

Development of a Provincial Invasive Alien Species Monitoring Plan

2008 Exotic and Invasive Alien Species
Workshop
Amanda Park

Outline

- Rationale
- Approach
- Goal and objectives
- Obstacles
- Conclusion

Rationale

- No guidelines or strategy currently in place in the province
- Limited information on exotic species in the province
- Further understanding of the impacts
- Determine the rate at which species are expanding into new areas
- Update and expand the exotic species inventory

■ International Conventions

- International Convention on Biodiversity, International Plant Protection Convention, Organization des Epizooties, and International Maritime Organization

■ National Commitments

- National IAS Strategy
 - Provincial commitments outlined in strategy

■ Provincial Legislation

- Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Act and Regulations

Approach

- Roles and responsibilities of Wildlife Division and other departments
- Literature review of approaches in other areas
 - Draw from past experiences what is necessary for effective monitoring
- Draft strategy to be developed

Goal

- To monitor the presence, abundance, and range of exotic and invasive alien species in the province. In addition, monitoring of introduction “hot spots” will occur to aid in preventing any additional exotic arrivals

Monitoring for Potential Invaders

- “A stitch in time, saves 9” (BC Invasive Plant Strategy)
- Identification of “hot spots” for introduction
 - Hawaiian approach
 - NL approach

Monitoring What Is Here

- Occurrence
- Abundance
- Expansion
- Biology
- Impact

Tools for Monitoring

- Public awareness
- Volunteer surveys – resource user information
- Mapping
- Database/spreadsheet data recording

Existing Programs

- Wildlife Watchers
- Eyes Across the Province
- DFO proposed strategy

Requirements for an Effective Monitoring Strategy:

- Public awareness
- Cooperation between departments and across jurisdictions
- Integrated approach
- Consistency
- Long term commitment
- Continued research
- Regular review of strategy

Obstacles

- Definition – Invasive
- Boundaries – Jurisdictions
- Priority – where do we start?

Conclusions

- Good first step is to understand what other departments are doing and to identify where cooperation can move process forward

Questions?