

# ANS Task Force Update



**GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL  
APRIL 17, 2019**

**SUSAN PASKO  
ANS TASK FORCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
SUSAN\_PASKO@FWS.GOV**

# Overview of the ANS Task Force



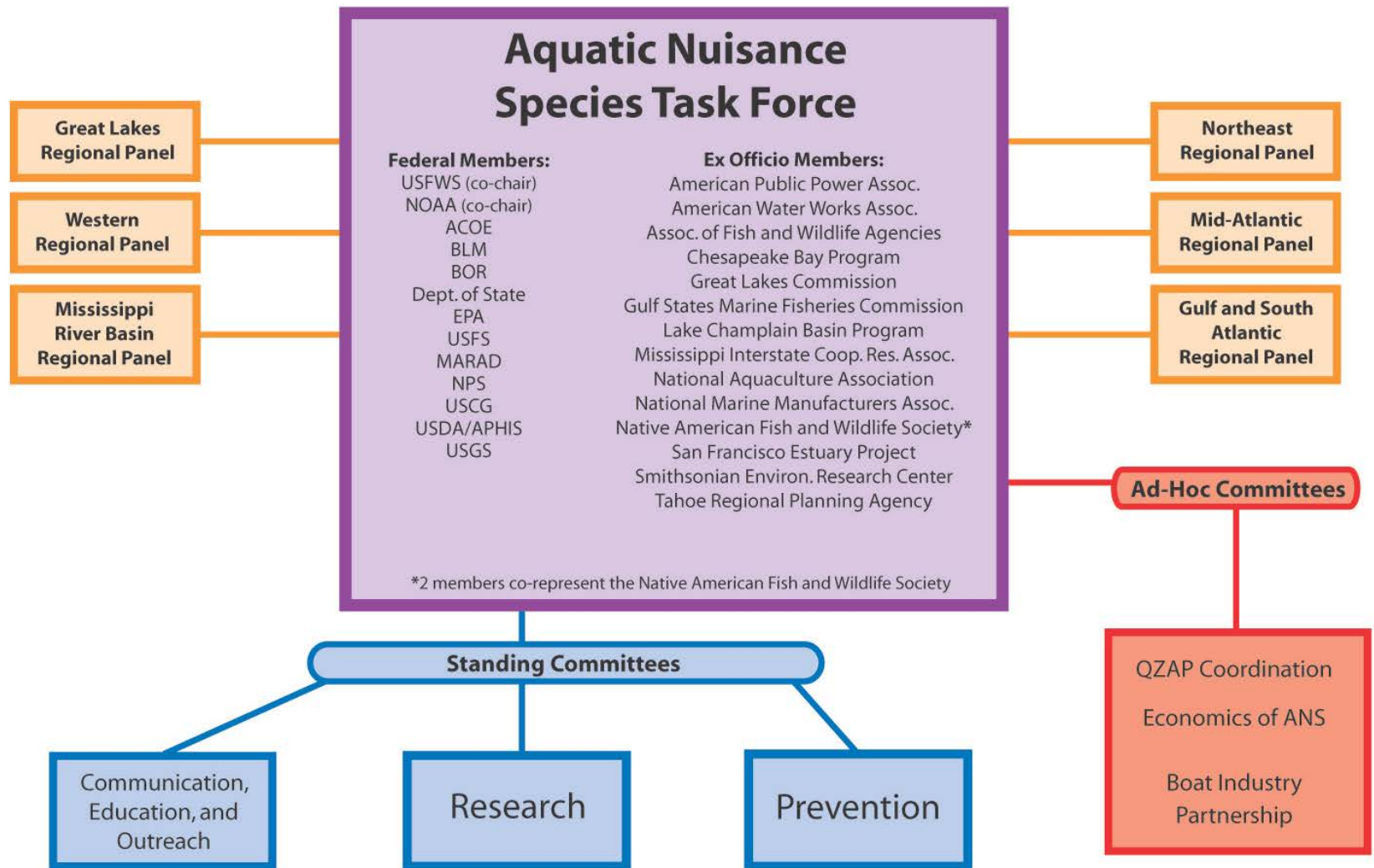
**ESTABLISHED** by Congress with the passage of NANPCA in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the NISA in 1996 .

