

**CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CISAC) MEETING**  
**Auditorium, CDFA BUILDING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 17, 2013

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on July 17, 2013 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Victoria Brandon.

**CISAC Members Present:**

Bob Atkins, Victoria Brandon, Karen Buhr, Jim Cranney, Joseph DiTomaso, Larry Godfrey, Jay Goldsmith, Vince Guise, Doug Johnson, Jeanne Merrill, John Randall, Kristina Schierenbeck, Robin Wall, Helene Wright

**CISAC Members Absent:**

Christiana Conser, Richard Forster, Andrea Fox, Marcy Martin, David Pattison, Betsy Peterson, Sheri Smith,

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff Present:**

David Pegos, Dean Kelch, Austin Webster

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Staff Present:**

Susan Ellis, Lisa Corvington

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Staff Present:**

Tom Smith

**STAFF UPDATES**

- Susan Ellis: the five-year revision of the state's aquatic invasive species plan is moving forward. A draft plan will be available in mid-September, and will be distributed to CISAC members for review at the next meeting.
- Tom Smith: he hopes to attend our meetings from now on. Additional gold-spotted oak borer finds are coming from Riverside County, where eradication may no longer be possible.
- David Pegos: CDFA held a public meeting on LBAM in Oceanside with an invitation list of 1000 people of whom three attended. The Firewood Task Force has a "Buy It Where You Burn It" booth at the State Fair

**CISAC MEMBER UPDATES**

- Kristina Schierenbeck: European gypsy moths have been found in Butte County
- Doug Johnson: Cal-IPC has received a Wildlife Conservation Board grant for regional planning, with the objective of setting landscape level priorities on weed control
- Helene Wright: an emergency LBAM program has been instituted in San Diego County, where eradication may be possible. LBAM has also been found in Orange County, where it probably won't be possible. Several different fruit flies have been

found, with no quarantines as of now. Six ACP have been found in the restricted area in Tulare County

- Jay Goldsmith: the Department of the Interior is working on clarifying the metrics it is using to track progress made through its invasive plant management programs. The intent is to measure not just invasive plant populations treated, but those successfully controlled and maintained.
- Vince Guise: a Contra Costa nursery received a shipment that contained two citrus trees in violation of ACP quarantine; a \$2500 fine is proposed. CACASA is working with CDFA on a new 3162 section of Ag code that would define pest ratings and mitigating actions. Hopefully will get law in place to facilitate working with USDA partners.
- Bob Atkins: an ACP parasitic wasp is being released in large numbers, with a second parasite under investigation. Residential treatments against ACP in San Diego County have been discontinued since they are no longer practicable given the population size. Although so far Huanglongbing has been found on only one property, it has a long period of dormancy and spreads readily, so it may already have spread to neighboring counties.
- Doug Johnson: the Office of Planning and Research is undertaking a revision of CEQA guidelines, with comments accepted until August 30, 2013. Question: can CISAC submit comments based on section PE-10 of the Strategic Framework (“Include invasive species prevention in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance”). General agreement that this would be appropriate and desirable, but it’s unclear whether the committee can authorize the executive committee to proceed since the item does not appear on the agenda. By consensus the committee agreed that the chair did not need authorization to submit a letter restricted to pointing out the relevant Framework section. It was also agreed that future agendas would contain a provision for emergency action when something of importance comes up too late to be included on the agenda. In the meantime, CISAC members and their organizations who may want to submit comments can find out details at [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR\\_SOI07012013.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_SOI07012013.pdf)
- Doug Johnson: the California Invasive and Noxious Plant Committee is discussing landscape level strategies, and circulating a draft proposal for comments
- Victoria Brandon: in collaboration with two representatives from Nevada, Congressman Mike Thompson has introduced a bill (HR 1825) adding quagga mussels to the Lacey Act. This would provide federal agencies with additional powers to prevent its spread, for example at Lake Mead. Congressman Thompson has also initiated a bipartisan Invasive Species Caucus in the House

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**(a) “Know Before You Go” (“Don’t Pack a Pest”)**, on Florida’s outreach program directed at international travelers. Presented by Florida Public Information Director Denise Fiber. This program was developed in partnership between the US Department of Agriculture, US Customs & Border Protection, The Florida Dept of Agriculture, and Miami/Dade County. With 15 airports, 13 ports, and an immense amount of trade and tourism, the state of Florida is under siege. A great many invasive species have entered the state in recent years or are threatening to do so, with the Giant African Land Snail the most serious current crisis. The partners recognized the need to develop outreach and education directed

towards traveling public. The 2010 Farm Bill provided USDA funding for to create a cohesive program featuring agriculture detector dogs and building on an existing “Don’t Pack a Pest” video distributed through YouTube, TV stations, and agencies. Billboards were erected leading to the Miami airport, with 25 diorama signs inside donated by airport; there was lots of social media and a web page too. The campaign was launched with a press briefing that included elected officials, detector dogs and displays of intercepted items from luggage. CBP also aired the video at 20 of the busiest airports in the US, reaching 85 percent of international travelers, and starting in May 2012 American Airlines showed it on many of its flights, reaching an estimated four million passengers. The campaign is now moving on to other Caribbean countries: Jamaica erected more than 60 signs at airports and cruise port and a partnership with the Dominican Republic, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico is under way. The objective is to “close the loop” by having passengers get the same message repeatedly: when they apply for a visa, drive to the airport, and on arrival, when they will see working detector dogs too. In the departure area of cruise ports “Know Before You Go” signs are placed in proximity to amnesty cans.

