

## Nebraska Invasive Species Council Meeting Notes

5/13/21

- I. Dr. Jonathan Spurgeon, presented an overview of UNL Coop Invasive Carp Research Projects that are underway
- II. Coordinator Updates-See attached slides
- III. Invasive Species Research Priorities
  - a. Kristopher Stahr (NE Game and Parks) stated that surveys for aquatic invasive plants is a priority need. Also funds are needed to pay for chemicals to treat infestations that are found.
- IV. Council Member Updates
  - a. Mitch Coffin (NE Dept. of Ag.): Weed inspectors are following up on inspections. The riparian grant has \$2.7 million. 2 million of that are federal funds that can't be used for state projects. That left \$706,000 for grants for riparian invasive plant control projects.
  - b. Kristopher Stahr (NE Game and Parks): hiring 7 inspectors to conduct watercraft inspections and conduct surveys. He has submitted samples for analysis to determine if they are hybrid watermilfoil (an invasive aquatic species). He is buying herbicide to treat iron horse lake where a rehabilitation project is underway. Marbled crayfish have been found in 36 states. They are a cloning species of invasive crayfish that were being sold on ebay. 1 crayfish was found in Nebraska.
  - c. Cindy (APHIS): grasshopper program is underway. Japanese beetles are at the Lincoln and Omaha airports for monitoring. She will be on duty in Puerto Rico coming up for CITSI
  - d. Melissa Panella (NE Game and Parks): Recovering America's Wildlife Act has 4 new cosponsors. The full vote on this legislation could occur this summer. IFWIF RFP=infrastructure funds passed last year. \$85 million is available nationally for states and tribes to apply for. NGPC is putting together budgets currently for those funds. Preproposals are due June 2<sup>nd</sup>. NIFWIF due July 25<sup>th</sup>.



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## NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL WEBSITE PLANNED UPDATES

- [NISC Website](#)
- Planned updates:
  - Member Bios & photos
  - Change to scrolling style on entire website



## NEW COUNCIL LOGO!



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## ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE



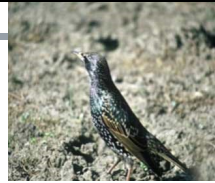
- HOST PLANTS
  - Prefers maple, willow, elm, horsechestnut and birch, but feeds on 13 different genera of hardwoods.
- PATHWAY OF INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD
  - Introduced from Asia. First found in New York in 1996. Spreads through the movement of wood products and as hitchhikers on vehicles or in cargo.
- SYMPTOMS
  - Larval galleries under the bark, top dieback and out of season yellowing of leaves. Dime-sized (1/4" or larger), perfectly round exit holes in the tree. Frass and sap may be found at exit holes.

## CHYTRID FUNGUS



- *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
- Many worldwide amphibian population declines and mass mortality events have been attributed a fungal infection chytridiomycosis (chytrid) caused by the fungal zoospore *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. The fungus infects amphibians in their keratin containing skin layers. Frog tadpoles have keratinized mouthparts which can become infected. As amphibians grow they develop more keratinized tissues which can become infected and cause skin to become thickened and slough off. Amphibians use their skin for respiration; this makes it difficult for them to absorb water and important salts causing their heart to stop. The fungus also damages the nervous system, affecting the amphibian's behavior.

## STARLING



- Considered pests because of the problems they cause, especially at livestock facilities and near urban roosts. They may selectively eat the high-protein supplements that are often added to livestock rations. They were recently found to damage ripening corn. Also fungal respiratory disease histoplasmosis can form in the soil beneath their nest. The disease becomes airborne in dry weather. This is usually mild but in rare cases has been known to cause blindness and/or death.

## SILVER CARP



- This is a very aggressive fish that can consume up to half their body weight in phytoplankton and detritus. They out-compete native fish populations for resources with their aggressive behaviors and large consumption of plankton. Native species of mussels, larvae fish, and adult fish such as the paddlefish are at greatest risk of being out-competed because of a proven diet overlap. They are known for their ability to jump several feet out of the water when disturbed by boaters. They are a danger to people due to collisions boats of fishermen and injuring people by jumping into them.

## YELLOW FLAG IRIS



- Forms dense monoculture stands over very large areas, crowding out other species, restricting water movement. The plant is toxic to animals and fish. Cattle have been shown to be effective to control the plant in early growth stage with no noticeable effects to the cattle.

## RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT (RAWA) UPDATE

**Senate Bill: Passed out of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee markup 4/7/22 with no wording changes**

- **Next Floor votes on RAWA**

\$17 million (not finalized) annually for At Risk Species in NGPC's State Wildlife Grant

- Nebraska Legacy Plan
- Non-game species mainly
- Senate voted on it yesterday

## INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- **Compile lists of regulated species**
- **Identify Knowledge Gaps**
- **Determine Decision Making Process**
  - What species do we need to research
  - What research is need for invasive species management

## NISC MEMBER UPDATES

- Invasive Species Initiatives Including:
  - Prevention
  - Research
  - Management
  - Legislation/Regulations
- Public Comments

## OUTREACH MATERIALS



## PLANNING NEEDS



- UNL Centers to involve in the conferences
- Field Trips
- Special Sessions
- Topics to highlight at conference