**MISSION:** Develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent the introduction and dispersal of ANS; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information

**MEMBERS:** Composed of 13 Federal and 15 ex-officio members

The only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling ANS.





# The Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

## Western

(Members include: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY and Guam - Estab. 1997)



## Great Lakes

(Members include: IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, PA, OH, WI - Estab. 1991)



## Northeast

(Members include: CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT - Estab. 2001)



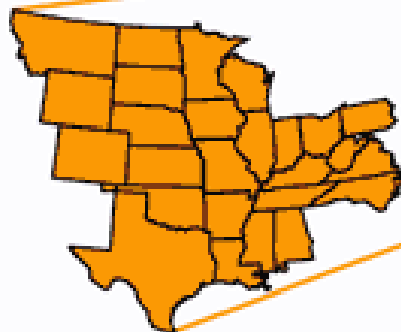
## Mid-Atlantic

(Members include: DE, DC, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV - Estab. 2003)



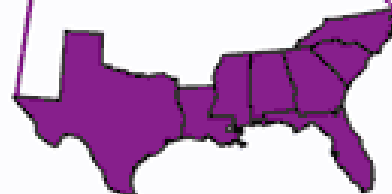
## Mississippi River Basin

(Members include: AL, AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV, WY - Estab. 2002)



## Gulf and South Atlantic

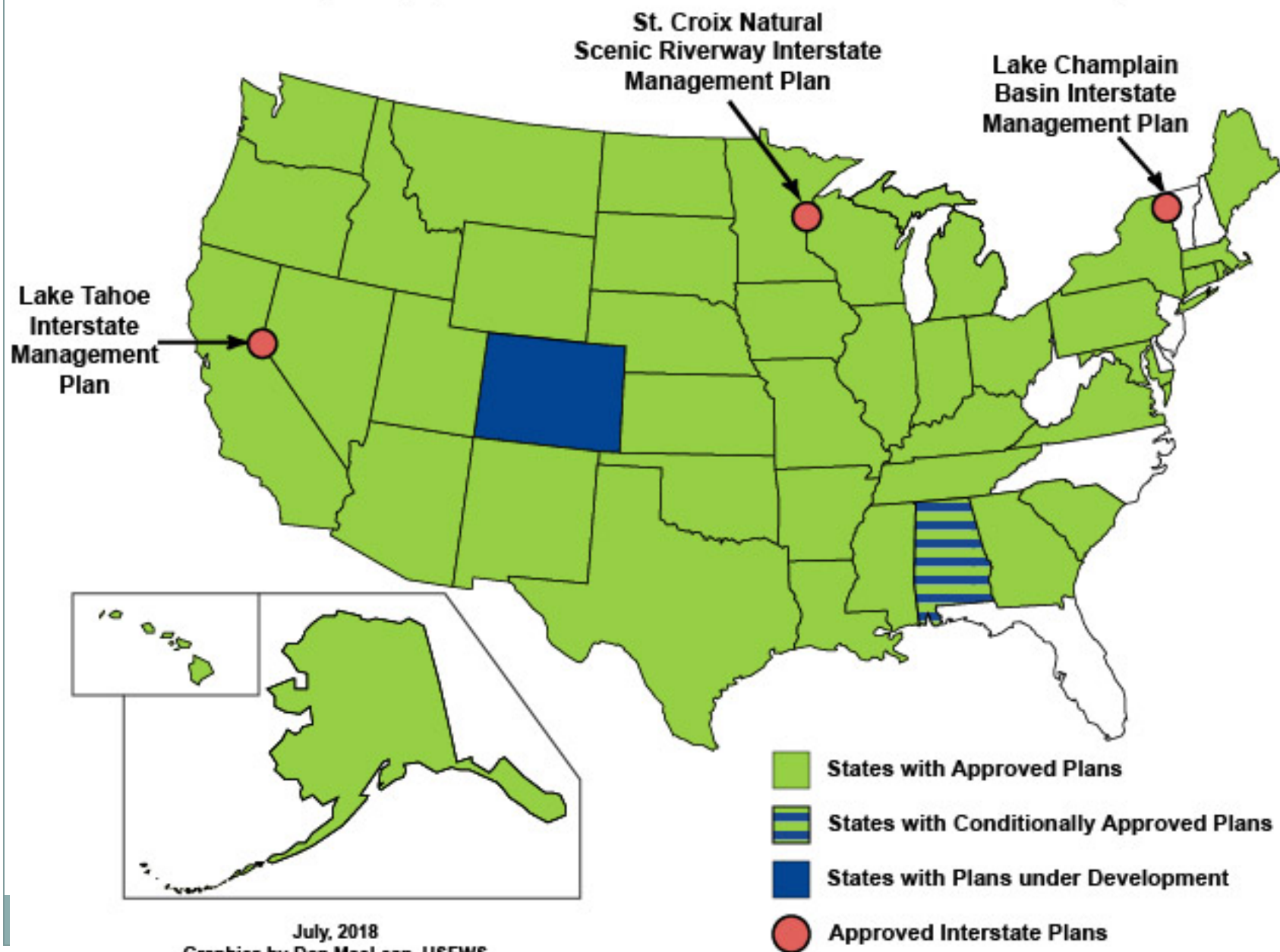
(Members include: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX - Estab. 1999)



