

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
May 2015**

Regional Panel Name: Western Regional Panel on ANS

Submitted by: Elizabeth Brown, Chair

Key ANS Activities from October 2014 through May 2015

Ongoing Work:

Annual Meeting: The 2015 Annual Meeting is planned for Lake Tahoe for September 2-4, 2015. The meeting will be hosted by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Coastal

Marine Invasive Species Regional Management Plan: Following the successful August 2014 Tunicates Workshop, the Coastal Committee has pursued a next step to address the management of tunicates and other marine invasives in a Marine Invasive Species Regional Management Plan. A regional plan will increase marine partnerships and opportunities to share resources, and provide a framework to facilitate regional marine invasive species management. Next steps include face-to-face work sessions to create a scoping document in April 2015 and September 2015.

European Green Crab: Alaska, British Columbia and Washington continue cross border work to address the spread of invasive European green crab along the Pacific coast. A key project for 2015 is a Washington State volunteer early detection and monitoring project. In spring 2015, detection and monitoring protocol will be developed and volunteer training will commence. The project is due for completion in mid-2016 and will collaborate with state, federal, international, local and tribal governments, and industry stakeholders.

Commercial Port Monitoring: The Coastal Committee is participating in a water sampling effort of commercial ports under a global project led by Governors State University. The project goal is to predict spread of aquatic invasive species via ballast water and biofouling using modeling, shipping data and biological samples. Sampling will begin in summer 2015.

Inland

Building Consensus in the West:

Following the ABYC Summit in January, a work session was held with state coordinators and other relevant participants to begin the next steps on developing model regulations.

Model Regulations: The Building Consensus Legal team completed a plan to address the model regulations in the next year. A webinar hosted by the National Sea Grant Law Center was held in April 2015 and additional work sessions are being planned.

Watercraft inspection and decontamination: WRP provides a forum through Building Consensus for communication regarding watercraft inspection and decontamination station operations by a variety of jurisdictions to prevent and contain zebra and quagga mussels, and other ANS, throughout the Western USA.

Watercraft inspection and decontamination training standards: A subcommittee of Building Consensus developed improved regional training standards and documents for inspectors and decontaminators. The committee also adopted Colorado's trainer's program and developed a standard trainer's course for those teaching inspectors and decontaminators. Lastly, the group is currently working to update the Uniform Minimum Standards and Protocols (PSMFC, 2012) and continue to update a new website for participants.

Workshop: Organization of a workshop in late 2015 or early 2016 to address action items from the Phoenix 2012 and Denver 2013/2014 Building Consensus workshops.

Ballast tank research: The ballast tank filter research project is completed. The Mussel Mast'R is now available to OEM businesses and marine service centers to purchase directly from Wake WorX. This system is available to boaters for purchase and installation. The WRP's involvement with the filter has come to an end. WRP will continue to provide leadership and participate in ongoing ABYC and NMMA efforts resulting from the January Vegas meeting.

Recommendations

Panel Recommendations to the ANSTF from WRP:

- a. **Funding:** Provide increased financial support to the panel(s) and continue to provide funding to support highest priority implementation components of QZAP.
- b. **Re-authorization of NISA:** Support and explore ways to re-authorize the National Invasive Species Act.
- c. **Federal lands working group document:** Encourage the completion and release of the Federal Lands Working group document which defines and identifies the role of federal agencies in managing invasives.
- d. **ABYC Summit next steps:** Support dialog with both ABYC and National Marine Manufacturers Association in follow up and outreach to boating community.
- e. **Marine Invasive Species Regional Management Plan next steps:** Provide professional technical support for the development of the plan.
- f. **Protectyourwaters.net website:** Continue to take steps to complete the revision/update of the website in 2015.