

**Decision Document**  
**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting – May 2011**

**Agenda Item: Proposed Development of Pet Industry Best Management Practices**

**Sponsor: Marshall Meyers, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council;  
Michael Hoff, FWS**

**Background:** Regulatory and non-regulatory approaches exist to limiting the risk of introduction, establishment, and adverse impacts of nonnative and invasive species. This approach focuses on a non-regulatory approach to limiting risks of nonnative pet introduction in the wild that result in establishment and adverse impacts.

The provisional goal of this initiative is to develop, in coordination and consultation with other governmental, nongovernmental, and industry sectors, Best Management Practices (BMPs)/Codes of Conduct that can be used by government and private sectors to minimize the risks, from birth or other source (i.e. importation) to end of life, of nonnative/invasive species introduction, establishment, and impact. This approach will need to be taken in phases within and among various industries and organizations. The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council wishes to cooperatively lead this pilot effort to voluntarily develop, as an initial goal, BMPs for aquatic and avian species and water gardens. BMPs for these taxonomic groups can be used as models for development of BMPs for other pet taxonomic groups, and for BMP development and use by other industries and organizations.

BMPs we develop are intended to target, and be used by, specific audiences within the chain from organism source through end of organism life. Audiences include all those at discrete points including suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, logistics agents, and consumers.

**Status of Best Management Practices:**

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council developed, for some taxonomic groups, industry codes of conduct. Other industry representatives have other documents that will be useful for drafting the short, easily readable, BMPs we will produce. We (Meyers and Hoff, with participation by key experts) intend to develop BMPs that will provide any person or group handling such species with readily accessible materials that clearly and simply describe which best practices are recommended to minimize risk of organism escapement/release into the wild.

**Exact text of the Proposed Decision:** Approve development of draft BMPs for later consideration of joint (ANSTF and PIJAC) adoption and dissemination to appropriate audiences.

	Approved
	Disapproved
	Approved w/modified text