

Minutes
Colorado River Basin Team
100th Meridian Initiative
July 22, 2003
Utah DOW, Salt Lake City

1. Updates from Participants

Mark Anderson, National Park Service, Glen Canyon NRA

Lake Powell Zebra Mussel Prevention Program

Monitoring of nine artificial substrate samplers was spotty through the winter but has resumed this summer with no signs of zebra mussels having been found yet. Two of the samplers were missing and one is hopelessly buried under a log jam.

Entrance Fee Booths are open and the visitors are being screened. High-risk boats are directed to concessionaire maintenance areas for a free boat wash. Three high risk boats have been identified since Memorial Day (five total this calendar year). Thirteen boats were identified in 2001; 31 boats were identified in 2002. The big difference between 2001 and 2002 is probably due to greater buy-in from Fee Collectors.

The new Superintendent's Compendium for 2003 has been changed requiring boats identified by our program to be washed before legally launching; however, no protocol has been established with the law enforcement division to ensure that washing actually occur.

Educational materials currently in use in the recreation area include site bulletins and "stop signs" in the up-lake areas. "Stop signs" could not be put out down-lake because they do not meet NPS sign requirements and the people who know that are all down-lake.

George Wright Society (GWS) Meeting

Mark attended the George Wright Society Conference, a national NPS meeting in April. I presented the Lake Powell Zebra Mussel Prevention Program. Hopefully, this exposure will generate additional NPS interest and efforts to prevent zebra mussel infestations. Additional NPS people will be reached by the proceedings document expected out in December.

New Zealand Mudsnails (NZMS) below Glen Canyon Dam

NZMS are still largely not being considered. A number of efforts are being conducted by the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group, Arizona Game and Fish, and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center to deal with problems related to low trout production and humpback chub declines. The problems being addressed are typical of the effects NZMS are expected to cause; however, none of the solutions has anything to do with NZMS.

Confusion (even in one FWS person) between zebra mussels and New Zealand mudsnails is very common; people hear that we have New Zealand mudsnails below the dam and pass on that we have zebra mussels in the lake.

Zebra Mussel/New Zealand Mudsnail sign proposal for 2004

A two year proposal for designing and printing launch ramp signs to educate Glen Canyon NRA visitors scored #1 in the Intermountain Region Natural Resource Management funding source. The proposal funds a seasonal employee to design two aquatic nuisance species educational signs that meet NPS sign criteria; one sign will focus on the zebra mussel issues on the lake, and the other sign will focus on New Zealand mudsnails below the dam. The proposal also includes money for professional production of outdoor fiberglass displays and mounting structures as well as printing of Lake Powell mailer inserts. This should all be on track to start in 2004, assuming the funding source does not have all its money taken away as apparently happened in 2003.

Tom Scoville, Bureau of Reclamation

Blue Mesa Reservoir - identified watermilfoil - checking to see if it is a native species or not. Stop ANS signs (produced by Utah DOW) placed at BuRec reservoirs in Colorado.

Richard Droesbake, Utah State Parks

25 parks have boating; they also run boating safety programs and boating law enforcement programs. Richard mentioned that there has been difficulty increasing awareness even within the agency. Richard is a member of NASBLA, (National Assoc. of State Boating Law Administrators) and the organization requires that ANS be addressed in the boating manuals. So ANS are now addressed in boating courses as well. At the end of the season, parks staff have checked docks for zebra mussels and Richard got a report from all 25 parks. Don has sent in the information to Toni at Portland State U. (Note: Toni is no longer there; Mary Pfauth is taking over the zm substrate program).

Action Item: Make sure that databases are coordinated - from Kevin Aiken, Mark Sytsma and David Britton. Paul Heimowitz will work with Kevin and set up a call with David and Mary Pfauth at PSU.

State Parks have 16 kiosks put at the top of launch ramps. Staff can change the posters seasonally with panels such as maps, sport fish and a listing of ANS (on every kiosk). The Panels are digitally done and can be changed easily. Panels are supposed to last for 10 years and cost about \$300.00 each.

Dan Potts, Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association

The Association has volunteers who can monitor for zm's using PVC substrate or other hard surfaces such as docks. Mark suggested that PVC is preferable because other surfaces get covered with algae and it is hard to see if zm's are

there unless they are adults. There is an opportunity to educate divers in Utah and ask them to help spread the word. Paul said Washington Sea Grant has developed some information for divers that could be changed and used.

Action Item: Don will contact scuba diving group to see if they would be interested in being involved in the Utah ANS Action Team.

Dan is also a member of the Utah Anglers Coalition and will encourage volunteers from this group also. Utah permits larger fishing tournaments (over \$500 in prizes).

