

## Overview of National Federal Interagency Coordinating Groups

### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANS Task Force)

The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force is the only federally mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling ANS (also known as aquatic invasive species, or AIS). It was established by Congress with the passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) in 1996 (collectively, the Act). The Act charges the ANS Task Force with implementing the Act by developing and executing a program that:

- Prevents the introduction and dispersal of ANS;
- Monitors, controls, and studies such species;
- Conducts research on methods to monitor, manage, control, and eradicate such species;
- Coordinates ANS programs and activities of ANS Task Force members and affected state agencies; and
- Educates and informs the general public and program stakeholders about the prevention, management, and control of these species.

The ANS Task Force strives to create opportunities and synergies among members and participants by sharing resources, expertise, and ideas across agency and organizational lines. The organization consists of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio members and is co-chaired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The ANS Task Force also works in conjunction with six Regional ANS Panels and issue-specific committees to provide a national and regional infrastructure, which continuously coordinates on important ANS issues at federal, state, and local levels. The ANS Task Force provides technical assistance for State and Interstate ANS Management Plans and supports their implementation through the State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan grant program. The ANS Task Force has also developed and continues to support two nationally successful outreach campaigns: Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers and Habitattitude.

#### **Federal Agency Members:**

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Co-chair)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Co-chair)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of State
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

**Non – Federal Ex-officio members:**

- Great Lakes Commission
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- San Francisco Estuary Project
- American Public Power Association
- American Water Works Association
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association
- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society<sup>1</sup>
- National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

**Guiding Document(s):** [Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Strategic Plan \(2020-2025\)](#); ANS Task Force committees develop annual work plans to progress the Strategic Plan.

**Website:** <http://anstaskforce.gov>

**POC:** Susan Pasko, Department of the Interior-FWS, ANS Task Force Executive Secretary;  
[susan\\_pasko@fws.gov](mailto:susan_pasko@fws.gov)

## Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW)

FICMNEW represents an unprecedented formal partnership between 18 federal agencies with direct invasive plant management and regulatory responsibilities spanning the United States and its territories. FICMNEW was established through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by agency leadership in 1994. Through on-line and in-person meetings, FICMNEW member agencies interact with each other on important national and regional invasive plant issues and share information with various public and private organizations participating with the federal sector to address invasive plants and regulated noxious weed management.

FICMNEW's charter directs the committee to coordinate, through the respective Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Agency heads, information regarding the identification and extent of invasive plants in the U.S. and to coordinate federal agency management of these species. FICMNEW accomplishes these portions of its charter by developing and sharing scientific and technical information, fostering collaborative efforts among federal agencies, providing recommendations for national and regional level management of invasive plants, and sponsoring technical/educational conferences and workshops concerning invasive plants.

**Federal Agency Membership:**

- Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA - AMS)
- Agricultural Research Service (USDA - ARS)

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA - APHIS)
- Armed Forces Pest Management Board (DOD - AFPMB)
- Army Corps of Engineers (DOD - ACE)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI - BIA)
- Bureau of Land Management (DOI - BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (DOI - BOR)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Farm Service Agency (USDA - FSA)
- Federal Highway Administration (DOT - FHWA)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA - NIFA)
- National Park Service (DOI - NPS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA - NRCS)
- Department of Energy, Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship (DOE - AU-21)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Program (DOI - FWS)
- US Forest Service (USDA - FS)
- US Geological Survey (DOI - USGS)

**Guiding Document(s):**

**Website:** <https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/ficmnew>

**POC(s):** Mike Ielmini, USDA-FS, [mielmini@fs.fed.us](mailto:mielmini@fs.fed.us)

## Federal Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (FIPMCC)

The FIPMCC is composed of representatives of all federal agencies with integrated pest management (IPM) research, implementation or education programs, and may include other public and private sector participants as appropriate. Established in 2001 by USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, the function of the FIPMCC is to provide interagency guidance on IPM policies, programs and budgets. A key responsibility of the FIPMCC is to provide strategic direction for IPM by: 1) defining, prioritizing, and articulating the goals of the federal IPM effort, 2) making sure that IPM efforts and resources are focused on appropriate goals, and 3) ensuring that appropriate measurements toward progress in attaining the goals are in place.

The FIPMCC reports to the Secretary of Agriculture through the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy. The national IPM effort stems from a partnership of federal governmental institutions working with stakeholders on diverse pest management issues. Leadership, management and coordination of these IPM efforts occur at many levels to more completely address the needs of stakeholders. The role of the committee is to provide guidance in the establishment of goals and priorities for IPM programs across all IPM focus areas. To achieve this, the FIPMCC regularly communicates with stakeholders, including the Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers, land-grant universities and other public and private entities.

**Federal Agency Membership:**

- General Services Administration (GSA)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Guiding Document:** [National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management](#)

**Website:** <https://www.ipmcenters.org/>

**POC:** Sheryl Kunickis, USDA, [Sheryl.Kunickis2@usda.gov](mailto:Sheryl.Kunickis2@usda.gov)

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## Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Terrestrial Animals and Pathogens (ITAP)

ITAP supports and facilitates networking and technical information sharing for program planning and coordination among federal agencies involved with invasive species research and management.

