

# NISC

## Updates, News & Notes<sup>1</sup>

---

Date: 1 July 2016

Department POC: H. Diaz-Soltero

E-mail: [hilda.diaz-soltero@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:hilda.diaz-soltero@aphis.usda.gov)

---

### ***A. Update on the USDA implementation of past recommendations/action items<sup>2</sup>:***

#### **March 2004**

##### **Rec. 2: What are NISC agencies doing to avoid harm?**

See FY15 USDA Do No Harm Report at [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml)

##### **Rec. 3: NISC should request all Federal agencies to identify existing grant programs, cooperative agreements and other mechanisms that are potential sources of funds for invasive species projects.**

The “2016 USDA Grant & Partnership Programs That Can Address Research, Technical Assistance Prevention & Control” (Jan. 2016, Vol. 2) is at [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)

#### **October 2005**

##### **Rec. 4: NISC policy liaisons provide guidance to ISAC Leadership and Coordination Subcommittee regarding issues the subcommittee should address.**

The ISAC subcommittees have been re-structured, however, USDA needs advice on promoting research & increasing decision-makers awareness about economic impacts of invasives; and strengthening biological control.

#### **September 2006**

##### **Rec. 5: NISC support adequate and continuing funding and staffing for classical systematics research, education and operations – including the care and maintenance of systematics collections.**

Systematics clarifies the origin and movements of invasives (pests, parasites, pathogens). ARS Systematics had \$20.137M in FY16; hired two insect taxonomists and a native bee taxonomist. Workshop on “Scientific Collections Associated with Food Security, Invasive Pests: Collections as Critical Structure” is ongoing.

#### **May 2009**

##### **Rec. 8: Provide data on NISC member agencies’ invasive species budgets...**

See page 41 of USDA’s Report to ISAC Summer 2016 <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml>

#### **June 2010**

##### **Rec. 9: Agency partners submit their annual reports according to the deadlines specified in Performance Element OC.7.1.1 of the NISC 2008-2012 National Invasive Species Management Plan**

USDA agencies submitted their FY15 reports.

##### **Rec 10: NISC adopt the Inv. Species and the Green Economy paper and recommendations.**

For status of USDA actions on recommendations within the Green Economy paper, see [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml)

---

<sup>1</sup> Limit each section to one type written page. Links (URLs) to additional information are welcomed.

<sup>2</sup> Restate recommendation/action item and provide date of ISAC meeting.

## **December 2010**

### **R: Adopt the Invasive Species and the Climate Change paper & recommendations**

All recommendations are being implemented at USDA. See full report at [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml)

## **December 2011**

### **Rec. 18: Prepare report on the budget impacts to invasive species programs.**

Funding for Inv. Species, USDA Dollars in thousands:

USDA	Agency	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 President's Budget
Department Total		\$1,218,705.	\$1,179,471.	\$1,241,089.	\$1,248,324.	\$1,239,858.

## **May 2014**

**Action Item (Subcommittee on Research and Information Management): NISC agencies and departments include in their reports to ISAC, information by fiscal year (for FY 2012 and onward) on funding for: a) Curation and management of each biological systematics collection held by the agency; b) Research using each of these collections, numbers of researchers and support staff; and, c) Systematics collections support through extramural grant programs.**

ARS has collections relevant to invasive species: Bacteria, Fungi, Nematodes, Plant Viruses, Specialty-Crop-Associated Plant Pathogens, Vertebrate Protozoan Parasites, Vertebrate Viruses, Arthropod Borne Viruses, Avian Viruses, Insects and Mites, Pollinating Insects, Lepidoptera & Coleoptera, Insect Biological Control Agents, Biting Midges & Mosquitoes, Herbaria (including Natl. Arboretum), and several germplasm repositories (including Natl. Center for Genetic Resources Preservation). ARS supplied data on funding for systematics collections, and the research conducted by the laboratories that maintain those collections. Scientists from private & public institutions and many countries use them. NIFA grants occasionally support taxonomic studies when they're relevant to the particular grant objectives. APHIS has collections of infectious agents for veterinary species, including isolates, reference and challenge strains of high consequence and endemic disease agents. It employs bioinformatics analyses to assist epidemiologic investigations of wildlife-domestic animal, domestic animal-human, and other infectious disease events, contributing sequences to GenBank for swine, avian influenza, etc.

## **May 2015**

**Recommendation from the ISAC Paper on Systematics: The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Smithsonian Institution conduct a survey and gap analysis of their Federal systematics collections, associated resources, and capabilities.**

The ARS Systematics Survey of the plant pathogens and fungi collection is ongoing.

## **October 2015**

**Recommendations included in ISAC white paper entitled “*Enhancing the Effectiveness of Biological Control Programs of Invasive Species by Utilizing an Integrated Pest Management Approach.*”**

Recommendations are being implemented. See full report at [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/orgfedusda.shtml)

***B. Departmental notes of relevance to ISAC<sup>1</sup>:***

NOTHING TO REPORT

***C. Departmental news of relevance to ISAC priorities<sup>1</sup>***

1. USDA is prepared and observing Avian influenza for new event on the East coast.
2. Increased forest fires continue to create more desirable habitats for invasive species.
3. Additional research was requested by EPA before giving permit for cheatgrass bioherbicide