Action Item: Invite state B.A.S.S, and the PWT (professional walleye anglers) association to next 100th Meridian meeting.

Wen Baldwin, Lake Mead Boat Owners Association

Wen has talked to the Park Service at Lake Mead about requiring mandatory inspection and cleaning of boats involved in fishing tournaments.. So far this hasn't happened. Mark will send text they use at Lake Powell to Kent Turner (NPS) at Lake Mead and to Wen. Wen will also contact scuba divers - people are coming from all over the country to study a submerged B-29. They have to have a permit to dive, but Wen doesn't know if they are being educated about ANS.

LMBOA got a grant from Boat US to print 10,000 flyers and 10,000 "Alert" cards with info on zms, how to prevent them, what to do if you see them and how to keep boats clean. Wen is using the basic text from the Wisconsin Sea Grant watch cards but changed the number to have people call to the Bonneville Power hotline 1-800 number along with local agencies. These will be printed in the next month. Stop Aquatic Species signs have been put up at Lake Havasu (lots of interest there).

Wen handed out Zebra Mussel Prevention Program outline for Lake Mead, which is based on a similar one at Lake Powell. So far, he hasn't seen any questionnaires being used at the entrance stations.

Wen reported that there still aren't any launch ramp signs at Lake Mead or Lake Mohave. Also there are no boat wash facilities. LMBOA is interested in getting stronger legislation regarding transport of ANS with substantial fines. He reported on HydroBlaster, a washing system that could be used in the field to clean equipment using a closed system that recycles and scribes the wash water. Check it out at www.hydroblaster.com. Basic filter is 5 microns with the final filter to 1 micron.

Gary Burton, Western Area Power Administration

Gary continues to maintain Western's awareness of ANS issues. He sends info and updates to the environmental staff.

Mary Pfauth, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State U.

At this point there are 185 PVC substrates in lakes, rivers and reservoirs that Mary knows about. She sends reminders every month. Mary will be working closely with agencies to implement the Oregon ANS Management Plan. There is less federal money available to help fund the state plans because more states have developed plans.

Paul handed out a laminated id sheet of non-native aquatic species. Mary is looking for information about snails and mussels to give to people who are checking the PVC substrates.

Tina Proctor, FWS, Region 6

Region 6 is requiring HACCP plans from all the hatcheries and management assistant offices in 8 states by the end of the fiscal year.

Tina is working with a group of scientists and managers to develop a nzms management and control plan over the next six months.

Don Archer, Utah DOW

Professor at OSU (Mark Vinson) has found nzms in six watersheds in Utah.

Red rim melania (*Melanooides tuberculatus*) has been found in several places as well. Don't know about impacts of this snail yet. A professor at BYU will be looking for grants (Russ Rader) to research this species.

There is a page in all the Fishing proclamations that tell about ANS in Utah and what people can do to prevent spread (whirling disease as well). Hatcheries are developing HACCP plans. Utah is implementing a program that gives preference to fish suppliers that have HACCP plans in place. Utah imports tiger muskies, wipers and channel catfish which could easily bring in ANS.

USFS (Gina Lampman) has developed a PowerPoint program to present to fire suppression crews to heighten sensitivity about moving ANS from water basin to water basin during fire suppression activities. There is a need for all fire fighting agencies to incorporate HACCP principles.

Utah will receive \$9,000 from the WRP to develop the state ANS Management Plan. There is an active ANS Action Team in Utah.

George Oliver, Utah DOW

Utah has an impressive Hydrobiid fauna - 11 species are endemic. These species are difficult to distinguish. It is imperative that Utah expands education to the general public about ANS. Many species are spread by aquarium dumpings. George suggested that Utah have an educational program directed at aquarium

owners. Tina mentioned that the ANS Task Force on a national level is working with the aquarium industry to develop a national educational program.

There is a concern about crayfish species, *Orconectus virilis*, that have moved into the state. Utah has 3 exotic species and one native.

Paul Heimowitz, USFWS, Region 1

Paul passed a poster from Idaho on the nzms – “Stop the mudsnails”. Erin Williams (USFWS in California) has video Public Service Announcements (3) that she can provide to people. She will try to get them digitized and put on the website.

Washington Dept. of Ecology has developed an aquatic weed i.d. guide. It is available on-line and for sale at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/plantid2/index.html>.

Paul reported on Traveler Information System short range radios are being used in Pacific northwest and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial to give an ANS message. Mark said Lake Powell is using a TIS also. Shorter range systems (1/4 mile) are being used in some areas of the country,

Paul worked with Oregon Sea Grant in his previous job and developed a traveling educational kit which has a focus on western species, both marine and freshwater. They are in the process of being produced, and may be 6-9 months before they are ready. OSG is also working with watershed councils to educate them about ANS. A needs assessment was funded with the Western Regional Panel to determine the best way to educate these groups.

