

ANS Task Force

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
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Dear Scientific Expert:

As co-chairs of the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), we request your assistance in addressing the growing problem of invasive species in the United States. The ANSTF is assembling the Invasive Species Experts Database (www.anstaskforce.gov/experts), a database of experts willing to assist federal and state agencies, as well as the general public, in the identification of nonnative species. It is hoped that early and accurate identifications will allow officials to consider the full range of management options and respond appropriately.

The database is divided into two sections - Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 experts typically work for state agencies that are routinely contacted by the general public or other scientists when an unusual plant or animal is sighted or collected. Tier 2 contacts are experts with more specialized knowledge of a particular taxa or subject area. Only Tier 1 information will be viewable by the general public. Access to Tier 2 database records is limited to Tier 1 experts, and you would only be contacted when a Tier 1 expert is unable to provide a response to the original inquiry.

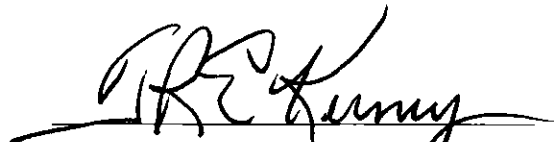
Each of the ANSTF's six regional panels is contacting scientific experts in their geographical area of responsibility to enlist their support for this effort. We hope you will agree to participate and that you will find your participation worthwhile. Should circumstances change, you will always be able to withdraw from the database by simply asking the panel to remove your name.

Should you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Newsham, ANSTF Executive Secretary. His contact information is provided above.

Sincerely,



Mamie A. Parker, ANSTF Co-Chair
Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Timothy R. E. Keeney, ANSTF Co-Chair
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