June, 2010  
Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

# Status of State ANS Management Plans

(44 Approved Plans - 41 State, and 3 Interstate)



July, 2018

Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

# Last ANS Task Force Meetings



## **December 12 – 13, 2019 – Falls Church, VA**

- Injurious Wildlife Listing
- Accelerated Shipping, and Arctic Invasions
- Cultural Release Study
- Aquatic Invasive Species Management Decision-Making
- Break out sessions to refine and prioritize outputs under the new Strategic Plan

# December Action Items



- Comments on the ANS Task Force Report to Congress for 2016 - 2017 due by January 31, 2018.
- Goal Teams will by Feb. 15:
  - Develop a concise description of how the ANSTF will implement each of the Objectives and identify key outputs.
  - Suggest who might be best equipped to accomplish the work.
  - Make recommendations for refinements to strategies (as required for implementation).

# ANS Task Force Meetings



## **Next Meeting May 7-9 in Lake Tahoe, California**

- Regional Panel Principal Meeting
- Preventing Spread of Invasive Mussels in the West
- Ballast Water and Biofouling Management
- Updates (Asian Carp, Arctic, DOI)
- Breakout Discussions to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan outputs



# Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024



## Six Strategic Goals:

- Coordination
- Prevention
- Early Detection / Rapid Response
- Control / Restoration
- Research
- Outreach and Education

Under Each Goal, there are **three objectives** that provide detail about how each goal will be accomplished.

Each objective has a list of **strategies**, or specific activities that will be completed.



# Coordination Goal



## **Coordinate a national ANS program for U.S waters**

- Strengthen ANS Task Force operations to provide effective communication, information sharing, and decision making
- Strengthen the capacity for ANS management at State and regional levels
- Construct a national assessment of the ANS Program for waters of the United States



# Coordination Outputs



- Develop bylaws with membership expectations
- Establish a process for ANS Task Force members to consider and take action on recommendations brought forward by the regional panels;
- Update the ANSTF website
- Refine the reporting process for members, committees, and regional panels
  - Annually access accomplishment reports and report on progress and gaps to the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan
  - Prepare an ANS Task Force Report to Congress on a regular basis
- Convene meetings on a regular basis for federal ANSTF members to strategically discuss the alignment of authorities, budgets, and implementing the ANSTF Strategic Plan