2. ID Agencies, Tribes, Stakeholders that could be involved

US Forest Service - how can we get them more involved?

Bob will talk to Dave Cross and Mike Ilmeni to get ideas about who to involve

Water Authorities - e.g. Central Utah Water Conservancy District

Dan will contact Friends of Strawberry Valley (Strawberry Reservoir)

Guides and Outfitters Association - Bob will contact AZ, Tina will contact NV, Richard will contact UT

Bureau of Land Management - give permits to river users, also have reservoirs

Tina will contact CO BLM; Bob will contact Gina Ramos in Washington

Tribes - **Native American Fish and Wildlife Society - get on agenda for regional meeting - Tina will contact groups.**

Environmental groups - The Nature Conservancy is starting to get involved in aquatic invasives (Paul will get contact name); Ducks Unlimited; American

Rivers; Sierra Club. **Tina and Bob will get regional names - send e-mail, follow-up phone calls.**

Other States; **Colorado - Tina and Gary**

3. Stop ANS boat ramp signs

The 500 signs that were produced for the 100th Meridian last year have been distributed. Next year, we may want to create more of these signs.

4. Boat Inspection video

Washington Fish and Wildlife have been training highway patrol to inspect boats being hauled on a highway. The state has a law which prohibits transportation of ANS. Bob has contracted with WA DFW to produce a 10-minute video to help in training. It will show what to look for and where to look on boats. Production will move forward in September. It will be available on a CD, video and on the 100th Meridian website. This is specifically targeting people who are inspecting boats, such as Highway Patrol, Ports of Entry staff, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron.

The video will be directed toward zebra mussels and aquatic vegetation.

5. Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Campaign

The logo is free and can be used on any materials. Bob passed out stickers and encouraged people to pass them out and also to use the logo.

Bob also showed stickers that go on a trailer that reminds people about where to check for ANS. It may be something that we want to create and distribute in the Colorado River Basin.

6. Zebra Mussel Rapid Response Plan

NOAA will be giving \$20,000 to the WRP for Rapid Response Planning. WRP will use the money to develop a Western ZM rapid response plan. The WRP will contract the project so that it is regionally based but has specific information for states as well.

7. American Fisheries Society, Western Division

The next meeting will be in Salt Lake City Sunday, February 29 - Friday, March 4, 2004. Bob suggested we plan our next meeting to coincide with this meeting and everyone agreed. Bob is putting together an ANS session for the AFS meeting and will get back to us about the best day for the Colorado River Team to meet.

8. Status of Watch Card

Watch Card for zebra mussels will be created at FWS, Region 2 with text and pictures that are specific to the Colorado River Basin. Bob is coordinating this and will have it done this winter.

9. Education with the Asian Community

Pam Meacham at Washington DFW is developing educational materials for Asians and getting volunteers who can speak different Asian languages and do educational programs. The targeted pathway is the live seafood markets where new species are brought in. Dan mentioned that in Utah in his experience, education works with the young people, but having the force of law works better.

Action Item: Bob suggested that we invite Pam to come to the next meeting in February to show what she is doing.

10. Economic Study – David Lodge, U. of Notre Dame

Bob asked Dr. David Lodge to present a proposal for an economic study of the impact of zebra mussels, should they invade in the western U.S. Lodge will be specifically looking at the Colorado and Columbia River basins. Lodge will receive \$40,000 in 100th Meridian funds plus he got a substantial national Sea Grant for this two year project. Bob and Tina will keep the group informed about the progress of this research.

11. 100th Meridian Database

David has added layers to the database by including highway segments that are most used by boaters moving from infested waters to noninfested waters.

Bob is looking into vendors for handheld GPS units for crews to get recreational boater surveys. The data can be sent directly to David Britton. Bob is waiting for cost estimates from vendors. This will add to the ease of data collection as we bring more states into doing these surveys.

Currently there are the HACCP forms on the database as well as examples.

12. Meetings

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, July 2003

Bob gave a presentation to the Fish Chiefs and the Directors on HACCP planning and talked about 100th Meridian as well.

International ANS Conference, June 2003

Bob organized a session on the 100th Meridian. Don participated as one of the panelists.

Western Regional Panel

September 9-11, 2004. The meeting will be two days, Sept. 9-10. The field trip will be Sept. 11. Information at <http://answest.fws.gov>

Western Section of The Wildlife Society

Accidental and Purposeful Introductions of Animals:
Investigating Species Interactions at Different Trophic Levels
October 14-16, 2003
Radisson Hotel
Sacramento, California