

**Member Highlights of Activities for the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting  
May 6-8, 2015**

**Member Agency:** Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Invasive Species Committee

**Submitted by:** Kim Bogenschutz, AFWA Invasive Species Committee Vice Chair

**Key ANS Activities from November 2014 through May 2015:**

*Major Accomplishments (bullets):*

Spring Meeting - March 11, 2015, during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Omaha, Nebraska

ABYC Boat Design Summit - AFWA secured funding to support travel for state agency staff to attend the ABYC boat design summit. Meeting minutes are available at [www.abycinc.org/ais](http://www.abycinc.org/ais) and will be used by ABYC to determine the necessity of developing a Technical Information Report following the procedures outlined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Use of Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Funds for Boat Inspection/Decontamination Stations – The handout on the Use of SFR Funds at Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection Stations developed for the Fall 2014 ANSTF meeting was distributed to members of the Invasive Species, Fisheries and Water Resources Policy, and Angler and Boating Participation Committees.

*Ongoing Work (bullets):*

Building Consensus in the West - AFWA continues to use the Model Legislative Provisions and Guidance to Promote Reciprocity among State Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs to analyze and compare current state programs.

Congressional Invasive Species Caucus – AFWA continues to develop ideas on ways to encourage more legislators to join the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. Other more-established caucuses (e.g., Congressional Boating Caucus) may have interests in ANS and should be approached for coordination on ANS issues.

MOU Working Group – An AFWA working group has begun to review the ecological risk screening summaries (ERSS) for fish and crayfish proposed by USFWS for consideration for no-trade agreements. The first ERSS reviewed by the working group was for the African longfin eel. The ERSS and reviews of ERSS determined the overall invasive risk of the African longfin eel as uncertain. A next step will be to run the species through a Bayesian Network to assess invasiveness based on expert opinion and quantitative and qualitative information. The prevalence of a swimbladder nematode that may affect American eels could lead to a determination of invasiveness. If invasiveness is determined, recommendations will be made for risk management actions that include no trade under the MOU.

Novel Wildlife Pathogens – An AFWA working group including members from the Invasive Species Committee, Fish and Wildlife Health Committee, and Amphibian and Reptile Sub-Committee will be discussing development of a wildlife pathogen management program to address states' needs for managing pathogens that affect wildlife species but not domestic agricultural production. A current example is salamander chytrid fungus (Bsal).

Fall Meeting - during the AFWA Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, September 14-18, 2015