

2012 Deputy Administrator's Safeguarding Award:

Invasive Wood-boring Beetle Project

During calendar year 2012, this team launched an innovative project to submit live larvae found in wood packing material, rear the larvae to adulthood, and conduct DNA analysis to collect important information from wood-boring beetle interceptions. The group captured the necessary information and made recommendations so that APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can increase and better align exclusion efforts. The project also assisted field managers and other stakeholders along the pathway in making informed decisions regarding pest detection and risk analysis to further safeguard American agriculture in their areas of coverage.

This multi-disciplinary project brought together key APHIS, CBP, and academic components to apply advanced laboratory research to regulatory interceptions by creating a DNA bar code library for wood-boring beetles that can be used to refine quarantine targeting and regulations. The project's success has led to its expansion to additional locations throughout the nation and an expansion of the pilot to collect trapping information at CBP facilities. The actions and results of the Invasive Wood-boring Beetle Project team are a strong demonstration of:

- cooperator-stakeholder collaboration in risk assessment and risk communication,
- leadership in risk-based management, and
- the leveraging of different communication channels to maximize safeguarding.

Invasive Wood-boring Beetle Project Team Members

1. Hannah Nadel; APHIS-PPQ-CPHST; Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts [Group Leader]
2. Emilie Bess; APHIS-PPQ; Seattle Washington
3. Victor Mastro; APHIS-PPQ-CPHST; Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
4. Alisha Beckham; CBP; Seattle, Washington
5. Luca Furnare; CBP; Seattle, Washington
6. Richard Mykowicz; CBP; Boston, Massachusetts
7. Barbara Chambers; APHIS-PPQ; Federal Way, Washington
8. Peter Reagel; Xavier University; Cincinnati, Ohio
9. Donka Weaver; CBP; Washington, D.C.
10. Ann Ray; Xavier University; Cincinnati, Ohio
11. Russell Sollars; CBP; Atlanta, Georgia
12. Joel Bender; CBP; Seattle, Washington
13. Christopher Weight; CBP; Seattle, Washington
14. Timothy St. Germain; APHIS-PPQ; Seattle, Washington
15. Scott Myers; APHIS-PPQ-CPHST; Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
16. John Molongoski; APHIS-PPQ-CPHST; Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
17. Gregory Ogburn; CBP; Seattle, Washington