UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE

CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (Task Force)

2. **Scope and Objectives:** The Task Force provides, in an advisory capacity, an intergovernmental mechanism for the development of a coordinated Federal program to prevent and control nonindigenous aquatic nuisances as authorized by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Act), 16 U.S.C. 4701-4741.

3. **Duration:** We expect the Task Force to exist into the foreseeable future. Its continuation is, however, subject to biennial rechartering in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

4. **Agency or Official to Whom the Task Force Reports:** The Task Force reports to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce through its co-chairs, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

5. **Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:** The Service will provide administrative and logistical support for the Task Force.

6. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Task Force's functions are estimated to be $260,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 2.0 FTEs required to support the Task Force.

7. **Description of Duties:** The Act specifies the duties of the Task Force.

   a. Develop a program for waters of the United States to prevent the introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species and the brown tree snake; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information.

   b. Encourage the development and use of regional panels composed of representatives from Federal, State and local agencies, environmental organizations, and commercial interests, to provide advice about and coordinate efforts devoted to aquatic nuisance species.

   c. Develop and implement aquatic nuisance species specific control and management plans.

   d. Establish and follow a protocol to ensure that research carried out under authority of Subtitle C of the Act does not result in the introduction of aquatic nuisance species to waters of the United States.

   e. Develop voluntary guidelines to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species through recreational activities.

   f. Recommend allocation of funds authorized under the Act for competitive research grants to study all aspects of aquatic nuisance species.

g. Provide, as appropriate, technical assistance in the development and implementation of State and interstate aquatic nuisance species management plans, review and approve such plans, and make recommendations for grants for implementing approved plans.

h. Advise the Secretary of State regarding aquatic nuisance species infesting waters shared by the United States and other nations as well as coordination with those nations related to the planning and implementation of programs to prevent, monitor, study, provide education about, and control those infestations.

8. **Allowances for Task Force Members**: Members will serve without compensation for travel or their services on the Task Force. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members engaged in Task Force business approved by the Designated Federal Officer may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under section 5703 of title 5 of the United States Code.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** We expect the Task Force to meet two times a year.

10. **Termination Date:** The Task Force is subject to the provisions of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of the FACA have been met. The Task Force is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of the FACA.

11. **Membership:**

a. The following Federal officials are statutorily designated as members of the Task Force by 16 U.S.C. 4721(b)(1) to (6). Each of these members may designate a Federal employee to serve as an alternate. The Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on the Task Force, or their designated alternates, will serve as Task Force co-chairs.

(1) Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (co-chair)
(2) Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (co-chair)
(3) Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(4) Commandant of the United States Coast Guard
(5) Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
(6) Secretary of Agriculture

b. 16 U.S.C. 4721(b)(7) authorizes the co-chairs to invite the head of any other Federal agency it deems appropriate to be a member of the Task Force. Each such member may designate a Federal employee to serve as an alternate. The following Federal members joined the Task Force in this manner.

(1) Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
(2) Director, U.S. Geological Survey
(3) Director, National Park Service
(4) Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration

(5) Director, Bureau of Land Management
(6) Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
(7) Chief, U.S. Forest Service

c. 16 U.S.C. 4721(c) authorizes the co-chairs to invite representatives of the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program, and State agencies and other governmental entities to participate as non-voting ex officio members of the Task Force.

d. The representatives of Federal agencies will serve at the pleasure of the head of each such agency. Ex-officio members will serve a 3-year term.

e. When a vacancy occurs, the co-chair(s) or their alternate(s) will ask the represented entity to nominate a replacement for the remainder of the applicable term.

f. A majority of the Federal membership of the Task Force will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Task Force will not take positions on issues or offer advice or recommendations with less than a majority of its members in attendance.

g. The Designated Federal Officer is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-employed Executive Secretary of the Task Force.

12. **Subgroups:** The Service or the Task Force with the Service's approval may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered Task Force and must report their recommendations and advice to the Task Force for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered Task Force nor can they report directly to the Service or the Department.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members**: No Task Force or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

14. **Authority:** The Task Force is established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 4721.

Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior

9/6/09
Date Signed

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Date Filed