

Joint Prevention Committee

Preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive species is a priority of the member agencies of the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (ANSFT) and National Invasive Species Council (NISC). The strategic plans for both of these groups highlight the need to develop and use science-based risk assessments and screening tools to proactively address the threats posed by nonnative wildlife. A joint ANSTF-NISC Prevention Committee has worked cooperatively across federal agencies to advise and support the ANSTF and the NISC in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as amended, and Executive Order 13112 as it relates to minimizing the risks associated with future establishments and spread of invasive species. The Committee met on April 30, 2009 to review the roles and responsibilities for the group and the active working groups and to review and comment on the current membership of the active working groups. The two active working groups are the Nonnative Wildlife Screening Working Group chaired by Mr. Michael Hoff of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Risk Assessment Working Group chaired by Cynthia Kolar of USGS. These groups are developing science-based risk assessment and screening methods for review by the member agencies. The Nonnative Wildlife Screening (Screening) Working Group has not met but the chair has asked the current members to comment on the current draft of the Mississippi River Basin Panel's proposed screening protocol for freshwater fish. The Risk Assessment group has not met but the chair is interested in developing a suggested framework for the screening system proposed by the Screening group.