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## NISC Newsletter: September 2010

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**NISC NEWETTER**

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September 2010

**Invasive Species In the News**

**Asian Carp**

**Great Lakes: White House Names Asian Carp Czar**

**Paul Quinlan, E&E reporter**  
 (09/08/2010)

Fair warning to the nonnative Asian carp threatening to invade and infest the Great Lakes: There's a new sheriff in town. The Obama administration today named John Goss, executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, as the White House Council on Environmental Quality's new Asian carp director. Goss, former director of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources and vice chairman of the Great Lakes Commission, will serve as the point person in the federal and multistate battle to stop the carp from entering the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River system. Many fear the species would disrupt the lakes' delicate food chain and destroy their \$7 billion sport fishing industry. "As a fisherman, I understand in a personal way the serious threat that Asian carp pose to the Great Lakes," said Goss, adding that transparency and a unified effort "will be crucial to keeping Asian carp from establishing in the Great Lakes." Announcing the appointment, CEQ Chairwoman Nancy Sutley added that Goss will chair the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee. "With a strong backing in natural resources, John will be a fine addition to our team as we continue to combat the Asian carp," Sutley said in a conference call with reporters this morning. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) said he requested that an Asian carp director be named several months ago, in part "to make certain that we spend every single dollar effectively to stop the advance of Asian carp on the Great Lakes." Alarm over the potential spread of Asian carp intensified in June, when a carp was caught for the first time north of a multimillion-dollar electrical barrier in a Chicago waterway that was supposed to block the voracious fish from swimming into Lake Michigan. Since then, some Great Lakes leaders have urged the Army Corps of Engineers to close locks that would block off the waterway connection, over the objections of Chicago-area leaders who say such action would shut down shipping and impede flood control. Rather than close off the waterway, the Army Corps is now studying possible solutions and alternatives. "There is an environmental issue here about floodwater coming out of this region of Chicago into Lake Michigan," said Durbin, adding that the canal shutdown would create "an environmental challenge of enormous magnitude." "These are not easy decisions," Durbin said.

**Experts testify in 5-state carp lawsuit**

Associated Press  
 September 7, 2010

(CHICAGO) -- In the first full day of testimony in a five-state lawsuit, a witness said signs of Asian carp in area waterways are a great risk. The witness said Tuesday that there is a risk the invasive fish could slip into Lake Michigan at any time. Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota and Pennsylvania want a federal judge to close two shipping locks and install barriers to prevent the ravenous fish from overrunning the Great Lakes and potentially devastating its \$7 billion-a-year fishing industry. The city of Chicago, the regional barge industry and others object to closing the locks, arguing the move would undermine critical flood-control measures and hurt businesses that rely heavily on the waterways. The defense questioned the warning of looming disaster, pointing out the limits of what's known about Asian carp, including whether they would reproduce well or

**Special points of interest:**

- WHITE HOUSE NAMES ASIAN CARP CZAR
- NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGY FOR MEXICO
- COASTAL ZONE 2011

**Inside this issue:**

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS	<b>1-2</b>
INTERNATIONAL NEWS	<b>2</b>
NISC AGENCIES NEWS	<b>2</b>
STATE NEWS	<b>2-3</b>
SPECIAL EVENT	<b>3-4</b>
CONFERENCES	<b>4-6</b>
TOP 4 INVASIVE SPECIES	<b>6</b>



A bighead carp, a species of the Asian carp (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)



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find the right kind of food in the Great Lakes. To read the entire article, go to: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=7655410>.

