

MAPAIS Spring 2024 Meeting

April 10th & April 11th, 2024

EPA'S Chesapeake Bay Program Office
1750 Forest Drive, Suite 130
Annapolis, MD 21401

DAY 1- Wednesday, April 10th, 10:00-2:30 ET

DAY 1 ATTENDEES:

- Aaron Henning, SRBC
- Aby Bezruczyk, LIISMA
- Bailey Robertory, CRC
- Bill Jacobs, LIISMA
- Branson Williams, MDNR
- Bryan Brown, Virginia Tech
- Chris Smith, NJ DEP
- Dede Lawal, CRC
- Evangeline Sawyers, MDNR
- Heather Desko, NJWFA
- Ian Pflingsten, USGS
- Jay Kilian, MDNR
- Jenny Carney, SERC
- Joseph Bilinski, NJ DEP
- Julie Lockwood, Rutgers University
- Katie Zipfel, WVDNR
- Katlyn Fuentes, CRC
- Kris Abell, PA DA
- Mark Lewandowski, MDNR
- Matt Shank, PA DEP
- Mike Allen, MD Sea Grant
- Mike Steiger, DNREC
- Michele L Tremblay, naturesource
- communications
- Rob Emens, NC DEQ
- Sara Mirabilio, NC Sea Grant
- Sara Stahlman, PA Sea Grant
- Sarah Niles Whitney, PSU
- Sean Hartzell, PFBC
- Steven Pearson, NY DEC
- Susan Pasko, USFWS
- Tania Siemens, OSU
- Tim Ellis, NC DEQ

Amendments on 12/11/2024:

- **There was significant discussion about fiscal agent transition that was not captured within the original meeting minutes.**
 - **Heather Desko's position was changed from Raritan Basin to NJWFA.**
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10:00 – CALL TO ORDER

Presenters: Steven Pearson (Panel Chair, NY DEC), Rob Emens (Panel Vice-Chair, NC DEQ), Katlyn Fuentes (Panel Coordinator, CRC)

- Welcome and roll call by jurisdiction
- **COMINGS/GOINGS:**
 - o Bryan Brown – new VA Academic Representative from VA Tech
 - o Greg Shriver – new DE Academic Representative from University of Delaware
 - o Bailey Robertory – new Alternate Representative for the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - o Edna Stetzar – no longer Primary Representative for DE, Mike Steiger has moved to Primary and Edna is now Alternate

- o Katlyn Fuentes – stepping down from Panel Coordinator position effective 07/01, a new Coordinator will be brought on in August or September of this year.

10:10 – OLD BUSINESS:

Presenters: Steven Pearson (Panel Chair, NY DEC), Rob Emens (Panel Vice-Chair, NC DEQ), Katlyn Fuentes (Panel Coordinator, CRC)

- **REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA FOR SPRING 2024 MEETING**
 - o Motion: Mike Allen
 - o Seconded: Ian Pfungsten
 - o No discussion, all in favor, none opposed
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE FALL 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** *The meeting minutes document that was reviewed and appointed were for the MAPAIS-specific portion of the Fall Meeting. GSARP is finalizing the minutes from the rest of the meeting. These two documents will be combined and posted to the webpage later.*
 - o Motion: Bailey Robertory
 - o Seconded: Mike Allen
 - o All in favor, none opposed
- **STATUS OF ANNUAL REPORTS FROM STATES WITH ACTIVE PLANS:** This is an ongoing conversation for the panel - both NY and PA have reports uploaded but no other states
 - o **Jay Killian:** I have in my possession 3 years' worth of final reports that are ready to share.
 - o **ACTION: Jay will send the PDFs to Katlyn and she will add them to the website.**
- **FOLLOW UP FROM FALL 2024 MEETING:**
 - o Panel species of interest list has been uploaded to the website:
https://www.midatlanticpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/mapais_rmd.html
- **MDNR BAIT TRADE SURVEY:**
 - o **Jay Killian:** This report has received final approval and review. However, this report can only be sent directly to panel members, and not posted to the website as there isn't yet an official MDNR number.
 - o **ACTION: Jay will send this report to Katlyn to distribute.**

