



Dedicated to the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE UPDATE

**Great Lakes Panel Meeting
June 14, 2021**

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AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE

The only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species.

ESTABLISHED by Congress with the passage of NANPCA in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the NISA in 1996.

MISSION: Develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent the introduction and dispersal of ANS; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information.

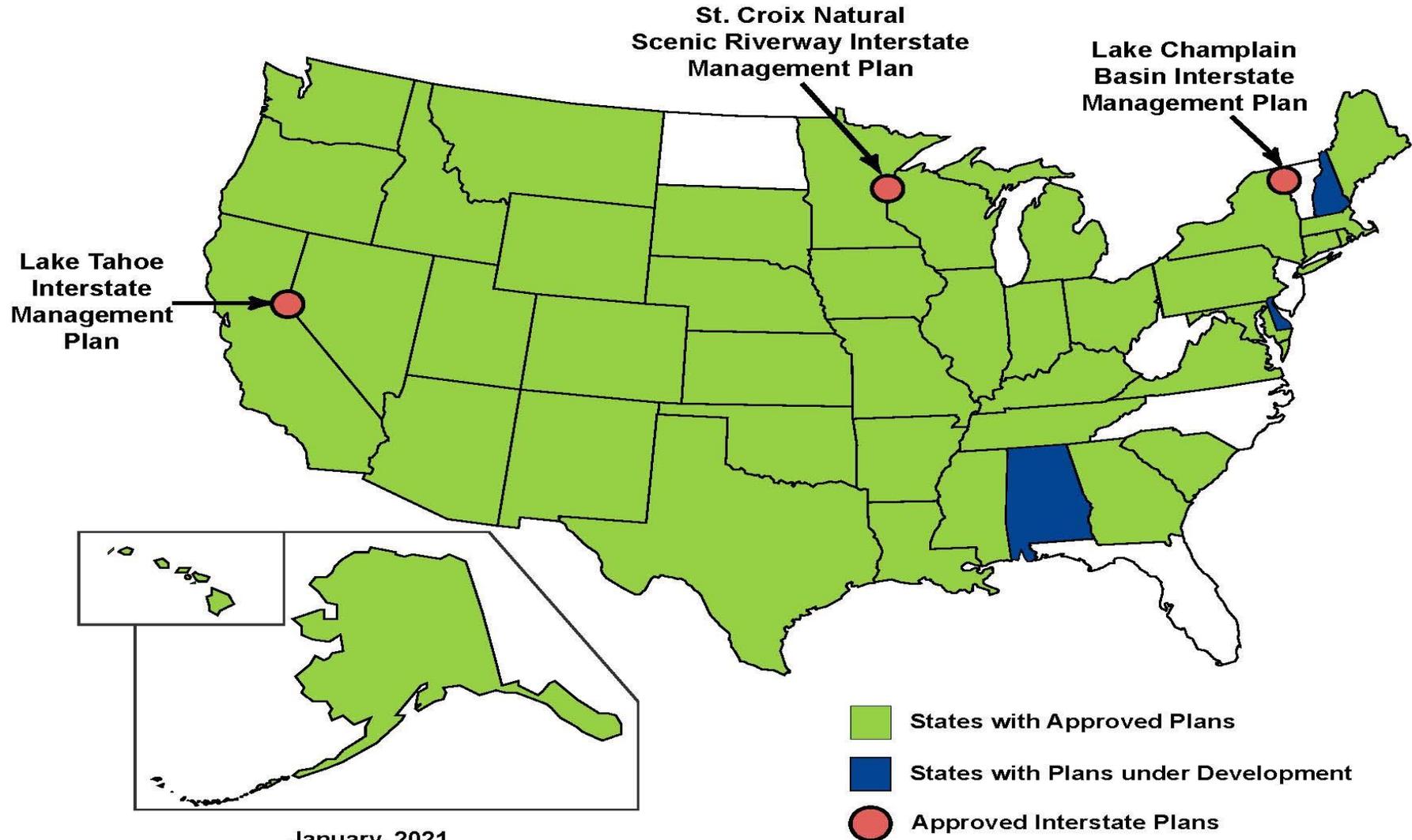
STRUCTURE: Composed of 13 Federal, 13 ex-officio members, 6 Regional Panels, several Sub-committees

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Structure



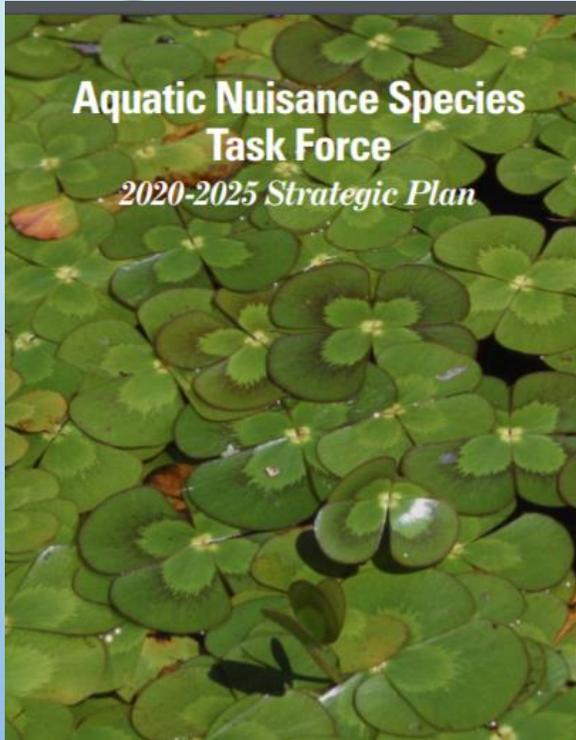
Status of State ANS Management Plans

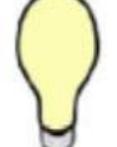
(44 Approved Plans - 41 State, and 3 Interstate)