**Snails seized at Dulles Airport**

*Washington Post, September 9, 2010*

During a busy Labor Day weekend at Washington Dulles International Airport, one package arriving from Ghana raised some eyebrows. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents say a traveler arriving from the West African nation tried to bring in 14 Giant African Land Snails with him. The slimy creatures were about the size of a child's fist. The snails originally from East Africa are believed to be one of the world's worst invasive species because they can severely damage crops. The snails can grow to be nearly 8 inches long and 4 inches tall. They are illegal in the United States. The traveler was not penalized, but the snails were destroyed because they were considered a threat. For more information, go to: <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/crime-scene/loudoun/snails-seized-at-dulles-airpor.html?referrer=emailink>

**International News**

**National Invasive Species Strategy for Mexico**

Between November 2008 and February 2010, Mexico made several modifications to existing environmental and wildlife regulations regarding invasive species. On November 2008, the Deputy Chamber made several modifications to the *Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection General Law* (LGEEPA by its Spanish acronym; equivalent to NEPA), and the *Wildlife General Law*. These modifications were published in the Federal Register in February 2010. The intent of these modifications was to strengthen existing regulations by incorporating more specific language dealing with invasive species and make these regulations more in tune with other regulations outside of the wildlife arena, such as the *Forestry, Human Health, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Economic, Biosecurity of Genetically Modified Organisms, Animal and Plant Health, and Foreign Commerce laws*. The entire document is now available online at: <http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Portada>. An English translation of the core of the strategy is available on page 93, and the whole document will be soon made available in the website as well.

**NISC Agencies News**

**DOI/FWS**

**Friends of Wild Amphibians**

On Sept. 17, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) posted a formal "notice of inquiry" in the *Federal Register* seeking information concerning the possible designation of all live amphibians or their

eggs that are infected with chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* or Bd) as "injurious wildlife" under the Lacey Act.

The fungus causes chytridiomycosis, a disease deadly to amphibians, and has been identified as a primary factor leading to the listing of a number of amphibian species as threatened or endangered. If finalized, the designation as injurious would require a health certification that live amphibians or their eggs are not infected with chytrid fungus prior to import or transportation across state lines.

The *Notice of Inquiry* explains the chytrid fungus issue and asks the public to provide information on the subject. The submissions will be reviewed and a decision made whether to proceed with a proposed rule or to take no further action. The comment period is 90 days, **with a deadline of December 16, 2010**. Anyone may file a public comment on any issue related to the petition. The second page of the notice indicates 14 particular questions that the FWS would like information on. The text of the Federal Register notice is here: <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480b51d8f>

**Federal/State News**

**Restoration for Aleutian Seabirds Brings New Life to Refuge "Rat" Island**

The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (part of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Island Conservation are restoring native seabird habitat on an island in the Aleutian chain of **Alaska**. Rat Island has been heavily affected by the introduction of non-native Norway rats from a shipwreck in the 1780s. In the intervening 225 years, bird populations have essentially been destroyed on the island. Successfully eradicating the invasive rats will restore important habitat and allow birds to re-colonize the island.



Storm Sparrow

With seabirds facing environmental pressure from stressors such as global climate change, removing this predator is an immediate and concrete step that is likely to show a rapid and positive effect on seabird nesting success. The Aleutian Islands support globally significant seabird populations and supply some of the finest seabird habitat in the world. Its spectacular biodiversity was formally recognized when it was named a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1976. The



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restoration of Rat Island habitat will benefit many species. This list includes Tufted puffins, ancient murrelets, storm petrels, song sparrows, glaucous-winged gulls, and possibly whiskered auklets and Cassin's auklets. This is the beginning of a restoration effort that can restore habitat on other islands in the Aleutians, as well. Rat populations menace native species on about a dozen large islands in the Aleutians. Future projects may include restoring habitat on the larger Kiska Island, where an expanding rat population threatens a still-healthy nesting population of 1.5 million least auklets – the largest colony of its kind in Alaska. For additional information, go to: <http://www.seabirdrestoration.org/>

