

## **Lacey Act Regulation of Injurious Non-native Animals**

**Peter T. Jenkins**

**Executive Director, Center for Invasive Species Prevention**

**A section of the Federal Lacey Act (18 U.S. Code section 42) addresses injurious non-native animals, and wildlife pathogens (to a minor extent) imported from overseas and moved in interstate commerce. It is a 114 year-old law that is broadly recognized as a failure, being far too slow and ineffective. Numerous animal invasions have resulted from this inadequate regulatory approach. Other countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Israel have stronger, more precautionary, live animal import laws. The presentation will explain how species listings are done under the Lacey Act, such as occurred for Asian carp. Then it will address some surrounding policy initiatives and ongoing debates on how to improve the process. Congress is considering two bills that would modernize and reform the Lacey Act regulatory approach, both called the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act: in the House of Representative- HR 996, and in the Senate - S. 1153. Both have leadership from the Great Lakes area. The presentation will explain how the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act addresses weaknesses in the Lacey Act. It also will discuss the political prospects for the bill. This presentation will be made by the Policy Lead on invasive animals for the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (see [www.necis.net](http://www.necis.net)). He will outline ways participants can engage in and influence Federal developments in these areas**