

**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force  
Research Committee**

Update

May 2009

*(Draft) Recommendations for Revision of the “Protocol for Evaluating Research Proposals  
Concerning Aquatic Nonindigenous Species (“the Protocol”)*

Submitted by  
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Chair, Research Committee

The Research Committee undertook a review of the Research Protocol adopted by the ANSTF in July 1994. The consensus opinion of Committee members was that the existing Protocol is in need simplification and other improvements.

The present draft, which will be provided to the Task Force prior to or by this meeting, reflects the revisions recommended by the Committee. However, there are some areas for which the Committee needs guidance from the Task Force before language can be finalized.

At the Spring 2009 meeting, I will present an outline of the (major) proposed changes, and identify the issues requiring input from the Task Force before we proceed to a final version. After allowing an agreed-upon time period for receipt of Task Force feedback on the present draft, a final revised version will be prepared and submitted to the Task Force for consideration to adopt.

Some of the significant changes:

- The draft eliminates reference to a Research Protocol Committee, which does not and has not functioned since the original Protocol was adopted.
- It incorporates and encourages, by reference, the use of HACCP for prevention planning and development of Containment Plans when required.
- It revises and attempts to simplify the description of roles and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator, the Research Institution, and the Funding Agency.
- It provides a greatly simplified risk assessment (Part I) that uses seven primarily “yes/no” questions to determine if Containment Plans should be required.

- It updates Part II and the Appendices.