



# NOAA's Update: Aquatic Invasive Species



*Margaret M. (Peg) Brady, DOC/NOAA Acting Co-chair  
to NISC & ANSTF  
ANSTF Meeting, USFWS HQ, Falls Church, VA  
5 - 6 November 2014*



# NOAA Highlights and Activities

- AIS & NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas
- HACCP updates
- NOAA AIS Team Workshop on west coast
  - Week of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Santa Cruz, California
- National Marine Sanctuaries Lionfish Plan
- NOAA AIS Month in July—posted articles & presentations offered wrt AIS matters
- Susan Pasko/Jason Goldberg's harvest incentives paper was published in July in *Management of Biological Invasions*
- Regional updates



# NOAA Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas & Invasive Species

The Habitat Blueprint is NOAA's strategy to integrate habitat conservation throughout the agency, focus efforts in priority areas, and leverage internal and external collaborations to achieve measurable benefits within key habitats such as rivers, coral reefs, and wetlands.

NOAA has identified state and federal invasive species experts and plans to consider invasive species prevention and management while developing Habitat Blueprint Focus Area Implementation Plans.

More Focus Areas will be selected in the near future. *Alaska, South Atlantic, and Caribbean areas will be announced by year's end.*

## 7 Focus Areas:

- Muskegon Lake, Michigan
- St. Louis River, Minnesota & Wisconsin
- Guam
- West Hawaii
- Russian River of California
- Penobscot River in Maine
- Choptank River, Maryland/Delaware





# NOAA's Ongoing AIS Actions

## Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species:

- HACCP is international standard for reducing or eliminating the spread of unwanted species during natural resource management (NRM) activities
- Team from NOAA and USFWS have revised manual, forms and teaching materials to better align with NRM work
- Team also developed a "Train the Trainer" course:
  - Course offered to Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory in August 2014.
  - Future courses:
    - NEANS: December, 2014
    - Santa Cruz: April 2015





# 2015 NOAA Aquatic Invasive Species Internal Workshop

- Week of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, California
- Goals of the workshop:
  - First in-person meeting between the new NOAA Western AIS Team
  - Build and support collaboration and communication between cross line office invasive species initiatives at NOAA
  - Regional updates on AIS initiatives
  - Building invasive species partnerships



# NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Lionfish Action Plan

The Indo-Pacific lionfish has become widely established within Atlantic and Caribbean waters and poses a significant threat to native coral reef communities. NOAA is the final stages of completing an action plan to respond to this invasion.



The goal of Plan is to understand and mitigate lionfish impacts on U.S. marine ecosystems and providing U.S. leadership to a Caribbean-wide response. To achieve this goal, the plan strives to:

- Identify the most critical actions needed to target management measures and minimize impacts from the invasion
- Describe why these actions are necessary
- Develop implementation plans that include leads and supporting entities.
- Sanctuaries have been key players in lionfish derbies and monitoring programs

Plan is in final review, plan adoption estimated for Winter, 2014



# NOAA Inter-Agency AIS Activities

## ANSTF:

- Prepared the 2014 ANSTF Report to Congress
- Participated on the Invasive Lionfish Control Ad-hoc Committee
- Supported the 2014 Invasive Tunicate Workshop (August 6-7, 2014; Seattle, WA)
- Appointed representatives on all Regional Panels

## NISC:

- Maintained the NOAA Cross-Cut Budget for AIS
- Assisted revision of the NISC Management Plan
- Assisted the development of ISAC Whitepaper: Harvest Incentives: A Tool for Managing Aquatic Invasive Species



# NOAA Invasive Species Month: July 2014

- Highlighted aquatic invasive species issues on the NOAA Fisheries webpage:
  - [Asian tiger shrimp](#)
  - [Northern snakehead](#)
  - [Invasive blue and flathead catfish](#)
  - [Pacific salmon and invasive species in the Pacific Northwest](#)



# NOAA Regional Updates

- West coast region is developing an AIS management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.
- Continued research by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary into *Watersipora subtorquata*.
- Lionfish and Asian tiger shrimp sightings continue to grow in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - NOAA Caribbean Strategy includes action item to develop management tools and a regional response strategy for invasive lionfish in the Caribbean
  - Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary continues its lionfish removal and research program, ongoing since the first lionfish sighting 2.5 years ago within the sanctuary
- GLERL is investigating links between quagga/zebra mussels and harmful algal blooms.