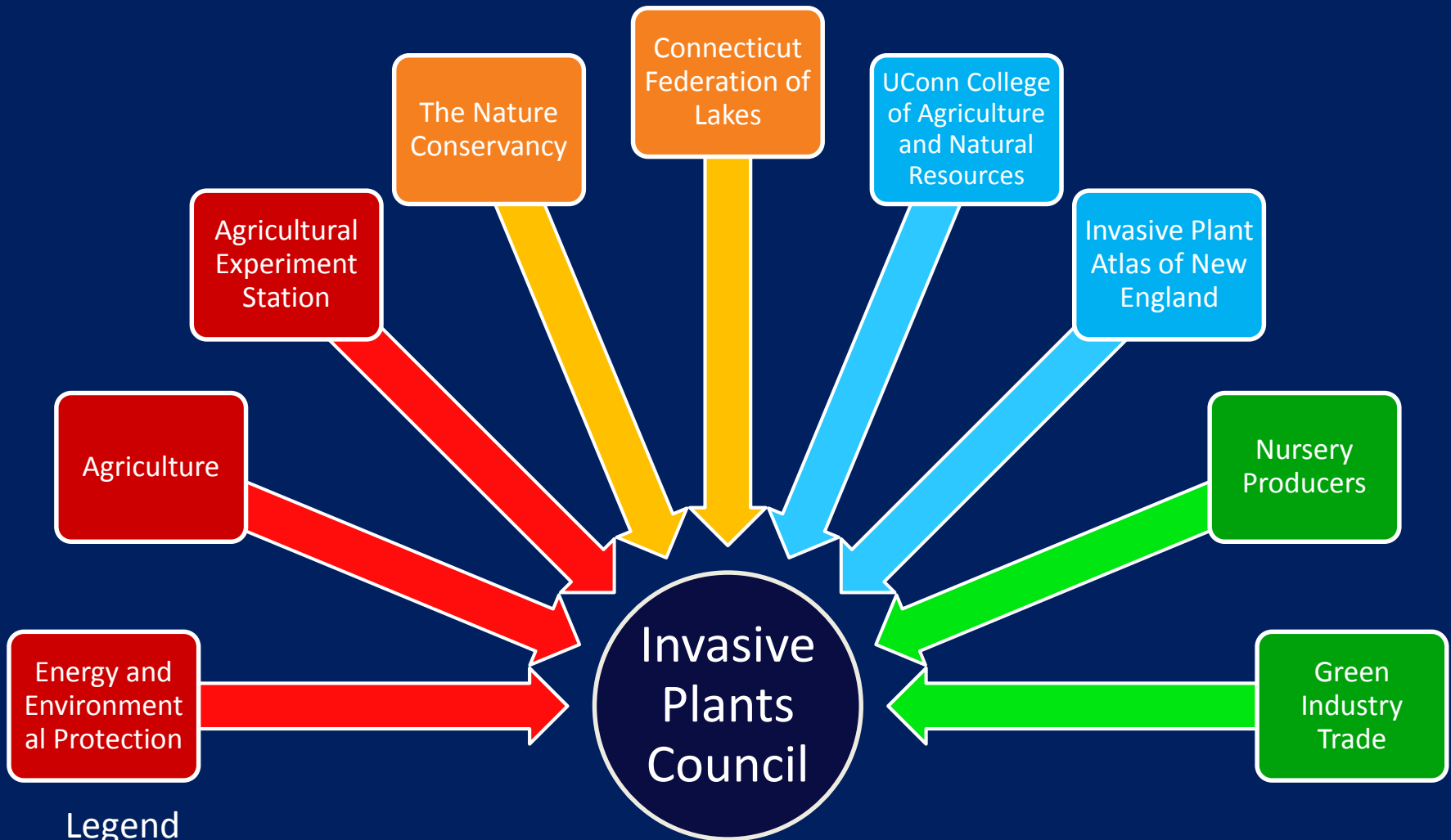


Connecticut Invasive Plants Council Update

CIPWG Symposium: October 11, 2016
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT



Connecticut Invasive Plants Council



Legend



State Agencies



Non-governmental Orgs.



