



# NOAA's Update: Aquatic Invasive Species



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Update to the ANSTF Meeting, Washington, DC  
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# NOAA Highlights and Activities

- Chesapeake Bay Executive Order
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- NOAA Habitat Restoration Project Solicitations:
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning
- NOAA Lionfish Control and Management Plan
- NOAA Sea Grant Aquatic Invasive Species Projects - Update



# NOAA Actions:

## Chesapeake Bay Executive Order

- Established by Presidential Executive Order on May 12, 2009
- The EO directs NOAA to respond to the impacts of climate change, accelerate habitat restoration, support living resources, and expand monitoring/observations to inform decision making to protect the Bay.
- Action RH.10 direct federal agencies to “Combat Invasive Species that Threaten Habitat” To achieve this goal, NOAA is working with other Federal agencies to:
  - Implement actions in the snakehead action plan
  - Continue to eradicate nutria populations and monitor wetland recovery
  - Develop and implement EDRR plans
  - Control invasive vegetation on lands supporting endangered / threatened species
  - Manage invasive species on flood risk management / reservoir projects
- To implement NOAA Lead actions within the EO, Maryland Sea Grant and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center received funding to investigate the biological and social science dimensions of the live bait worm pathway.



# National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Feb. 26 – Mar. 3, 2012, Washington, D.C

<http://www.nisaw.org/>

For the second year NOAA will participate in the planning of NISAW activities, briefings, workshops and events focused on strategizing solutions to address invasive species prevention, detection, monitoring, control, and management issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales.

## **NISAW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- National Invasive Species Council will hold public meeting
- Grassroots action to prevent and control invasive species – Panel discussions and Webinar
- Capitol Hill Briefings on aquatic invasive species, including quagga / zebra mussels and Asian carp
- Workshop on invasive species prevention and management in urban areas
- Invasive Species Award Ceremony and Reception
- Kids Invasive Species Awareness Day at the US Botanic Garden
- Prevention through Outreach and Awareness – Experts panel on lessons learned
- Invasive Species Solutions – poster session
- Update by federal agencies on important invasive species issues and initiatives



## NOAA Actions:

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency through President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- In 2010, NOAA awarded \$9.2 million to nine projects throughout the Great Lakes Region.
- In 2011, NOAA awarded \$4.9 million to eight projects throughout the Great Lakes Region.
- Selected projects will include a Special Award Condition for Invasive Species: including development of an HACCP plan & post-project monitoring
- NOAA has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to focus on climate change and making habitat restoration projects "climate smart."
- For more information visit:

[http://www.regions.noaa.gov/great\\_lakes/GLRI/Habitat/habitat.html](http://www.regions.noaa.gov/great_lakes/GLRI/Habitat/habitat.html)



## NOAA Actions:

# Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

- NOAA has assisted in updating and revising the Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning process to increase its benefit to preventing the spread of invasive species.
- The revised HACCP planning process includes a stronger emphasis on risk assessment in order to identify high-risk activities and focus attention on actions needed to reduce the movement of potential invasive species.
- NOAA will continue to offer HACCP training sessions to staff and grant recipients.
- Development and implementation of HACCP plans are currently required for all habitat restoration projects funded by the GRLI. NOAA expects to extend this requirement to projects within other regions.



# Marine Invasive Species: The Lionfish



The Indo-Pacific lionfish has become widely established within Atlantic and Caribbean waters and poses a significant threat to native coral reef communities. NOAA is responding by:

- Composing a Lionfish Action Plan for Understanding and Mitigating Lionfish Impacts on U.S. Marine Habitats. The purpose of this document is to identify priorities for NOAA to better understand the impacts of the lionfish invasion and develop management guidance for local control. Anticipated completion Winter 2011.
- Collaborating with intergovernmental partners, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative and the United Nations to advise countries in the Wider Caribbean Region of the threat of lionfish.
- Leading an international effort to develop a best practices manual.
- Expanding it's "Eat Lionfish" campaign to promote control in localized areas.
- Producing a series educational materials on how the public can assist with early detection, advice for treating lionfish stings, and how to report sightings.
- For more information visit:

[http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/stressors/lionfish\\_outreach.aspx](http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/stressors/lionfish_outreach.aspx)