



AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL MEETING

APRIL 24, 2023

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE

The only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species.

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.

STRUCTURE: Composed of 13 Federal, 13 ex-officio members, 6 Regional Panels, several Sub-committees.

CHARTERED: Under FACA.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Structure



ANS TASK FORCE JANUARY 2023 MEETING

Agenda:

- Updates: USGS NAS database, National Invasive Species Council, AIS Commission, Canadian Council on Invasive Species
- Prevention: Gap Analysis, Ballast Water Management, Biofouling and Off-Shore Wind Operations
- EDRR: National Framework, RR Fund, eDNA technology
- Control: European Green Crab, QZ, NZMS, Invasive Carp Plans; Lake Tahoe Control Efforts, • Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Transmission, Prevention, and Response
- Outreach: Results from Nation and State Campaign Assessments.

ANS Task Force January 2023 Meeting

Decisional Items:

Approved the establishment of an ad-hoc subcommittee to determine the financial impacts from limitations on motorboat registration fees as presented by the U.S. Coast Guard guidance letter.

Action Items:

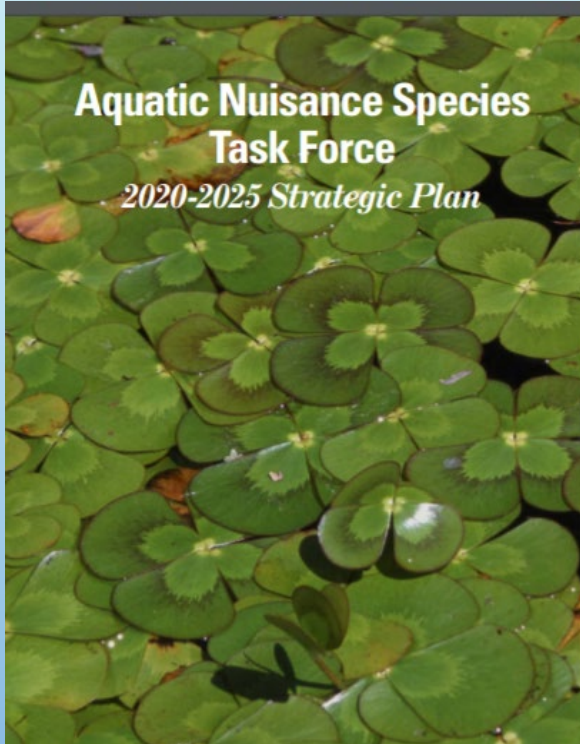
1. USGS will provide information on the timing and intent of the Black Carp Community of Practice, NAS User Meetings, and NEDRRIS Network Meetings to share with the ANSTF member and regional panels.
2. Distribute the “Decontaminating Firefighting Equipment to Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species” to ANSTF members and regional panels. The Prevention subcommittee will provide recommendations regarding adoption of the protocol at the next ANSTF meeting.







ANS Task Force January 2023 Meeting

Action Items Continued:

- 3) Distribute the “Model Process for a Rapid Response Fund” document to ANSTF members and regional panels for comments. The work group will address comments and present a final document of ANSTF approval consideration at the next meeting.
- 4) The Outreach Subcommittee will consider options develop a single online national resource similar to Protect The West for communicating watercraft inspection and decontamination requirements, procedures, and state program contacts. The Outreach Subcommittee will report their recommendations for developing this resource at the next ANSTF meeting.
- 5) Subcommittees will submit workplans to the Executive Secretary for distribution to ANSTF members and regional panels.

ANS TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN



 COORDINATION Coordinate a national ANS program for waters of the United States	 CONTROL & RESTORATION Contain and control established ANS and restore native species and ecosystems
 PREVENTION Prevent the establishment and spread of existing ANS	 RESEARCH Facilitate research on ANS threats, impacts, and controls
 EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE Identify and respond to new species detections in a timely manner to prevent their establishment and spread	 OUTREACH & EDUCATION Conduct outreach and education to increase awareness concerning the threats of ANS



ANSTF PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE



Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

- Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking or ineffective, or resulted from gaps in authority
- Evaluate seaplanes as a potential pathways for ANS, identify mitigation measures
- Established the Organisms in Trade (OIT) Hitchhikers Workgroup.



Upcoming Work Elements:

- Determine if the Boating Ad-Hoc Committee should be reestablished to the Boating Partnership Subcommittee in response to evolution of boat designs and their ability to transfer AIS
- Facilitate a discussion to encourage the use and adoption of the guidelines to prevent AIS transport by wildland fire operations.





ANSTF EDRR SUBCOMMITTEE



Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and report new sightings of ANS

- Develop a plan for capacity-building in NAS to meet stakeholder needs
- Develop ANS horizon scanning and watch lists

• Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to new invasions

- Modernize and enhance the ANSTF Experts Database
- Develop a Rapid Response Template
- Develop a model RR funding process



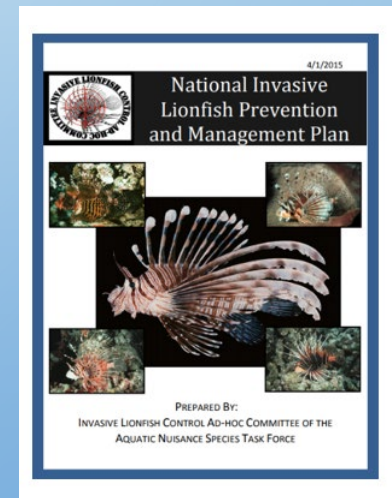
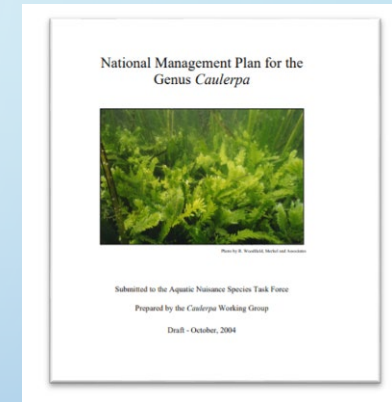
ANSTF CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE



Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

Coordinate the development and implementation of ANS Management and Control Plans

- Plan revisions: European Green Crab and New Zealand Mudsnail
- Decision-making Process for Approval to Develop new Species Control and Management Plans
- **Identify gaps in available control and restoration measures and encourage innovation**
 - Communicate the gap and measures that are needed to address gaps in control measures





ANSTF RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE



Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

Establish ANS Task Force research priorities and identify prospective partners

- National AIS Priority Research List approved in November 2021.
(<https://www.fws.gov/media/aquatic-nuisance-species-task-force-national-priorities-list-research-aquatic-invasive>)
- **Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs**
 - Promote the annual priority research list – agency letters, social media, white paper
- **Track and disseminate study results to incorporate into ANS management decisions and activities**
 - Survey AIS community for current /planned AIS research that aligned with priorities
 - Develop process to update the National AIS Priority Research List



ANSTF OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE



Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

Evaluate ANS communication, education, and outreach efforts to ensure they are consistent and effective

- Conduct an assessment of national campaigns that target outdoor recreational users
- **Develop processes to share information and consistently implement ANS outreach strategies**
 - Populate the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers portal to serve as a national clearinghouse for education, outreach, and marketing materials
 - Establish an ANS Outreach Community of Practice



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward.
Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



Habitattitude™

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

THANK YOU!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ANS TASK FORCE WEBSITE –

WWW.ANSTASKFORCE.GOV

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