

South Carolina Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
9:00 A.M., November 30, 2006
Magnolia Room
Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden
500 Wildlife Parkway, Columbia, SC

Meeting Minutes

<u>No.</u>	<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
1.	Tom Abrahamsen	USGS South Carolina Water Science Center	tabraham@usgs.gov
2.	Wayne Boykin	National Park Service	wayne_Boykin@nps.gov
3.	Stephen Compton	Department of Plant Industry	scompto@CLEMSON.EDU
4.	Sudie Dares	SC Dept. of Agriculture -NRCS	sudie.dares@sc.usda.gov
5.	Steve de Kozlowski	SC Department of Natural Resources	dekozlowskis@dnr.sc.gov
6.	Mary G. Douglass	US Department of Agriculture, APHIS	Mary.g.douglass@aphis.usda.gov
7.	Jeannie Eidson	DHEC	eidsonjp@dhec.sc.gov
8.	Ed EuDaly	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ed_eudaly@fws.gov
9.	Larry Feller	SC Landscape Association	larry.feller@syngenta.com
10.	Ken Glenn	US Dept. of Agriculture - APHIS- PPQ	William.k.glenn@aphis.usda.gov
11.	Mike Hook	SC Department of Natural Resources	HookP@dnr.sc.gov
12.	David Knott	Marine Resources Research Institute- Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center	KnottD@dnr.sc.gov
13.	Billy Lempeis	SC State Ports Authority	BLempeis@SCSPA.com
14.	Ken Manuel	Duke Energy- Lake Services Environmental Ctr.	kmanuel@duke-energy.com
15.	Keith Nell	Port of Charleston	knell@scspa.com
16.	Chris Page	SC Department of Natural Resources	PageC@dnr.sc.gov
17.	Lynn Quattro	SC Department of Natural Resources	QuattroL@dnr.sc.gov
18.	Jennifer Rawlings	Riverbanks Zoo and Garden	jrawlings@riverbanks.org
19.	Denise Sanger	SC Sea Grant Consortium	denise.sanger@scseagrant.org
20.	Alan Shirey	US Army Corps of Engineers	Alan.D.Shirey@sac.usace.army.mil
21.	Kelly Jo Swygert	SC Department of Transportation	swygertkj@scdot.org
22.	Chris Thomason	SC Dept. of Natural Resources	ThomasonC@dnr.sc.gov
23.	Dick Yetter	USDA	dick.yetter@sc.usda.gov

1. Call To Order

Steve de Kozlowski, Chief, Environmental Conservation Section, SCDNR welcomed the task force and thanked Jennifer Rawlings for hosting the day's meeting.

Lynn Quattro gave a brief presentation on the SCDNR's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

2. How Riverbanks Zoo and the South Carolina Aquarium keep the critters from getting out.

Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden staff: Jennifer Rawlings, Senior Aquarist; Chris Gentile, Director of Education and Ed Diebold, Director of Animal Collections gave presentations.

Jennifer Rawlings began with a PowerPoint presentation entitled: *"What are Zoos and Aquariums Doing to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species Introduction?"*

The Riverbanks Zoo, as a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), is charged with making every effort to ensure that sound management practices are used in day to day operations. The practices involve self regulation, control and disinfection of wastewater, various disinfection protocols new or existing fauna or flora, quarantine of species, and intentional releases for plants or animals back into their native territory. All of these practices involve stewardship of not only the collections but of the states natural wildlife and flora.

According to AZA Policy on Non-Native Invasive Species; members should make every effort to ensure sound management practices, assess potential risks, and partner with federal, state, and local agencies. Members also participate in activities linked to ANS introductions with self regulation being the key.

Riverbanks Zoo regulates waste water from life support systems or displays. They use disinfection protocols in which all tools are disinfected between tank use and between uses here and in the field. They employ quarantine measures and all intentional releases are done only with native, disease free fish.

Chris Gentile, Director of Education at Riverbanks gave a brief presentation on the educational programs offered at the zoo. Also included in this was a Teacher/educator packet which was offered to various school and education groups outlining Invasive species.

Ed Diebold stated in a presentation entitled "AZA Programs" that over 210 accredited zoos and aquariums, 5 in South Carolina, and over 8000 individual members are members of AZA. Accreditation means *official recognition and approval of a zoo or aquarium by a group of experts*, called the AZA Accreditation Commission, that carefully examines each zoo or aquarium that applies for AZA membership. AZA

accreditation is a rigorous process that each institution must undergo every five years. Only those zoos and aquariums that meet our high standards can become members of AZA. Species-level animal management programs included in AZA certification are population management plans, survival plans, and controlled managed breeding programs to eliminate extinction.

Jason Crichton, of the South Carolina Aquarium gave a presentation. ????????

3. Review, discuss, and finalize details of first draft of Introduction, Problem Description, and Agency authorities and programs (September homework assignment)

Steve was pleased with the number of comments already received by e-mail. The simplest way to discuss and make changes to the draft is to go through the draft plan chapter by chapter. A comment was made concerning the National Park Service. The question arose; should they be included and if so we need to get a write up done for them? Discussion involved rewriting the definition of an “aquatic invasive species” on page 8 and 9. It was decided that the proper wording should be: “Many non-native and non-indigenous species can coexist with native species and may be beneficial. These species typically do not reproduce rapidly or develop large populations. For the purposes of this plan the term “aquatic invasive species” refers to nonindigenous species that live most or all of their lives in freshwater or marine/estuarine environments and have the potential to adversely effect ecological health or economic activity.”

Comments made referring to the Species Introductions section concluded that we need more information about the USGS database and that the figures need to be consistent.

An AVM write up should be added to Hydrilla in the Freshwater Plants section and a Fishes title should be added under Freshwater Animals. More write ups should be included on Swamp eel, Northern Snakehead and Asian Carps. Questions also arose concerning whether the channeled apple snail should be included in plan.

Lynn Quattro volunteered to provide copy for the section on crustaceans, reptiles and amphibians and David Knott was going to provide the entire Marine section including plants and animals.

The word understanding was added to the first sentence of the Pathways of Introductions Section. Lion fish should be added to Aquarium and Pet Releases.

Boater registration data should be added to the Hitchhikers section and an Others section should be developed to include some of the various other pathways into the section. Also important to the issue of pathways is the role that natural processes play in this arena.

SCDHEC should be added to the write ups for state entities and all lists of flora and fauna should be clearly identified as to what they are and what that means.

4. Other business

a. Homework assignments

Turn in any additional information within two weeks.

Review and be ready to discuss management objectives.

b. Next meeting

- Location – Charleston
- Specific – DNR Sea grant
- Speaker – Marilyn O’Leary, SARP – ANS Coordinator

5. Adjourn for Lunch

Adjourned for lunch at 12:30

6. Behind the Scenes Tour of Zoo and Gardens

Attendees joined in a behind the scene tour of the Aquarium.