

## **Regional Panel Recommendations and Activities for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, North Charleston, South Carolina, April 29-30, 2008**

### **Panel: Western Regional Panel**

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### **High-Priority and/or Emerging Regional Issues:**

#### **Biology Curriculum**

Biology curriculums have been identified by the WRP as a significant pathway for the spread and introduction of ANS. During the 2006 annual meeting of the WRP a panel discussion was held to discuss this topic, since then a workgroup was established to develop priorities and recommendations to address the problem.

The WRP considers the following to be the top priorities that need to be addressed to control the spread or introduction of ANS through biology curriculum pathways:

- Biological supply companies should be provided with access to current, consolidated information regarding species that are prohibited for sale and possession in specific states and the United States overall.
- Collaboration with science curricula providers should occur in order to develop associated outreach materials that these organizations can then provide to their clients and customers regarding the prevention of ANS introductions.
- A set of nationally sanctioned standardized protocols should be developed for the humane euthanasia of aquatic organisms, in partnership with key national stakeholders.

In addition to the above priorities the WRP recommends that the use of live, potentially invasive species in any classroom should always be considered as a last resort. Alternatives such as the use of preserved specimens or live native species should be considered before the use of live invasives.

The WRP requests that the ANS Task Force recognize this as an emerging issue and create a work group to work with the industry to make them aware of the significance of the issue.

### **Key ANS activities from November 2007 to April 2008:**

#### **Panel**

- Two new committees created and working on products:
  - WRP website committee
  - Threats to the West brochure update committee
- 2008 annual meeting will be September 9-11 in Ft. Collins, Colorado
- Discussion on strategy to develop a regional review network for ANS HACCP plans.

#### **State/Interstate**

- Utah, Colorado and South Dakota are nearing draft stage of ANS Management Plans to submit to ANS Task Force.
- Legislation introduced in Utah and Colorado would allow all peace officers or port-of-entry personnel in the state to detain vehicles for probable cause, inspect, clean or quarantine vehicles pulling boats carrying zebra or quagga mussels.

- Columbia River Team of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative completed an Asian Carp Risk Assessment (available on the ANS Task Force website).
- The Columbia River Basin Rapid Response Plan for zebra/quagga mussels is in the final, final draft stage and has gone out for signatures from the participating agencies in 5 states as well as USFWS and PSU (Project support from WRP, NOAA, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission).

**Panel Recommendations to the ANS Task Force:**

1. See above emerging issue