment B]—Chair Rick Boatner reviewed the status of the OISC budget.

**Invasive Species and Seaplanes**— [Alaska](#), Indiana and [Wisconsin](#) have active seaplane invasive species programs, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission produced [recommendations](#) on seaplane inspection and decontamination for aquatic invasives. [Videos](#) online depict how to protect against invasive species. A citizen, Chuck Tucker, gave a short presentation and requested the Council consider legislation/action in Oregon to prevent the introduction and/or spread of aquatic invasive species by seaplanes, noting they were a pathway. Mr. Tucker noted there are 3 sea plane hubs in Oregon, with a total of 30–40 registered sea planes that have a flying range of 400–600 miles.

**Decision Item:** The Council will work with the Aviation Board to recommend notices to all airmen (NOTAM) as well as exploring working directly with the Airplane Owners Pilots Association (AOPA) and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) to inform sea plane pilots about procedures for cleaning and inspecting their planes. The Council will contact WA, AK, MT, southwest states, and others that have been involved with this issue directly to determine what has been done to date at the state level.

**Managing Biofouling Threats from Coastal Vessel Traffic**—Rian Hooff discussed the status on regulatory development efforts, Oregon's level of preparedness for non-conventional biofouling threats, and general marine AIS response planning [Addendum 2].

It was noted that biofouling criteria are needed to address risk factors; there are pending mandatory practices in neighboring states based on international guidelines. Draft regs include a biofouling management plan, biofouling recordkeeping, performance standards, and specific requirements for vessels that have undergone extended layups. It was noted that only a small percentage of vessels are high risk for biofouling; the remaining vessels in the fleet are relatively well-maintained and since much of our port activity is in freshwater environments, there is an environmental mis-match for most AIS associated with maritime vessels.

The Council discussed whether or not Oregon has sufficient regulatory authority established for biofouling management; DEQ is unlikely to pursue this as a priority unless others promote it. To determine if this authority should be pursued, the Council discussed whether Oregon's policies are sufficient to protect coastal waterways from biofouling threats, whether or not Oregon needs more

specific regs, which agency or program is best aligned for addressing commercial/maritime biofouling pathways, and whether Oregon possesses sufficient incident command structure for responding to marine biofouling invasive species threats.

**Decision Item:** The Council supports re-formation of a Shipping Transport of AIS Task Force in consideration of DEQ to increase biofouling authority on commercial vessels. It voted to form a committee, comprised of Rian Hooff, Mark Sytsma, Dan Hilburn, and Rick Boatner, to write a recommendation for Senator Dingfelder to consider carrying forward in 2013. The letter would acknowledge that the Council is not an expert in this arena. A final product will be shared at the November 2012 summit.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Projects Ongoing in Oregon**—Glenn Dolphin and Rick Boatner discussed the numerous aquatic invasive species projects ongoing in Oregon, including watercraft inspection stations.

The Marine Board will be meeting with groups of counties to spend time talking about Marine Board programs. The Marine Board would like to see more consistent enforcement of fines relative to AIS permits. In 2011, there were 187 enforcement citations. In the first 5 months of 2012, there have been 298 enforcement citations.

The first boat wash station targeting aquatic vegetation will be installed at 10 Mile Lake in Coos County Park. The station will be paid for with AIS program dedicated funding as well as funds from Coos County Park and the US Forest Service.

Glenn provided a list of projects his agency funded with \$300,000 in discretionary funding from the AIS permit program. These include:

Projects to be funded by Marine Board AIS Prevention Program Funds 2012-2014

Project Name	Budget
Boat Ramp Monitoring for NZ Mudsnaills	\$24,849
Literature Review and Analysis of Coastal Invasions	\$21,347
Containment Strategies for Eurasian Watermilfoil	\$17,278
Oregon Citizen Lake Watch Program	\$62,053
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring	\$43,316
Tenmile Lake Boat Wash Effectiveness Monitoring	\$30,932
Atlas of Oregon Lakes AIS Interface	\$8,710
iMapInvasives database annual maintenance costs	\$33,600
Coastal scientific diver support for marine AIS surveys	\$18,987
Tenmile Lake Boat Wash Facility - Coos County	\$60,000
<b>Total AIS Funds</b>	<b>\$321,072</b>

Rick and Glenn noted they were approached by the Oregon Bass Federation (OBF) regarding concern that a boat inspection station can only be operated by a uniformed individual of the state (ODA, Marine Board, or ODFW). OBF is concerned that a lake will be closed because there aren't enough

state staff to service check stations. This led to a discussion about volunteer boat ramp inspectors, but the sticking point is certification.

**Decision Item:** Rick, Glenn, and Mark Sytsma will call Charles Lang (OBF Director) on the phone to discuss the possibility of developing a volunteer boat ramp inspector program modeled after the Coast Guard Boat Auxiliary Inspection Station program.

**Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)—Bentgrass in Oregon**—There was an informational item to discuss the issue of herbicide-resistant bentgrass, *Agrostis stolonifera*, in eastern Oregon. A recent study [Attachment C] described the potential effects of escaped transgenic creeping bentgrass. This study shows that in Central Oregon wetland communities are at particular risk of invasion by creeping bentgrass and by redtop, *Agrostis gigantea*. Redtop can cross-pollinate with creeping bentgrass potentially picking up the glyphosate herbicide resistance gene. Currently, control of these invasive grasses principally relies on herbicides containing glyphosate. US Department of Agriculture representatives provided background information [Addendum 3] on the regulatory process that exists for genetically modified organisms.

Dan Hilburn commented that ODA has learned some lessons over the years about GMOS. He noted that the size of any GMO trial is an important consideration relative to its potential control. He also noted that ODA had always been neutral about GMO bentgrass, but is now opposed to deregulation of GMO bentgrass.

**State of the State**—A few of the state and federal agency representatives talked about the status of their program budgets relative to invasive species. The federal agencies will be under a continuing resolution for quite some time. It was noted that funding for state ANS plans through the USFWS may make it through the federal budget process.

**Invasive Species Control Account (ISCA)**—The Council addressed ODA's recent request to tap into the ISCA to pay for Japanese beetle control in the state.

**Decision Item:** The Council unanimously declared an emergency and approved releasing a maximum of \$32,000 from the Invasive Species Control Account to eradicate Japanese beetle infestations in Oregon. Lisa will inform Richard Whitman at the Governor's office of the decision. Lisa will set up a meeting with Helmuth Rogg (ODA), Jeff Stone, the Port of Portland and FedEx to explore additional contributions to obtain the needed \$96,000 for the project. There will be a conference call with Council members in three weeks to discuss progress in obtaining other funding.

#### **Other Council Business**

- Next meeting date and location—September 11-12, 2012 at Portland State University.