**Wasps Wage War on Behalf of Wiliwili Trees**

*ScienceDaily (Sep. 28, 2010)* — A black, two-millimeter-long wasp from East Africa is helping wage war on one of its own kind -- the *Erythrina* gall wasp, an invasive species that's decimated Hawaii's endemic wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*) and introduced coral bean trees (*Erythrina spp.*). Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) officials "recruited" the beneficial wasp, *Eurytoma erythrinae*, and first released it in November 2008 after evaluating its host specificity as a biocontrol agent. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist Michael Gates' scientific description and naming of the species, together with a collaborator, helped HDOA obtain the necessary federal approvals to make the release. How the gall wasp arrived in Hawaii in April 2005 is unknown, but it quickly found suitable hosts on which to feed and reproduce, first on Oahu and then other Hawaiian islands, notes Gates. He is with the Systemic Entomology Laboratory operated in Washington, D.C., and Beltsville, Md., by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency of USDA. Gates' collaborator, Gérard Delvare, is with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Montpellier, France. Hawaii's wiliwili trees and tropical coral bean trees are commonly used for landscaping, soil and water conservation, and as windbreaks. As larvae, gall wasps feed inside the leaves, making them curled and misshapen. Severe infestations can defoliate and eventually kill afflicted trees. Female *E. erythrinae* wasps deposit their eggs inside galls where the pest larvae feed. Upon hatching, *E. erythrinae* larvae eat the gall wasp larvae. They pupate and emerge two weeks later as adults. The parasites don't attack native wasps or other nontarget insects. The Hawaiians found their "gall wasp gladiator" after dispatching two entomological teams to the pest's native Africa in search of natural enemies, starting in spring 2006. In January 2007, Gates and Delvare



Gall Wasp

were asked to identify the specimens collected based on their taxonomic expertise. Gall-wasp parasitism has been as high as 70 percent at some release sites, but continued data collection will be necessary to correlate *E. erythrinae*'s rise to declines in tree damage. For more information, go to: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100928101423.htm>

**Special Event!!**

**Winds of Change: Great Lakes, Great Oceans, Great Communities**

**Chicago, Illinois, Hyatt Regency, July 17 to 21, 2011**

Many factors are influencing change in coastal, marine, estuarine, and Great Lakes communities. Problems such as the impacts of coastal development, conflicting use of resources, altered watersheds, and new threats such as those related to global climate change call for new approaches to ocean and coastal resource management.



Coastal Zone 2011 (CZ11) will focus on exploring challenges, discussing ways to cooperate on collective issues and resources, sharing tools and information, and learning from the experiences of leaders from across the nation and around the world. Attendees will have the opportunity to help shape strategies for the future with a range of coastal professionals, scientists, managers, policy makers, students, and tribal representatives.

Opportunities are available to organize a special panel session with three to four papers, host a concurrent meeting, submit a presentation or a poster, display an exhibit, provide training and workshops, or become a conference partner.



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Look for the CZ11 Call for Abstracts coming soon. Abstracts are due October 8, 2010. Please check the website for more information. <http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/CZ11/index.htm>

If you have any questions, please email [cz11@noaa.gov](mailto:cz11@noaa.gov)

### Partners to Date



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**  
BUILDING STRONG,



ILLINOIS



The WOMEN'S AQUATIC NETWORK (WAN) is a private, volunteer run organization that brings together professional women and men with interests in marine, coastal and aquatic affairs and promotes the role of women in these fields. Membership is open to all who are interested in WAN goals. <http://www.womensaquatic.net>

## Conferences

**October 3-7, 2010: The 2010 Biological Control for Nature Conference** will be held at The Hotel Northampton, in Northampton, Massachusetts. This meeting will explore the benefits of classical biological control for the control of invasive insects and plants in natural forests, and associated habitats such as wetlands, grasslands, and deserts. For more information go to: <http://biocontrolfornature.ucr.edu/>

**October 5-6, 2010: Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases** will take place in the Boston/Worcester area, venue TBD. For more information, please contact the meeting facilitation team at RESOLVE: Beth Weaver ([bweaver@resolv.org](mailto:bweaver@resolv.org); 202-965-6211) or Dana Goodson ([dgoodson@resolv.org](mailto:dgoodson@resolv.org); 202-965-6209). Exact times and an agenda will be sent out and available later this summer at [www.continentalforestdialogue.org](http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org)