10:30 – BUDGET AND FUNDED PROJECT UPDATES:

Presenters: Michele L Tremblay (naturesource communications, current panel fiscal agent) and Mike Allen (MD Sea Grant, past fiscal agent)

- **Mike Allen** provided updates on outstanding budget items
- **Steven Pearson:** What are the remaining funds with MD Sea Grant?
 - o **Mike Allen:** **Approximately \$4,000.** The remaining funds can be used for website maintenance, MAPAIS travel expenses, or printing additional copies of the field guide.
 - o **Katlyn Fuentes:** We recently found out that we didn't have permission for one of the photos included in the field guide. The .pdf of the field guide has been temporarily removed from the MAPAIS website. Would there be a copyright issue if we printed new ones?
 - o **Sarah Stahlman:** I would hesitate to print old guides when we're expecting new guide by the end of summer.
 - o **Mike Allen:** Alternatively, we can extend funds to voting members of the Panel to cover costs to attend and represent the panel at the upcoming ANSTF meeting in New York on May 7th-9th, 2024.

- **Heather Desko:** I'm already attending but would appreciate being reimbursed.
- **ACTION: Mike will connect with Heather.**
- **Rob Emens:** If we fund a project does it have to be completed by the August date?
 - **Mike Allen:** Yes, it must be completed before that.

10:45 – NEW BUSINESS

- **MAPAIS MEMBERSHIP & VACANCIES**
 - Currently missing representatives from DC (academic and jurisdictional), VA (jurisdictional), and WV (Alternate rep)
 - There is an interest in developing an ad hoc committee to help identify interested parties to fill gaps in panel membership
 - **Steven Pearson** made a call for volunteers for this committee
 - **Bryan Brown, Bailey Robortory, Steven Pearson, and Rob Emens volunteered**
 - **ACTION: Steven will reach out with next steps.**
 - **ACTION: If you are interested in participating in this ad hoc committee and/or if you have recommendations for new members, please contact Panel Leadership.**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANSTF: Rob Emens (NC DEQ)**
 - **Steven Pearson:** Recommendations in the past included a need for funds to support programs, but that's not in their capacity.
 - The Western Regional Panel is seeking support from other panels to sign onto their proposal asking for an increase funding due to inflation.
 - **Rob Emens** is not opposed to MAPAIS signing but would prefer to have a specific amount that can be justified.
 - **Mike Allen** supports this as well because there is a need for this funding with the increase in grant proposals.
 - **Michele L Tremblay:** Don't know if specific amount will help but asking for a specific action will likely form a committee to discuss panel needs.
 - **Steven Pearson** prefers to sign on to a proposal that's already in progress along with other panels.
 - **Ian Pflingsten:** Could we address the ANSFT subcommittee task force to help with this idea?
 - **Mike Allen:** Agreed that can be part of the recommendation.
- **FALL 2024 MEETING:**
 - The fall meeting will be a hybrid meeting with the in-person location most-likely at the USGS Leetown Research Laboratory in West Virginia. Panel Leadership will confirm availability for a conference space and send out a calendar hold soon.
- **MAPAIS FIELD GUIDE PRINTING: Sara Stahlman (PA Sea Grant)**
 - The Advisory Committee meets every month on the 4th Tuesday at 1pm, the next call is April 23rd.
 - The Committee is open to anyone who wants to join!
 - 30 new species are being considered and this list needs to be narrowed down to 5. Sara will be sending out a poll soon for folks to respond with their recommendations.
 - **ACTION: Panel Members will fill out the poll when it is distributed.**

11:10 – UPDATE: MID-ATLANTIC REGION AIS INTRODUCTIONS AND NAS PROGRAM UPDATES:

Presenter: Ian Pflingsten (USGS)

- **LINK TO THE USGS NON-INDIGENOUS AQUATIC SPECIES DATABASE:** <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/viewer/>