# Prevention Goal



## **Develop strategies to identify, assess, and manage the risk of ANS and their pathways to prevent new introductions**

- Evaluate and refine science-based risk analysis procedures to assess potential ANS and pathways for introduction
- Identify priority pathways and species of concern
- Encourage implementation of measures to manage high priority pathways and species



# Prevention Outputs



- Evaluate and refine NISC/ANSTF pathway risk assessment process and 1996 Generic Risk Analysis Process
- Work with responsible Federal agencies to make importation data electronically available and searchable for wildlife imported into the United States.
- Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking or ineffective, and recommend risk management actions
- Enter into national prevention practices and agreements with responsible industry sectors.
- Increase implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning into work conducted, managed, or permitted by natural resource managers



# EDRR Goal



## **Develop strategies to inform a nationally coordinated EDRR approach**

- Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and report new sightings of ANS
- Develop processes to rapidly assess new species detections and determine appropriate management actions
- Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to new invasions



# EDRR Outputs



- Conduct an assessment of horizon-scanning tools and a framework for their use
- Develop a horizon scan for United States and pair this with ecoregion approach for determining U.S. hotspots as a basis for a nationally-coordinated early detection framework
- Develop a report describing available tools for interpretation of eDNA detection patterns and develop recommendations for minimal reporting standards
- Develop a report describing how the Expert Database is used, identifying gaps in taxonomic or management expertise, and providing recommendations to increase usability
- Develop a template and general guidance for using ICS for invasive species response
- Develop a report describing where emergency response funds are currently in use and provide a model to establish and administer an emergency rapid response fund



# Control and Restoration Goal



## **Facilitate capabilities to control established ANS populations and restore impacted habitats**

- Coordinate the development and implementation of ANS Control and Management Plans
- Identify and communicate effective control and restoration techniques
- Identify gaps in available control and restoration measures and encourage innovation





# Control and Restoration Outputs



- Assess state of each plan, and determine if plan should be retired, revised, or remain active
- Serve as a coordinated forum for management perspectives on the development, risk characterization, and possible utilization of genetic-based tools for ANS control
- Compile, evaluate, and make accessible control and restoration protocols for priority species
- Survey ANS Task Force for gaps in control and restoration measures; use this information to produce a summary report
  - Inform the research committee of the gaps for consideration the research priorities list
  - Distribute summary report to all entities that may have the resources and expertise to address gaps identified



# Research Goal



## **Facilitate research on ANS threats, impacts, and controls**

- Identify and prioritize ANS research needs for all aspects of ANS management
- Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs
- Track and disseminate study results to incorporate into ANS management decisions and activities



# Research Outputs



- Develop an annual priority research list that shows both regional and national priorities
- Develop a communication plan to promote annual research list developed by ANS Task Force and regional panels
- Develop a model for ANS Task Force research grant program, including exploration of options for obtaining funds to administer such a program



# Education and Outreach Goal



## **Conduct outreach and education to increase awareness concerning the threats of ANS**

- Build capacity to evaluate current ANS education and outreach efforts and develop a Communications Plan ensure messaging is consistent and effective
- Develop processes to share information and consistently implement ANS outreach
- Raise the professional profile and communicate shared priorities of the ANS Task Force



# Education and Outreach Outputs



- Develop an ANS campaign assessment report to evaluate the effectiveness of FWS national campaigns
- Develop and implement an ANSTF Communication Plan
- Define and identify leaders for an ANS Community of Practice; Provide a forum for dialogue among Community of Practice leaders to incorporate evaluation data and improve outreach tools and methods
- Create and implement an onboarding process with materials for new Congressional delegates
- Develop an executive summary with infographics from ANSTF meetings to be distributed
- Create and implement an onboarding process with materials for new State or Federal ANS Coordinators, and professionals in other ANS Task Force member organizations or regional panels