

## Revising State ANS Management Plans A Process for the ANS Task Force

Draft

This process details the development and approval steps necessary for revising a State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan that has previously been approved by the ANS Task Force.

### Phase I – Plan Revision and Approval

- 1) **Involvement of Others** – In revising an ANS management plan, the State or Interstate organization should involve local governments and regional entities, Tribes, and public and private organizations that have expertise in the management of aquatic nuisance species.
- 2) **Public Comment** – The State or Interstate Group will provide notice that plan is being revised and provide opportunity for public comment within the State or the Interstate area.
- 3) **Technical Assistance** – Upon the request of a State or the appropriate official of an Interstate organization, the Executive Secretary of the ANS Task Force may provide technical assistance in reviewing the preliminary draft of a revised management plan. This technical assistance will be done during the public comment period. It is important to note that comments provided during a preliminary review by the Executive Secretary do not mean that a plan will be automatically approved during its approval process.
- 4) **Plan Contents** – A revised plan must still contain all information detailed in NANPCA and in the “Guidance for State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans” located at [http://www.anstaskforce.gov/state\\_guidance.htm](http://www.anstaskforce.gov/state_guidance.htm).
- 5) **Inclusion of Rapid Response Component** – When revising an existing State ANS Management Plan, please consider adding a rapid response component to the revised plan if the approved plan did not have one. Several ANS Task Force Regional Panels are involved in developing rapid response models that could serve as guidance for development of a State-level rapid response plan.
- 6) **Degree of Revision**
  - a) **Minor Revisions** – Minor revisions are the types of revisions necessary to update an outdated plan but that do not radically change the plan’s scope or approach. Minor revisions include correcting errors, revising outdated scientific information, adding a few new species of concern or a new management option, etc. Plans considered to have undergone only minor revisions continue with the approval process outlined below.
  - b) **Major Revisions** – Major revisions radically change a plan such that it no longer resembles its previously approved version (i.e. choosing a whole new approach to the problem, making large-scale changes to the species to be managed, radically changing the amount of funding requested). A plan that goes through a major revision process must be considered new and does not adhere to the rest of this outline. Instead, they must go through the original approval process which includes requiring the proper signatures and having a 90-day review process.

- c) The Executive Secretary of the ANS Task Force reserves the right to decide that a revised plan submitted as one with only minor revisions is actually a major plan revision and must undergo the normal approval process.
- 7) **Plan Review** - Within 45 days after the submission of a management plan with minor revisions, the Task Force or the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Task Force shall review the proposed plan and approve it if it meets the requirements of NANPCA and the guidelines mentioned herein.
- 8) **Detailed Account of Plan Revisions** – To facilitate better review of the revised plan, a document must also be submitted that details all substantive changes to the revised plan. This document does not need to detail changes such as the correction of typographical errors but should detail new sections of the plan, the addition or removal of specific species or management actions from the plan, addition of new content to various sections, or major changes in the implementation schedule, etc. If a detailed account of the plan revisions is not provided to the Executive Secretary, the revised plan will be reviewed as if it were a new plan.
- 9) **Plan Submission – Signatures** – A revised plan with only minor revisions will only require the signatures of the Governor(s) or the heads of other involved jurisdictions and organizations, (including Tribes, in the case of interstate plans) at the discretion of the submitting entity. A revised plan that contains major revisions will require the proper signatures since the plan must be treated as a new plan.

### **Phase II – Request for Funding**

The dates\* for Phase II (funding requests, approval, notification letters, and funding allocation) remain unchanged by this revision process.

- 1) **Funding Request** – With an approved plan, a State or Tribe may submit a request for funding, with specific, prioritized tasks identified, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Invasive Species by December 15 of each year. Funding should be used in the calendar year in which it is received
- 2) **Funding Approval** – USFWS reviews and approves or denies grant requests by February 1.
- 3) **Notification Letters** – USFWS sends notification letters to states by February 15.
- 4) **Funding Allocation** – Funding allocations made to States by March 15.

**\*Please note:** Continuing Resolutions may cause deviation of the above schedule for funding of state management plans.