

Snake Regulation

status report

Legislative

HR 669

Upcoming Senate bill

Congressional flip

Regulatory

Injurious Wildlife listing

Proposed Injurious Species:

Indian / Burmese python (*Python molurus*)

Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*),

Northern African python (*Python sebae*)

Southern African python (*Python natalensis*)

Boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*)

Yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*)

DeSchauensee's anaconda (*Eunectes deschauenseei*)

Green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)

Beni anaconda (*Eunectes beniensis*)

AZA Response

Public Comments submitted

Small Business Administration Hearing

The Politics

The Inertia of Ego



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News Release

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Salazar Moves to Ban Importation and Interstate Transfer of Burmese Python and Eight Other Giant Invasive Snakes *FWS to Propose Injurious Species Listing under Lacey Act*

NEW YORK, NY – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will propose to list the Burmese python and eight other large constrictor snakes that threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act.

Salazar made the announcement at the Port of New York, which serves as the largest point of entry in the nation for imports of wildlife and wildlife products. Last year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Inspectors at John F. Kennedy International Airport handled more than 27, 000 separate wildlife shipments valued at more than \$1 billion, or 16 percent of all U.S. wildlife imports.

The proposal, which will be open to public comment before Salazar makes a final decision, would prohibit importation and interstate transportation of the animals.

predators. If we are going to succeed, we must shut down the importation of the snakes and end the interstate commerce and transportation of them.”

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior

shipments of wildlife and wildlife products last year with an estimated value of \$2.7 billion.

“Our wildlife inspectors are the front line of defense for the nation, combating illegal wildlife trafficking and preventing the importation of countless species of illegal injurious wildlife. This proposal will give them an additional tool to restrict imports that are causing significant

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USGS Response

Challenges in Identifying Sites Climatically Matched to the Native Ranges of Animal Invaders

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Abstract

Background: Species distribution models are often used to characterize a species' native range climate, so as to identify sites elsewhere in the world that may be climatically similar and therefore at risk of invasion by the species. This endeavor provoked intense public controversy over recent attempts to model areas at risk of invasion by the Indian Python (*Python molurus*). We evaluated a number of MaxEnt models on this species to assess MaxEnt's utility for vertebrate climate matching.

Methodology/Principal Findings: Overall, we found MaxEnt models to be very sensitive to modeling choices and selection of input localities and background regions. As used, MaxEnt invoked minimal protections against data dredging, multi-collinearity of explanatory axes, and overfitting. As used, MaxEnt endeavored to identify a single ideal climate, whereas different climatic considerations may determine range boundaries in different parts of the native range. MaxEnt was extremely sensitive to both the choice of background locations for the python, and to selection of presence points: inclusion of just four erroneous localities was responsible for Pyron et al.'s conclusion that no additional portions of the U.S. mainland were at risk of python invasion. When used with default settings, MaxEnt overfit the realized climate space, identifying models with about 60 parameters, about five times the number of parameters justifiable when optimized on the basis of Akaike's Information Criterion.

Conclusions/Significance: When used with default settings, MaxEnt may not be an appropriate vehicle for identifying all sites at risk of colonization. Model instability and dearth of protections against overfitting, multi-collinearity, and data dredging may combine with a failure to distinguish fundamental from realized climate envelopes to produce models of limited utility. *A priori* identification of biologically realistic model structure, combined with computational protections against these statistical problems, may produce more robust models of invasion risk.

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Introduction

In this introduction we first establish that climate matching is a

subspecies, *Python molurus bivittatus*. At about the same time, we published results of our analysis of the areas of the U.S. that are climatically matched to the native range of the Indian Python [2],

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Elections & Jobs

What's Next

???? – Final ruling

Dept. of Interior / AZA meeting

Looming legal battles

Managing toward extinction?

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