[ANSTF_regions/MAPAIS.aspx](https://www.anstf.org/regions/MAPAIS.aspx)

- Ian provided a highlight overview of the new AIS observations in the Mid-Atlantic over the past 6 months.
- Since November 2023, 13 new nonindigenous aquatic species (NAS) have been reported in the mid-atlantic region: 8 plants, 3 herps, and 2 fishes

11:30 – BREAK/LUNCH

1:15 – PRESENTATION: MARIMO MOSS BALL - ZEBRA MUSSEL PATHWAY RAPID RESPONSE AFTER ACTION ASSESSMENT: LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE OIT INCIDENTS

Presenter: Tania Siemens, Sam Chan, and Robin Hopkins

- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact the following people:**
 - o Tania Siemens: tania.siemens@oregonstate.edu
 - o Sam Chan: Samuel.chan@oregonstate.edu
 - o Robin Hopkins: rlhopkins@willamette.edu

1:35 – PRESENTATION: WATER CHESTNUT MANAGEMENT IN NEW YORK

Presenter: Steven Pearson

- **PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:** Steven discussed several different water chestnut management options and their varying levels of success within the state of New York.
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact Steven Pearson (Steven.Pearson@dec.ny.gov).**

2:15 – MEETING WRAP UP & GENERAL COMMENTS:

- **OLD FIELD GUIDES:** Mike Steiger has a box of 20 old guides for those that need additional copies.

2:30 – DAY 1 MEETING ADJOURNED.

DAY 2 – Thursday, April 11th, 09:00-12:30 ET

ATTENDEES:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Aaron Henning, SRBC | • Katie Zipfel, WV DNR | Grant |
| • Bailey Robertory, CRC | • Katlyn Fuentes, CRC | • Mike Steiger, DNREC |
| • Chris Smith, NJ DEP | • Kris Abell, PA DA | • Rob Emens, NC DEQ |
| • Dede Lawal, CRC | • Mark Lewandowski, MDNR | • Sara Mirabilio, NC Sea Grant |
| • Heather Desko, Raritan Basin | • Matt Shank, PA DEP | • Sean Hartzell, PFBC |
| • Ian Pflingsten, USGS | • Michele L Tremblay, naturesource | • Steven Pearson, NY DEC |
| • Jay Killian, MDNR | communications | • Tim Ellis, NC DEQ |
| • Julie Lockwood, Rutgers University | • Mike Allen, MD Sea | |

09:00 – CALL TO ORDER

09:10 – REVIEW OF 2024 MAPAIS GRANT PROPOSALS

Presenter: Katlyn Fuentes

- In 2024, MAPAIS offered a small grants competition. The call for proposals was distributed via email and posted to the [MAPAIS website](#), and [the full solicitation can be viewed here](#). Proposals were due March 29, 2024.
- **PROGRAM PRIORITIES:** the following elements are of high priority to MAPAIS and were considered in proposal reviews:
 - Activities that will increase public understanding of and compliance with the prevention and control of AIS
 - Clear description of proposed actions, products, and other deliverables
 - Relevance to the mission and priorities of MAPAIS
 - Regional significance
 - Leveraging of other funding sources
- **MAPAIS Membership additionally identified the following as high priorities for the 2024 grant competition:**
 - Develop outreach and educational materials for classrooms and specific populations (K-Gray) to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS.
 - Conduct research on AIS issues in the region such as prevention, early detection, rapid response, emerging invasions, and how climate change may influence AIS.
 - Conduct innovative approaches to AIS control/eradication, or control/eradicate a high priority AIS population.
 - Continue to develop vector management strategies for states and the region.
 - Encourage states to develop and implement AIS management plans meeting the standards set by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- **COMPETITION:** The Panel received eight proposals for the 2024 small grants competition.
- **PROPOSAL REVIEW:** Each proposal was reviewed and scored by 5 reviewers. Reviewers were not permitted to review proposals from their own organizations and proposals were scored and ranked on the following criteria:
 - Technical Merit and Feasibility (40%)
 - Relevance, Outreach, and Impact (40%)
 - Applicant's Qualifications (20%)
- **DISCUSSION:** During this discussion, proposal summaries and reviewer comments were provided to Panel Members for consideration. Those in attendance who were not Panel Members or had conflicts of interest with the proposed projects were asked to leave the meeting and enter a "waiting room" while this discussion occurred. **Members voted and approved funding for three of the eight proposals, for an approximate total funding award of \$14,500.**
 - **ACTION: Panel Leadership has reached out to the project Technical Leads and will be moving forward with funding these projects. More details on these projects will become available soon.**

