

New York Invasive Species Advisory Committee

Annual Report

2012

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) prepared a 2012 work plan that outlined objectives for the year. A primary focus was to re-engage the membership, work more closely with the Invasive Species Council (ISC), and identify opportunities for the ISAC to help advance invasive species initiatives in New York. The ISAC members are pleased to report on their collaboration on the following activities in 2012:

MEETINGS

- Hold quarterly meetings: two in person, two calls
 - o *Held quarterly meetings March 27, June 20, September 25, and December 10.*
 - o *Sustained an average annual participation of 19 members or 76%.*
- 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 programming, activities and needs: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Department of Environmental Conservation; Department of Agriculture and Markets; and, Department of Transportation.*
 - o *Invited partners and specialists to present on invasive species programming: NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse, NY Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program, and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.*

STRUCTURE

- Evaluate member status, fill vacancies, and update member contact information
 - o *Evaluated member status, filled vacancies, updated contact information, and approved full roster of member representatives, which was accepted by the ISC.*
- Update and finalize NY Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Guidance Document
 - o *Updated, finalized, and approved Guidance Document, which was accepted by the ISC.*

INITIATIVES

- Form Education and Outreach Committee, and, in collaboration with NYIS.INFO, CCE staff, and ISC, identify statewide gaps and submit recommendations for priority needs
 - o *The ISAC identified education as a top priority. It formed a subcommittee; however, the subcommittee Chair stepped down due to limited time to lead the group. In the meantime, ISAC requested presentations from ISC agencies, partners, and special*

guests to learn about education initiatives underway, program gaps, and opportunities to build a stronger program. The ISAC committed to providing future recommendations to the ISC for improvements on educational programming.

- Provide guidance to Draft Legislation, as needed/requested
 - o *The Invasive Species Prevention Act (ISPA) was signed into law in July, and ISAC is involved in various aspects of its implementation.*
- Provide guidance to OISC, as needed/requested, eg. 5 Year Work Plan
 - o *ISAC members provided comments to the Office of Invasive Species Coordination (OISC) regarding its Work Plan. ISAC also provided feedback to OISC regarding the implementation of the ISPA.*
- Identify priority pathways to minimize invasive species spread and submit recommended action steps to the Invasive Species Council (ISC)
 - o *The ISAC developed and distributed a questionnaire to canvass ISAC members about priorities. Several pathways received equal ranking: 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. ISAC presented results to the ISC and will collaborate on recommendations for action steps to address priority pathways.*
- Respond to ISC directives, as needed/requested
 - o *The ISC requested that the ISAC provide them with priority species, pathways, and actions to inform ISC priorities. The ISAC developed and distributed a questionnaire canvassing members and presented recommendations to the Council, which included a) Continue to build the NYS program as outlined in the Task Force Recommendations, including restoring staffing and funding b) Identify top pathways c) Develop a NYS Invasive Species Management Plan d) Complete risk-based assessments for plant and animal species e) Improve inter-agency collaborations f) Focus efforts on preventing new invasive species from establishing in NY and g) Focus resources on species where it can make a significant difference.*
- Develop recommendations to be considered by the Council
 - o *The ISAC presented recommendations on priorities to the Council (see bullet above).*
 - o *The ISAC discussed the socio-economic and regulatory ranking process and submitted a memo to the ISC ensuring that the process was statistically valid.*
 - o *The ISAC discussed submitting recommendations for improvements in educational programming.*
- Play a leadership role in developing the NYS invasive species list
 - o *ISAC members self-selected to participate on the ISPA Assessment Team. The full ISAC is also responsible for reviewing preliminary assessment and regulatory recommendations.*
- Evaluate Voluntary Codes of Conduct for adoption by ISAC member organizations
 - o *No progress was made to develop ISAC Codes of Conduct.*

COMMUNICATION

- Set 2012 Objectives and prepare 1-2 page summary of outcomes at year end
 - o *Developed the first ISAC work plan and completed the first ISAC annual report.*
- Inform ISAC members about invasive species related news
 - o *Distributed invasive species news via the ISAC Listserve, as appropriate.*
- Participate in ISC meetings and convey ISAC recommendations to Office of Invasive Species Coordination, Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the NY Invasive Species Council
 - o *Participated in the 3 ISC meetings held in 2012 and presented an ISAC report at each meeting.*
- Participate in monthly PRISM calls, as able / appropriate
 - o *Distributed monthly PRISM call info to the ISAC Listserve.*
- Create and utilize ISAC Listserve
 - o *Created ISAC Listserve that serves as the primary source 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.*
- Identify appropriate press opportunities
 - o *No press opportunities were identified or pursued in 2012.*

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee voted to approve the 2012 Annual Report on 12/10/2012.