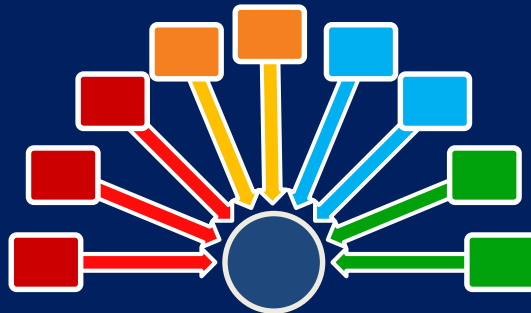
Academia



Industry

IPC Responsibilities

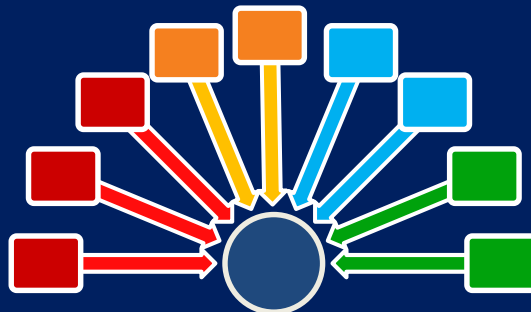
- Recommendations to control invasive plants
- Publish and update list of invasive & potentially invasive plants
- Educate the public and assist state agencies in conducting research
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly



2014 vs 2016

2014: “Taking Action” – On Bamboo, Workshops, Prevention (Giant Cane), Control (water chestnut & grants to municipalities)

2016: “Diminishing Capacity” – For the Council and member Agencies



Lack of funding for Coordinator

- Most efficient use of funds
- Outreach/Education, Public inquiries, Manage prevention & control initiatives, Administrative support



Reduced Capacity of Member Agencies



- Budget cuts and inability to refill positions
- Prevention: ex Inspectors at launches
- Monitoring: ex CAES lake monitoring
- Rapid response: ex hydrilla
- Control: ex phragmites, water chestnut
- Enforcement

AIS Grants to Municipalities Discontinued

- Came to be through meetings with the Environment Committee
- \$200,000 in FY 15 budget, \$180,000 in FY 16 Budget
- \$150K and \$130K as grants to municipalities

Milfoil



Water Chestnut



Going Forward: Coordination

- Continue to make legislators aware of the benefits & cost efficiency of an Invasive Plants Coordinator
- Examine options for expanded use of volunteers



Going Forward: Bamboo



- Continue to investigate bamboo sites that might qualify as invasive as per State Statute (22a-381b)
- Continue discussions with other states
- Work with legislators as requested

Going Forward: Prevention

- Reviewing regulations in other states and exploring options for reducing risk of spread via topsoil, fill & compost.



Going Forward: Prevention

- Aggressive and coordinated messaging
- Ex: “Clean-Drain-Dry” and “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers”

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Weeds!

Before Leaving & Before Launching...
Inspect Everything!



Before leaving or launching: remove all plant fragments and dispose of them on land or in trash!

Aquatic invasive weeds replace useful native plants, destroy fisheries, ruin swimming areas, foul motors and propellers, and spread from small fragments.

STATE LAW
No person shall transport a vessel or trailer without inspecting for & properly removing and disposing any such vegetation (CGS 15-180).
\$95 fine per violation

For more information, contact
Connecticut SeaGrant/USGS at 860-405-9107 or the
CT Department of Environmental Protection
Boating Division at 860-434-8638



ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE IN THIS WATERBODY!

Freshwater zebra mussels clog water intakes, foul boat hulls & engines and may disrupt aquatic ecosystems.



Adults ~3/4" to 1 1/2" long; juveniles may be hard to see, but leave the hull gritty to the touch; planktonic larvae are microscopic. Shells may or may not have a striped pattern.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.PreventInvasiveSpecies.com

You can help prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels!

BEFORE LEAVING THE LAUNCH:
CLEAN all visible plant, fish, and animals as well as mud or other debris at the launch. Do not transport them home.
DRAIN all water from every space and item that may hold water.

AT HOME OR PRIOR TO YOUR NEXT LAUNCH:
DRY equipment for a minimum of 1 week (hot/dry weather) or a minimum of 4 weeks (cool/wet weather) before entering new water. If drying is not possible, wash with hot water, (high pressure preferred) or soak in 1% salt solution (2/3 cup salt per 5 gal. water) for 24 hours or 100% vinegar for 20 minutes.

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Congressional Invasive Species Caucus

- Established in 2012
- Now over 35 members and growing
- Platform for discussion of invasive species issues at Federal Level
- Grassroots effort to “*Grow the Caucus*” underway
- Simple request to our representatives in Congress: “*Join the Caucus*”
- Foundational effort!

Recovering America's Wildlife Act: H.R. 5650



- Dedicate \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from leasing federal lands and waters
- To conserve 12,000 fish & wildlife species in greatest need
- Invasive Species are second only to habitat loss as a threat to listed species
- Supported by industry & conservationists, conservatives & liberals



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

There will never be enough funding or enough enforcement to solve the invasive species problem. The only practical solution is ...



Thank you!