11:15 – MEMBER AND INTERESTED PARTY UPDATES

- **DELAWARE:**

- o **Northern Snakeheads:** NSH reports have slowed over the last few years as public perception has changed. Most of the spread seen is natural spread, with very few suspected instances of illegal stocking.
- o **Flathead Catfish:** Flathead Catfish research in Lums Pond is still ongoing. Otolith ages have shown individuals at age classes 1-10 years. It is confirmed that this is not a recent introduction. The dominate species found in stomach contents was Yellow Perch and White Perch, which is surprising because these two species are not the dominate species found in the pond.
- o **Blue Catfish:** Telemetry research in the Delaware River is ongoing. Regular movements into the C&D Canal are confirmed. This is important because the C&D Canal connects Delaware to Maryland. Detection data also confirms movement from Delaware waters into both New Jersey and Pennsylvania sections of the Delaware River. Cross jurisdiction communication will be important moving forward with tracking this recent range expansion.
- o **Delaware AIS Plan:** Plan is currently in review by the OTS of DNREC and the Governor's Office. The Plan will hopefully be signed and submitted for the Fall ANSTF meeting.
- **MARYLAND:**
 - o Aquatic Invasive Plants:
 - ***Trapa bispinosa*** (Contact: Mike Naylor, mike.naylor@maryland.gov): Efforts at control in 2023 were mixed. The primary population in Beaverdam Creek on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center proved to be too large to hand control despite a large, coordinated effort between DNR, BARC's staff and others. A beaver dam breaching device was installed in early 2024 in an effort to drain the pool. Control was successful in Greenbelt Lake and the small drainage pond near Greenbrook Drive. Control is likely to be needed at all of these locations again in 2024.
 - ***Trapa natans*** (Contact: Mike Naylor, mike.naylor@maryland.gov): High salinities in Chesapeake Bay in 2023 greatly suppressed the growth of *Trapa natans* in the Sassafras River, where ShoreRivers staff have taken over control operations. DNR staff spent several days controlling *T. natans* in the Bird River. A new patch of *T. natans* was reported in the lower Gunpowder River, all of which was removed by DNR staff. Significant effort will be needed again in all locations in 2024.
 - o Invasive Fishes:
 - **Blue catfish** (Contact: Branson Williams, branson.williams@maryland.gov): MDNR collaborated with Maryland Department of Environment to collect blue catfish tissue samples to examine mercury, PCBs, and other contaminants from multiple tidal rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Samples were delivered to MDE in late-2023 and results are expected during summer and fall 2024. The department partnered with stakeholders (e.g., Fish and Hunt MD, Maryland Department of Agriculture) to increase marketing efforts aimed at informing the public about invasive blue catfish and the need to increase removals, via development of outreach materials, support of events and tournaments that target fish for harvest, and other methods. The department is currently working with researchers at USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center to examine PFAS and other biocontaminants in blue catfish skin and carcasses within the tidal, freshwater Patuxent River. Other collaborative work includes the development of population projection models for the Patuxent River and the design of a pilot monitoring

program. Plans to develop a blue catfish workgroup to address management needs for the commercial, recreational, and other sectors are underway.

