

Maine Beaches Conference 12 July 2013 Concurrent Session Notes: Marine Invaders

Beth Bisson

Heterosiphonia japonica is a bright red, delicate filamentous algae. The main axis is complex.

Some history: There has been disagreement about the taxonomy (which species). Found in US in 2007; 2010 reported from Cape Ann to Nahant; 2011 found in Maine.

Monitoring and Research (Matt Braken and Carol Thornber) focused on determining presence, quantifying habitat. It is very important to monitor and locate spread of seaweed and without researchers and the following groups it would not be possible:

- Shoals Maine Lab
- Vital Signs Program GMRI
- MIMIC
- Tom Trott
- Rapid Assessment Surveys
- Mapping and Databases (MITIS, Vital Signs)

Heterosiphonia moves around/spreads via shellfish, ballast water, ship hull fouling, and plant fragments.

Impacts and management concerns include:

- Blanketing
- Expense
- Odor
- Really piles up and ruins peoples vacation
- Bacterial Spray?
- Composting?
- Burying?
- Raking?

The Maine response: DEP initiated. Impacted community (Crescent Beach State Park) has raked piles of the seaweed. Statewide meetings held to educate, increase collaboration, identify research priorities:

- Vectors
- Distribution
- Chemistry
- Control Spread
- Beach Management
- Other Management Issues and Impacts

Outreach Education Needs include information, training, and identifying agency contacts.

Vital Signs looks to connect students, educators, researchers, officials. Program has a focus on invasive species. A lot of people are dedicated to finding invasives but there is a missing link of data between scientists and lack of resources. Connect with students to encourage them to find invasive species, post pictures online using an online map. Findings are then looked at by experts. Website allows users to choose their mission, look for species, and post data online. Monitors for all aspects of invasives. Gives people a good outlet for connecting and sharing information.

Jeremy Miller

The Marine Invader Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC) is a network of trained volunteers, scientists, and state workers who monitor for marine invasive species along the New England coast with a goal of finding non-native species before they spread.

What is an invasive species? Non native, Causes harm, Introduced.

Best chance to prevent is early detection. Teams of MIMIC volunteers sample and go into the field to monitor sites from York to Biddeford-Kennebunk and into Portland, mostly monitor tide pools, marinas, cobble shore. Monitor 23 main species (16 established, 7 potential), chosen because they don't require microscope.

[Field trip to beach to find invasives, view under microscopes, etc.]