

# Invasive Species Glossary

## 2003 COSEE Summer Institute

**Ballast water** – water placed in a ship to increase the draft, change the trim, regulate the stability, or to maintain stress loads within acceptable limits; it also includes the sediment that accumulates in ballast tanks and holds

**Biocontrol** – the release of one species to control another

**Bioinvasions** – both human-assisted introductions and natural range expansions

**Competitor** - an organism that competes with others for resources

**Diversity** - the number of different species present in a habitat, often an indication of health, ecosystems with more species are more stable

**Endangered species** - a species under threat of *imminent* extinction

**Extinct** - the *complete* global disappearance of a species from existence

**Fouling organisms** – animals and plants (barnacles, mussels, seaweeds) that attach to human-made substrates, such as piers, navigation buoys, and the bottoms of ships

**Innocuous** - not a threat to native species or ecosystems

**Introduced species** – those species that have been transported by human activities intentionally or unintentionally into a region in which they did not occur in historical time and are now reproducing in the wild

**Native species** - with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem

**Pathogen** - a disease-causing organism or entity such as a bacterium, fungus, protozoan, or virus

**Pest** - an animal or plant that is deemed by mankind to be too numerous [this includes weeds].

**Threatened species** - any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Vector** – the physical means or agent by which a species is transported. Ballast water, ships' hulls, and the movement of commercial oysters are examples of vectors. Synonyms include pathway, dispersal mechanism, and mode.