- **Flathead catfish (Contact: Branson Williams branson.williams@maryland.gov):** MDNR collaborated with Maryland Department of Environment to collect flathead catfish tissue samples to examine mercury, PCBs, and other contaminants from portions of the non-tidal Potomac River, and results are expected in summer and fall 2024. The department assisted Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to survey Conowingo Reservoir in summer 2023 to monitor populations of flathead catfish. That work will continue in 2024. A mark-recapture project to estimate population size of flathead catfish in portions of the non-tidal Potomac River will begin in summer 2024. Recreational angler groups are planning to host tournaments to target, and report tagged fish. In 2023, 2,186.5 lbs of flathead catfish were removed from the fish lifts at Conowingo Dam in their efforts to allow passage of anadromous fishes. Operations resumed in March 2024 and will continue through June 15, 2024.
- **Northern snakehead (Contact: Branson Williams branson.williams@maryland.gov):** MDNR collaborated with Maryland Department of Environment to collect northern snakehead samples to examine mercury, PCBs, and other contaminants from tidal, freshwater rivers and results are expected in summer and fall 2024. The department began efforts to detect populations of northern snakehead in freshwater impoundments using eDNA in summer 2023 and is awaiting results. The work will be continued in Spring/Summer 2024. In collaboration with USFWS Maryland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, projects to examine bowfishing efficacy continue in 2024 and biologists will serve as observers to measure catch for ten trips in spring. Ten for-hire bowfishers were contracted to log their catch and effort for the 2024 fishing season for all species harvested (which include northern snakehead and blue catfish) to better understand harvest rates. Collaborations between the department, Fish and Hunt Maryland, CCA, and others will continue efforts to inform the public about invasive northern snakehead and build recreational and commercial fisheries. In 2023, 5101 lbs of northern snakehead were removed from fish lifts at Conowingo Dam in efforts to allow passage of anadromous fishes. Operations in 2024 have begun and will run through June 15. A small grants initiative to support removal of invasive fishes (northern snakehead and blue catfish) is soliciting proposals through April 15, 2024. To date, over 520 proposals have been submitted.
- **Asian Swamp Eel (Contact: Jay Kilian jay.kilian@maryland.gov):** MDNR received a report of one deceased swamp eel found by a student at University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) along Pig Pen Pond on UMBC campus in February 2024. MDNR sent photos of the specimen to Dr. Leo Nico (retired USGS) who confirmed the identity as *Amphipnous cuchia* – a species that has been observed for sale in several Maryland seafood markets in recent years. MDNR has coordinated with UMBC faculty to conduct surveys of the pond and surrounding tributaries on April 12 to determine if there is an established population of swamp eels on the campus.
- o Maryland Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (Contact: Dr. Joseph Love joseph.love@maryland.gov)

- o MDNR submitted an updated revised version of the Maryland ANS Plan to USFWS for a preliminary review in March 2024
- o **STATE LAKE UPDATES:**
 - **Lake Habeeb:** Five treatment areas to control hydrilla at 4 sites totaling 8.5 acres and a quarter acre of American lotus. Three treatments to apply Sonar ONE[®] to 4 hydrilla location and apply Harpoon G[®] foliar spray on American lotus.
 - **Blairs Valley Lake:** Hydrilla control in twenty-six acre reservoir. Treat entire reservoir with Sonar AS[®] four times over the summer.
 - **Tuckahoe Lake:** Smartweed control in shoreline areas totaling 2.5 acres and small patches of parrotfeather. Apply Renovate3[®] foliar spray directly on target plants.
 - **Deep Creek Lake:** Hydrilla control at 15 locations, covering 60 total acres. Sonar One[®] being applied 4 times starting in June

