



Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

2014 Report to Congress

ANS *Task Force*

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Aquatic Nuisance Species Management at a Glance....

Coordination

The scope and complexity of ANS management requires the strengths of multiple government agencies and private organizations in complementary ways. Coordination and cooperation between federal, state, and local entities are necessary to address possible gaps, weaknesses and inconsistencies, and to promote greater harmonization of ANS management. A primary objective of the ANS Task Force is to facilitate cooperation and coordinate federal government efforts relating to ANS with those of the private sector and other North American interests.

Prevention

Prevention is the first line of defense against ANS and the most cost-effective means to avert the risk of harmful introductions. Prevention ensures that new ANS do not become introduced into new habitats. Without prevention, ANS may infect our nation's aquatic ecosystems by establishing incipient populations that cause severe economic and ecological damage, which is often permanent and irreparable.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

Early detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) allow detection of new ANS before populations can establish or spread widely, thereby increasing the feasibility of eradication or containment. Actions include monitoring habitats to discover new species soon after introduction, reporting sightings of previously unknown species, and working quickly to keep new species from becoming established and spreading.

Containment and Control

After a species becomes established, management options include containment and control. Containment efforts are used to prevent further spread of the targeted ANS, while control efforts are used to suppress ANS populations so that other resource management objectives can be achieved.

Research

To deliver the components of an effective ANS program, research is often necessary to develop a greater array of management tools. Research is also needed on the basic biology and impacts of ANS to demonstrate their effects, analyze their threats, and support the most effective options for management. Research challenges continue to arise as new ANS are discovered and new issues emerge.

Education and Outreach

To prevent the spread of ANS by our highly-mobilized and globally connected society, it is critical that the public understand 1) why ANS are detrimental and why the government is involved and 2) what actions they can take to help prevent the introduction and spread of ANS. Robust public awareness programs increase understanding of the impacts associated with invasive species and allow the public to become partners in solving the problem.

Great Lakes Region

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin

Coordination

The U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation initiated the formation of the Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative, in conjunction with the International Joint Commission, to bring together industry and state and federal regulators on the issue of ballast water and ANS. One of the primary goals of the Collaborative is to share relevant, useful, and accurate information and foster better communication and collaboration among the key stakeholders engaged in the effort to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of ANS. A particular emphasis of the Collaborative has been to bring state representatives together with marine industry representatives and respected scientists to find workable and effective solutions to the ANS challenge as they relate to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.

Prevention

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC), hosting organization of the GLP, is working to support prevention efforts by developing software to assess the availability of ANS via internet sales, identify sellers, and develop and implement targeted management activities. This project will provide management tools to decision-makers and regulators, present information on the Internet marketplace, better assess the risks associated with this pathway, and present options for additional actions to prevent ANS introductions. Other prevention activities within the GLP included adoption of a position statement and recommendations for a national ballast water discharge standard.

Federal efforts within the Great Lakes region include NOAA's [Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species information System](#) (GLANSIS), a regional

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

Website: <http://glc.org/projects/invasive>

Convened in 1991, the Great Lakes Panel (GLP) was the first regional panel to be federally authorized by the ANS Task Force. The mission of the Panel is to coordinate the development of education, research, and policy to prevent new ANS from entering the Great Lakes basin and to control and mitigate those ANS populations already established. The Panel carries out this mission by working to:

- Identify ANS priorities for the Great Lakes,
- Develop regional position statements on ANS priorities,
- Assist the ANS Task Force in coordinating federal ANS program activities,
- Provide advice concerning ANS prevention and control,
- Coordinate ANS program activities in the Great Lakes,
- Provide a forum for interagency/organizational communication, and
- Serve as a vehicle for regional dialogue and discussion on ANS issues.

The GLP has been a leader nationally. Products produced over the last 20+ years have provided guidance for its members as well as other regional panels helping to address ANS challenges. The GLP fosters binational collaboration and coordination on ANS research, education, and policy through the active participation of members representing Canadian federal, provincial, and nongovernment agencies. It creates a forum that allows information sharing, collaboration, and coordination to provide opportunities for leadership, the genesis of new ideas and approaches, and efficient operations that avoid duplication of efforts and use of resources. It leverages expertise and knowledge for “lessons learned”, providing insights into what resources are available and what efforts work. The collective voice provided through the GLP is more effective to advance issues than individual states or agencies. The networking and relationship-building opportunities provided through GLP meetings and activities provide links for collaborative campaigns, projects, and products which leverages resources from private,

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Adequately Fund the ANS Task Force, the Regional Panels, and ANS Management Plans
- 2) Reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act
- 3) Coordinate Vector Management
- 4) Establish a National Strategy for Monitoring
- 5) Develop Effective Strategies for ANS Control and Management
- 6) Expand Educational and Outreach Programs
- 7) Support Directed Research Programs

NEXT STEPS

- 1) Review Report for accuracy**
- 2) Identify missing accomplishments**
- 3) Submit Visual Aids**
 - Pictures, quotes, testimonials, etc.
- 4) Finalize Recommendations.**
- 5) Establish a (firm) Timeline**

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ESTABLISHED THE AQUATIC
NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE



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NATIONAL ANS
CONTROL AND
MANAGEMENT PLANS

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STATE AND INTERSTATE AQUATIC
NUISANCE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT PLANS

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EX-OFFICIO
MEMBERS

ANS *Task
Force*

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REGIONAL
PANELS

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FEDERAL
MEMBERS