**October 6-8, 2010: The Western Regional Panel (WRP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species** annual meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho. The meeting will be held at the Grove Hotel in downtown

Boise. The group rate of \$85/night plus tax. The room block is on hold until September 10th. The room rate is available from Monday, October 4, to (check-out on) Friday, October 8, 2010. For hotel information, please visit their website at <http://www.grovehotelboise.com/>. For additional information and conference registration, go to: <http://www.fws.gov/answest/>

**October 07-10, 2010: The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will present Symposium 2010**, a sustainable landscape education event, from Oct 7 - 10 at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. This how-to-do-it symposium delivers the message "Save Texas One Landscape at a Time: Our Native Plants Light the Future" with Keynote Speakers **Jill Nokes, David Bamberger and Douglas Tallamy**. We invite your sponsorship at this year's Symposium and request your participation as a guiding beacon for the preservation of our state's rich and diverse native plant community. For additional information: ([www.npsot.org/symposium2010](http://www.npsot.org/symposium2010)).

**October 14, 2010: The 2010 CIPWG Symposium.** The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group will present "Challenges and Successes: Working Cooperatively to Manage Invasive Plants", a one-day symposium at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg) for more information. Contact Donna Ellis (phone 860-486-6448; email [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu)) if you would like to be mailed a paper copy of the symposium brochure with registration form. CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG): [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg)

**October 20-22, 2010: 10th Annual NAPPC International Conference** Is being held in Washington, DC at the Jefferson Auditorium. Registration will begin in August 2010. For additional information, visit: <http://pollinator.org/news&events.htm>

**October 26-28, 2010: The 11th annual Alaska Committee for Noxious & Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) and 5th annual Alaska Invasive Species Working Group workshop** will be held at the Princess Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska. A pre-conference Educators Workshop will be held on October 25, 2010. For additional information go to: <http://alaskainvasivespeciesconference.wikispaces.com>

**October 26-29, 2010: The 37th Natural Areas Conference** will be held at Tan-Tar-A-Resort in Osage Beach, MO. For additional information go to: [www.naturalarea.org/10Conference/schedule.html](http://www.naturalarea.org/10Conference/schedule.html)

**November 3-4, 2010: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) will meet:** For additional information, contact Susan Mangin, ANSTF/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-358-2466.



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**November 8-10, 2010: Minnesota-Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference 2010** will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota. For additional information about the conference go to, <http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/>

**November 10-11, 2010: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium: The Business of Biodiversity** hosted by the Wildlife Habitat Council at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information go to: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=b759afc7-bafe-4119-a4a6-11a9276e33ab>

**November 13-17, 2010: The 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration** meeting will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, TX. For additional information, visit: [www.estuaries.org/conference](http://www.estuaries.org/conference).

**November 30-December 2, 2010: The Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium & Workshop** will take place in Washington, DC. This event is sponsored by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP). The CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS has been released. For information on registration and Poster Abstract: <http://www.serdp-estcp.org/symposium2010/posters/posters.cfm>.

**November 30 – December 2, 2010: The Western Weed Coordinating Committee Annual Meeting** will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. For additional information, visit: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc/docs/Invitation-2010.pdf>

**December 6 to 9, 2010: A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES) Conference** will be held at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, 5594 West Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Chandler, AZ, USA 85226. This conference includes a session on Invasive Species and Ecosystem Services. <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces/index.html>

**February 16-17, 2011: The Landscape Ecology of Tamarisk 2011 Research Conference** is being held in Tucson, AZ at the Marriott University Park Hotel. The deadline to submit abstracts is October 1, 2010. For additional information go to: <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/2011ResearchConference.html>.

**March 5-9, 2011: Global Conference on Entomology, 2011, Thailand.** The main objective of the Global Conference on Entomology is to showcase advances in entomological research and development in the insect world. For additional information, visit: [www.entomology2011.com](http://www.entomology2011.com)