● **NEW YORK:**

- o **MANAGEMENT:**
 - **European frogbit** distribution and management efforts have been increasing
 - **Water chestnut** management is occurring statewide □ manual, mechanical, and chemical treatments
 - ***Ludwigia peploides*** control in the Peconic River
 - *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
 - *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*
 - **Hydrilla**
 - Managed at several locations statewide: Cayuga Lake, Niagara River, Erie Canal, New Croton Reservoir
 - Post-treatment restoration efforts: Croton River, Erie Canal
 - Updating hydrilla management plan to guide next 10 years
 - **Round Goby**
 - Operational changes along Champlain Canal
 - Distribution surveys using electrofishing, trawling and Edna (present along Hudson River Albany – Newburgh)
 - **Northern snakehead**
 - Installed fish barrier along Delaware and Hudson Canal
 - Surveying Delaware River Basin in 2024 using eDNA
 - **AIS management plan being revised**
- o **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STEWARDS AND DECONTAMINATION:**
 - Watercraft inspection stewards and decontamination
 - Full-time DEC Biologist to manage watercraft inspection program
 - Hiring staff throughout the state through multiple programs (>200 stewards anticipated in 2024)
 - Planned stewards at >200 launches covered
- o **ENVIRONMENTAL DNA SURVEYS:**

- **Multiple species surveys (~ 40 species)**
 - Hudson River Estuary eDNA survey
 - Adirondack PRISM Survey
 - Erie Canal
- **Single species**
 - Round goby in Champlain Canal and lower Hudson between Newburgh and NYC
 - Northern snakehead in Delaware River Basin
- **RESEARCH:**
 - **Water chestnut**
 - Efficacy of herbicide treatments on water chestnut
 - Efficacy of removal types
 - Comparing plant communities in small waterbodies (5-100 acres) with and without public access
 - Grass carp escapes from permitted locations
 - Development of a tool to compare plant communities through time with and between sites
 - Restoration planting methodology
- **BELOW ARE PROJECTS/AIS-RELATED ISSUES WITHIN THE CAPITAL REGION PRISM.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water soldier, ▪ Hydrilla, ▪ Carolina fanwort, ▪ Parrot feather watermilfoil, ▪ spiny water flea, ▪ Brazilian elodea, ▪ Chinese mitten crab, ▪ Water lettuce, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water hyacinth, ▪ Yellow Floating Heart, ▪ European frogbit, ▪ Weather Loach, ▪ Round goby, ▪ Northern snakehead, ▪ Mitten crab,
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- **PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION:**
 - During spring/summer 2023, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) staff surveyed 14 public lakes for AIS. This project was supported by Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding and is the first geographically “statewide” survey for AIS in Pennsylvania. All lakes surveyed had 1-4 AIS present. Species found included Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Allegheny Crayfish (*Faxonius obscurus*), Asian Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) Chinese Mystery Snails (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*), Virile Crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*), and Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). Most of these AIS are relatively widespread in Pennsylvania, and so their presence was not a major surprise. An exception was the documentation of Virile Crayfish in two northern Pennsylvania Lakes, as this species has previously been known primarily from southcentral Pennsylvania. A detailed report is available upon request.
 - On January 1st, 2024, revised regulatory language went into effect related to the propagation and introduction of aquatic organisms into Pennsylvania waters. PFBC staff and Commissioners drafted 58 Pa. Code Chapter 71a to replace 58 Pa. Code Chapters 71 and 73 and includes new or

revised language relating to a notice of stocking, prohibitions on the release of live bait fish, fish health requirements, and watercraft decontamination requirements. The new watercraft decontamination requirements require draining of a watercraft and removal of any aquatic vegetation and prohibited aquatic invasive species prior to transport.

- o In 2023, PFBC staff and partners installed aquatic invasive species composting stations at several public boat launches in northwestern and central Pennsylvania. Stations were funded through federal AIS Management Plan Grant funding and in partnership with Pennsylvania Sea Grant. Stations were based on designs previously used in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as well as in the Finger Lakes region of New York state. (Photo below of a station installed at Tamarack Lake in Crawford County, PA).



