

Spartina Progress Report for Pacific Coast Collaborative Leaders Forum

November 16th, 2010

Davis, CA

Pacific Coast Collaborative Action

On February 12, 2010, Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) leaders signed the Action Plan for Ocean Conservation and Coastal Climate Change Adaptation. One of the actions in this plan is to reduce or prevent the spread of invasive species, with *Spartina* being a top priority.

- **New Action in 2010:** British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California have jointly committed to eradicate non-native *Spartina* by 2018

What is *Spartina*?

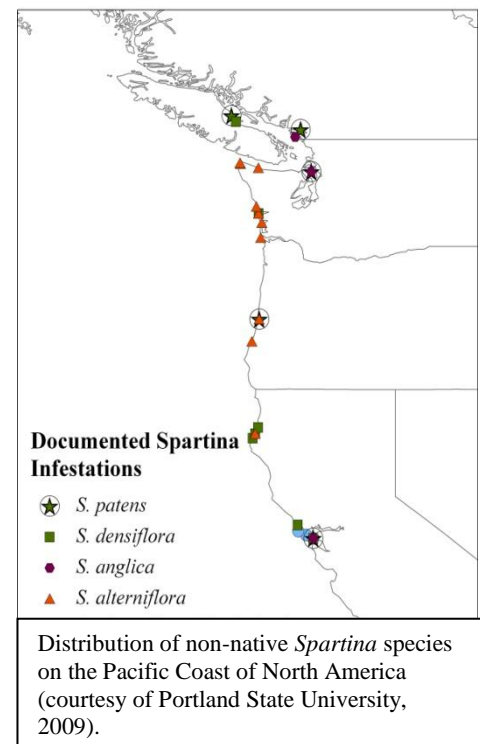
- *Spartina* is a non-native cordgrass that turns rare mudflat habitat into uniform expanses of dense grass, resulting in severe habitat loss and degradation, increased flooding, and impacts to fisheries. This invasive species poses a significant threat to the biodiversity and functionality of estuarine mudflats and salt-marsh ecosystems along the entire West Coast of North America.

Why is *Spartina* eradication a regional priority?

- *Spartina* is transported and dispersed primarily by ocean currents, so even if one state eradicates *Spartina*, it can become reinfected from populations in neighboring states.
- For these reasons, regional collaboration is imperative to achieving effective, long-term eradication.

Accomplishments

- **Regional:** In May 2010, the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health released a plan to eradicate *Spartina* by 2018. The *Spartina* Action Coordination Team received \$100K in federal funding for *Spartina* eradication in Siuslaw Estuary in Oregon and Humboldt Bay in California.
- **British Columbia:**
 - BC shares the West Coast Governors' target of 2018 for eradication of *Spartina*.
 - In 2010, the BC Ministry of the Environment provided a \$50,000 grant to continue the eradication efforts in BC partnered with Ducks Unlimited.
 - In 2011, the BC Stewardship Center, which is supported by a \$100,000 grant by the Province, is providing \$20,000 for a *Spartina* action. Further funding is being pursued.



- **California:**
 - In 2009 - 10, received \$2.65M for non-native *Spartina* eradication efforts in San Francisco Bay and planning efforts in Humboldt Bay
 - Initiated large scale control efforts in Humboldt Bay
 - Annual surveys of 50,000 acres of San Francisco Bay tidal marsh
 - Removed ~1,500 acres of non-native *Spartina* in SF Bay; less than 150 acres remain

- **Oregon:**
 - The Oregon Department of Agriculture and The Nature Conservancy have agreed on the approach to *Spartina* eradication in the Siuslaw Estuary
 - Extensive surveys of 9 estuaries with follow-up treatment in the Columbia River Estuary were funded by the Oregon Department of Agriculture

- **Washington:**
 - Over the last 8 years, the *Spartina* infestation has been reduced from over 9000 to 16 solid acres
 - Over 80,000 acres of intertidal habitat and over 1,000 shoreline miles are monitored annually