**(b) Wildlife smuggling update** presented by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Agents Derek Roy and Nicholas Call. With the mission of protecting and conserving living marine resources and their natural habitats, NOAA’s 150 agents are responsible for enforcing more than 35 federal statutes and responsible for 85,000 miles of coastline containing 13 national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments. The Lacey Act provides enforcement authority against wildlife smuggling. Violations with a monetary value up to \$350 are subject to misdemeanor prosecution with penalties up to a \$10,000 fine and one year in prison; violations over \$350 are felonies with a \$20,000 maximum fine and 5 years in prison. False labeling is a punishable offence. For example, large quantities of Vietnamese farm raised catfish are imported as frozen fillets, and often falsified as coming from more desirable species such as grouper. The country of origin is also sometimes mislabeled in order to avoid duties applicable to certain countries. NOAA has a lab to analyze DNA and conduct physical comparisons Now that shark fins have been banned in California they are often labeled “dried fish.”

Trafficking in wildlife protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and/or Endangered Species Act is also banned outright. These include items such as whale parts, sealskin clothing, seal oil pills, and turtle shells. Many such items are sold by antique dealers and on line too: possession and sale is forbidden unless the item has been owned since before protective legislation went into effect, and has been registered as such. Individuals wishing to import wild animals have to fill out a declaration of species and country of origin; failure to declare is a violation of the Lacey Act. Anyone suspecting violations should call NOAA’s 24 hour hotline number, 800 853 1964:

Susan Ellis: state regulation of the pet trade could be a future agenda item. For example, live sharks are imported for use in aquariums. Some species are invasive and some are protected.

**(c) Expanding invasive plant lists**, presented by CDFA botanist Dean Kelch. The environmental (along with agricultural) effect of weeds is a part of the meaning of invasive. An explicit pest risk analysis model is needed to supplement expert judgment. For example, spotted knapweed is an obvious weed as is Yellow Star Thistle. In contrast a plant like

Spanish mercury that is often found in containers of cultivated plants and seemed to be spread by mulch, hasn't gotten loose yet and may or may not eventually become invasive. A good model could help determine the level of risk. Modeling can also predict the invasiveness of woody plants, that are harder to predict because they reproduce and spread slowly.

The USDA is developing a weed screening tool based on an Australian model that is being tested on known invasives: it's extremely good at predicting major invasive weeds but less good at identifying non-invasives. An alternative very rigorous USDA model with high accuracy at finding non-invasives, but it takes a lab worker more than a week to evaluate one plant. Plant Right has developed a somewhat less rigorous model designed to evaluate plants in nursery trade that seems to demonstrate very high predictability. CDFA's simpler pest risk analysis is designed for all pests, not just plants: it considers adaptability to the California climate, the host range, pest dispersal potential, economic impact, and environmental impact, with no explicit question about whether an organism has been known to become invasive in other regions.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the May 24 2012 were still not available. Bob Atkins moved and Joe DiTomaso seconded to approve the April 17 2013 minutes as amended. All in favor, none opposed.

**Approval of final report on Strategic Framework Implementation:** Bob Atkins moved and Joe DiTomaso seconded to approve the final report, and to inform the ISCC that the committee had done so. The draft report was presented to Secretaries Ross and Laird in June. All in favor, none opposed.

### **WORKSHOP**

**Strategic Framework Revision.** After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that Framework revision was premature at this time, and should be readdressed some time next year. At this point it would be more useful to prioritize the actions recommended for CISAC in the recently completed Framework Implementation Report. All members will come to the next (October 16) meeting prepared to discuss this subject in breakout working groups.

### **UPDATES**

**Farmers Market Brochure.** Victoria Brandon reported that the grant-funded project has been completed, and distributed the survey that was its final component. Additional brochures and posters are still available in some farmers markets, and any leftover grant funding was used to print additional

**Legislative Update.** Austin Webster provided a list of bills that CDFA is tracking, some of them related to invasive species. He offered to keep track of pending federal legislation as well, and asked committee member to inform him about bills (state and federal) that they are tracking.

**21st Century Pest Management Symposia.** David Pegos described the very successful symposium on Invasion Biology that was held in Oakland on June 5. It focused on plants, aquatics, and vertebrates, with keynote speaker Dr. Peter Raven, emeritus director of the

Missouri Botanical Garden. Another Invasion Biology session featuring insects, nematodes, and diseases will be held in late September or early October, probably in Sacramento.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none offered

**Next meeting:** The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on October 16, 2013, in Sacramento.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM

Minutes taken by CISAC Chair Victoria Brandon with assistance from Doug Johnson, Robin Wall, and Jay Goldsmith

Approved by Secretary Christiana Conser