- o During summer 2023, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission staff and partners documented population expansion and reproduction of invasive Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*) for the first time in the Conowingo Pool of the lower Susquehanna River. A press release is available for more details: <https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/fish-and-boat-commission-details.aspx?newsid=534>
- o In 2023, the PFBC issued a press release on the expansion of non-native Blue Catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) and Freshwater Drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*) in the lower Delaware River basin to alert anglers of their presence and encourage reporting/harvest of these non-native species. The press release is available at this link: <https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/fish-and-boat-commission-details.aspx?newsid=545>

- o During March 2023, Pennsylvania, like many other states, found that crayfish species were being transported as “hitchhikers” in shipments of feeder goldfish in pet stores. PFBC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement staff examined pet stores throughout the state and confiscated a total of 40 crayfish. Collected crayfish were tentatively identified as White River Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) or possible Southern White River Crayfish (*Procambarus zonangulus*). Several specimens were too badly damaged for ID.
- o Invasive New Zealand Mudsnailed (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) continue to be documented in new locations in Pennsylvania. In 2023, PFBC staff documented New Zealand Mudsnailed for the first time on the Ohio River basin in two tributaries of the Monongahela River in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania (manuscript in prep). PFBC staff and partners documented range expansions in two peer-reviewed publications focused on range expansions of this species in the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac River basins.
- o **Citations:**
 - Hartzell, S. M., and N. Macelko. 2022. Range expansion of the invasive New Zealand Mudsnailed (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) in the Susquehanna and Delaware River basins of Pennsylvania. *Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science* 96: 36– 45.
 - Hartzell, S. M., and J. R. Frederick. 2023. First records of the invasive New Zealand Mudsnailed (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) in the Potomac River basin. *Northeastern Naturalist* 30: N13–N16.
- **VIRGINIA: Provided by Dr. Bryan Brown (VA Tech)**
 - o Invasive species have become a big deal here at Virginia Tech. The Invasive Species Working Group began in 2017 as a “Creative Collision” under Virginia Tech’s Global Change Center. The group is inherently interdisciplinary, with steering committee members involved in basic research across many systems—terrestrial, aquatic, vertebrate, invertebrate, genetics, data analytics—as well as in social and socio-ecological areas. Through 7 years of collaboration and hard work, we built our group and its reach. We finally accomplished one of our goals which was to win an internal competition at VT to become the next Destination Area, an initiative that focuses VT resources on a particular topic in an effort to become a national/international strength. The practical outcomes of becoming a Destination Area were that we received almost \$1,000,000 in operating funds and were awarded 5 new tenure-track faculty lines to hire in the arena of invasive species, which we’ve since parleyed into 7 faculty lines, 4 of which are already in the hiring phase with 3 more to hire next year. Beyond the steering committee, we have over 100 investigators at VT self-identified as being part of ISC now, and our intermediate-term goal is to become a Center at VT. We’re continuing to build our regional and national network, and are always looking for partners and collaborators, thus the logic behind mentioning these things to MAPAIS. Recognizing that we have moved beyond “working group” status, we recently re-branded our group The Invasive Species Collaborative (ISC) at Virginia Tech, and here’s the link to our website: <https://invasivespeciesvt.org/>
- **WEST VIRGINIA: Provided by Katie Zipfel:** WV is still heavily involved with invasive carp management on the Ohio River. We have no recent news of any major advancements of fishes moving upstream since 2023. We continue to remove as many fishes as we can. We continue to monitor the advancement of the Northern Snakehead in the Potomac River drainage, but still have yet to receive a live report of a fish in state waters. We recently started a hydrilla mitigation project at some of the boat ramps and marinas in Cheat Lake (outside of Morgantown, WV) with some herbicide application and some posting of

angler/boater information to help prevent further spread. We have no new regulatory actions for invasive species.

12:30 – MEETING ADJOURNED.

1:30 - [OPTIONAL] FIELD TRIP TO J.J. McDONNELL SEAFOOD PROCESSING FACILITY: Those in-person took a tour of J.J. McDonnell, a seafood wholesaler and processing facility. J.J. McDonnell is one of the few facilities in Maryland that processes locally caught blue catfish. This field trip consisted of a tour of the facility where we will heard more about J.J. McDonnell and the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) work as it relates to invasive species and promoting blue catfish consumption throughout the Chesapeake Bay and beyond.