ITAP's objectives are to: 1) enhance collaboration and coordination on invasive issues across federal agencies; 2) provide scientific and technical advice on invasive terrestrial animals and pathogens; and, 3) provide advice to agency leaders and decision-makers. The objectives are met through the work of its subcommittees on: Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Plant Pathogens and Systematics.

### **Federal Agency Membership:**

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
- Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)
- Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA)
- National Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USDA-FS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Bureau of Land Management (DOI-BLM)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (DOI-FWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (DOI-USGS)
- National Park Service (DOI-NPS)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DoE)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### **Guiding Document(s):**

- Animal Pathogens Strategic Plan

- [Invertebrate Species Strategic Plan](#)
- [Plant Pathogens Strategic Plan](#)
- [Systematics Strategic Plan](#)

**Website:** <https://www.itap.gov>

**POC:** Hilda Diaz-Soltero, USDA-APHIS, [Hilda.Diaz-Soltero@usda.gov](mailto:Hilda.Diaz-Soltero@usda.gov)

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## National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

Executive Order 13112 of 1999 (as amended by Executive Order 13751 of 2016) established the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) to “provide national leadership regarding invasive species.” The overarching duty of NISC is to provide the high-level vision and leadership necessary to sustain and expand federal efforts to safeguard interests of the United States by preventing, eradicating, and controlling invasive species, as well as restoring ecosystems and other assets impacted by invasive species. NISC’s policy and planning activities benefit from the technical input provided by federal agency staff and Federal inter-agency bodies working on invasive species issues, as well as non-federal stakeholders.

Working with agency members, NISC staff provide the guidance and support necessary for the Council to undertake the duties and activities outlined in the NISC Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plans. NISC staff work to ensure effective communication and collaboration across federal agencies and among federal interagency bodies, coordinate interdepartmental planning processes and project implementation, report on NISC accomplishments, and facilitates NISC outreach to and engagement with non-federal stakeholders. NISC interacts with non-federal stakeholders on a case by case basis as related to work plan activities and engagement opportunities. NISC holds monthly coordinating meetings of the its Senior Advisers and Co-Chairs of national interagency coordinating groups including the ANSTF, FICMNEW, FIPMCC, ITAP, and the TAG-BCAW.

### **Federal Agency Members:**

- U.S. Department of the Interior (NISC Co-chair)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (NISC Co-chair)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (NISC Co-Chair)
- Council on Environmental Quality
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Office of Management and Budget
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Centers for Disease Control
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Trade Representative
- White House Office of Science Technology Policy

**Guiding Document(s):**

- [National Invasive Species Council FY2020 Annual Work Plan](#)
- [National Invasive Species Council Terms of Reference](#)

**Website:** <https://www.invasivespecies.gov>

**POC:** Stanley “Stas” Burgiel, NISC Executive Director [Stanley\\_Burgiel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Stanley_Burgiel@ios.doi.gov)

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## Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds (TAG-BCAW)

The Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds (TAG-BCAW), an independent voluntary committee, was first formed in 1957 to provide advice to researchers. The Group facilitates biological control of weeds in North America by providing guidance to researchers and recommendations to regulating agencies for or against the release of nonindigenous biological control agents, based on considerations of potential non-target impacts and conflicts of interest. This facilitation is designed to incorporate member agencies concerns and perspectives into planning biological control programs, provide an exchange of views and information between researchers and Federal and State regulatory agencies, and provide recommendations to regulatory agencies for permitting decision

It is expected that individuals planning a release of a nonindigenous biological control agent contact the TAG early in the research program, particularly when a plant is targeted for the first time for biological control in North America. TAG-BCAW members review two types of documents, the test plant list and the petition for first-time field release of a nonindigenous organism. TAG members suggest inclusion of certain test plants, identify conflicts of interest, and assess risks associated with a release. The person seeking permission to release the agent to the environment addresses these different perspectives. The exchange of scientific information helps Federal regulatory officials evaluate potential effects of the biological control agent on target and nontarget plants in North America.

**Federal Agency Members:**

- USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- USDA – Agricultural Research Service
- USDA – Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
- USDA – Forest Service
- USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- DOI – Bureau of Land Management
- DOI – Bureau of Reclamation
- DOI – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- DOI – National Park Service
- DOI – U.S. Geological Survey
- DOI – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- DOD – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

TAG may solicit additional members, who are State or Federal government employees, one each from:

- The National Plant Board
- The Weed Science Society of America
- ARS Biological Control Documentation Center
- Other Federal agencies expressing interest in participating

**Guiding Document(s):** [Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds Manual \(TAG-BCAW Manual\)](#)

**Website:** [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits/regulated-organism-and-soil-permits/biological-control-organism-permits/sa\\_tag/ct\\_technical\\_advisory\\_group\\_biological\\_control\\_agents\\_weeds](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits/regulated-organism-and-soil-permits/biological-control-organism-permits/sa_tag/ct_technical_advisory_group_biological_control_agents_weeds)

**POC:** Gregg Goodman, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, TAG-BCAW Chair, [Gregg.B.Goodman@usda.gov](mailto:Gregg.B.Goodman@usda.gov)