



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



The Aquatic Nuisance Task Force, co-chaired by NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is currently comprised of 13 federal agencies and 12 ex-officio members. The Task Force acts as a coordinating body in developing and implementing the national program for prevention, research, monitoring and control of infestations of nonindigenous aquatic species.

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA) is intended to identify and implement ways to prevent the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species into waters of the United States, to work toward minimizing economic and ecological impacts of established nonindigenous species, and to establish a program to assist states in the management and removal of such species

NANPCA directs the Coast Guard to issue regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes through ballast water. The Act also authorizes a number of studies and monitoring programs to assess the spread of aquatic nuisance species and develop methods for controlling them, including:

- Assess whether aquatic nuisance species threaten the ecological characteristics and economic uses of U.S. waters.
- Determine the need for controls on vessels entering U.S. ports.
- Identify and evaluate approaches for reducing risk of adverse consequences associated with intentional introduction of aquatic species.

National Invasive Species Act of 1996

The National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA) reauthorizes and amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Control Act of 1990. It includes a number of additional findings, including that aquatic nuisance species are unintentionally transported and introduced into inland lakes and rivers by recreational boaters, commercial barge traffic, and other pathways; therefore preventative management measures are needed nationwide to prevent the further introduction and infestation of destructive species. The Act also reauthorizes and modifies a number of programs and provisions identified in NANPCA, including:

- Mandates regulations to prevent introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species into Great Lakes through ballast water.
- Authorizes funding for research on aquatic nuisance species prevention and control (in the Chesapeake Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Coast, Atlantic Coast, San Francisco Bay- Delta Estuary).
- Requires the ballast water management program to demonstrate technologies and practices to prevent nonindigenous species from being introduced.
- Requires development and implementation of a comprehensive program to control the brown tree snake in Guam.



Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA), reauthorized by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA), established the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to coordinate aquatic nuisance species activities among federal agencies and between federal agencies, regional, state, tribal, and local organizations. NANPCA and NISA designate the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere as the Task Force Chairpersons; establishes a base Task Force membership to include representatives from six federal agencies; and names four organizations as ex-officio members.

Using their NANPCA/NISA authority, the Chairs have expanded the membership to 13 federal agencies and 12 ex-officio members. Fisheries and Oceans Canada also participates on the Task Force as an invited observer. The Task Force is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972. This chartering provides the Task Force with its core structure and ensures an open and public forum for its activities. As shown below, the Task Force coordinates governmental efforts dealing with aquatic nuisance species in the United States with those of the private sector and other North American interests via regional panels and issue specific committees and work group.

The Task Force established six regional panels whose memberships include representatives of states, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, commercial interests, and neighboring countries. Regional panels are a critical and effective mechanism for achieving the objectives of the Task Force. A regional panel's roles include:

- Identifying regional aquatic nuisance species priorities
- Coordinating aquatic nuisance species programs in the region
- Making recommendations to the Task Force
- Providing advice to public and private interests concerning methods of aquatic nuisance species management/control

The Task Force has five standing committees, each focused on an essential aspect of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program.

- Prevention
- Detection and Monitoring
- Control
- Research
- Communication, Education, and Outreach

Committees are made up of member agency representatives and subject matter experts. Committee activities include the development of species-specific control and management plans, standardized scientific protocols, public awareness/action campaigns, research priorities, theoretical frameworks to screen organisms prior to their entry to the U.S., and to provide technical advice to the Task Force. Committees may form ad hoc working groups that focus on a specific discipline within the committee's purview.



Dedicated to the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species

Additional information about ANSTF can found at <http://www.anstaskforce.gov>

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