January, 2021
Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

ANS TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN



 <p>COORDINATION Coordinate a national ANS program for waters of the United States</p>	 <p>CONTROL & RESTORATION Contain and control established ANS and restore native species and ecosystems</p>
 <p>PREVENTION Prevent the establishment and spread of existing ANS</p>	 <p>RESEARCH Facilitate research on ANS threats, impacts, and controls</p>
 <p>EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE Identify and respond to new species detections in a timely manner to prevent their establishment and spread</p>	 <p>OUTREACH & EDUCATION Conduct outreach and education to increase awareness concerning the threats of ANS</p>

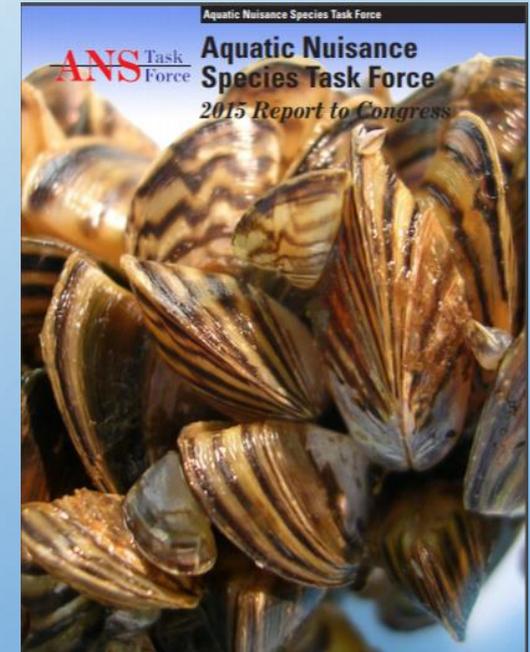


COORDINATION GOAL AND WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Strengthen ANS Task Force operations to provide effective communication, information sharing, and decision making**
 - Hold 2 ANS Task Force and at least 1 Regional Panel Principal meetings per year
 - Develop ANS Task Force bylaws that are consistent with FACA guidelines
 - Develop an information packet for new members
 - Update the ANS Task Force website
- **Strengthen the capacity for ANS management at State and regional levels**
 - Continue to provide technical assistance for State and Interstate ANS Management Plan development
- **Construct a national assessment of the ANS Program for waters of the United States**
 - Annually assess ANS Task Force accomplishment reports and report on the progress and gaps to the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan
 - Prepare the next ANS Task Force Report to Congress





PREVENTION GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Evaluate and refine risk analysis procedures to assess potential ANS and pathways for introduction**
 - Evaluate and refine the pathway risk assessment process; complete guidelines for the use and interpretation of these tools
- **Identify priority pathways and species of concern**
 - Work with Federal agencies and responsible industry sectors to make organisms in trade importation data electronically available and searchable
 - Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking or ineffective, or resulted from gaps in authority
- **Encourage implementation of measures to manage high priority pathways and species**
 - Evaluate seaplanes as a potential pathways for ANS, identify mitigation measures
 - Establish an ad-hoc subcommittee to evaluate and implement the roles and responsibilities of the ANSTF under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act





EDRR GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and report new sightings of ANS**
 - Develop a plan for capacity-building in NAS to meet stakeholder needs
 - Develop ANS watch lists
- **Develop processes to rapidly assess new species detections and determine appropriate management actions**
 - Develop a report describing available tools for interpretation of eDNA detection patterns and recommendations regarding current best practices and future research needs
- **Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to new invasions**
 - Develop a report describing where emergency response funds are currently in use to address ANS, providing a model to establish and administer an emergency rapid response fund
 - Develop ISC training course tailored to ANS Response

Timeline of Moss Ball Key Activities



- 2/25 — Seattle PetCo and filed report to NAS
- 3/1 — moss balls shipment destroyed
- 3/2 — USGS confirms ID; 2 States
- 3/3 — USGS notifies ANSTF; 8 States
- 3/5 — Web page for disposal/decon; FWS/USDA/CBP start meeting on regular basis; Pest Bulletin created; DDD protocol developed; FWS OLE opened investigations for possible criminal violations (ongoing)
- 3/7 — First Q&A developed; 29 States
- 3/8 — AFWA begins working w/ States to obtain contact tracing info (product names/suppliers); 32 States
- 3/10 — CBP routing all moss ball shipments to PIS; Wyoming bans sale of Moss Balls; FWS briefs State Fish Chiefs; 33 States
- 3/12 — Canada forms ICS response and contacts ANSTF coordination/info sharing; 38 States

- 3/16 — Arizona quarantine established
- 3/23 — North Dakota quarantine established
- 3/29 — eCommerce letters issued by USDA and FWS
- 4/6 — Alaska quarantine established
- 4/8 — PIJAC issues guidance to pet businesses
- 4/12 — Terrarium garden sales reported at Carr-Safeway; Wyoming take back program announced
- 4/22 — AmericanHort article published; 42 States
- 4/23 — PIJAC issues water garden decon protocols
- 4/25 — Seized shipment sent to USGS
- 4/26 — FWS/USDA/CBP issues 2nd round of Q&As
- 4/27 — 46 States. Only States w/o confirmed contaminated moss balls DE, RI, WV, HI

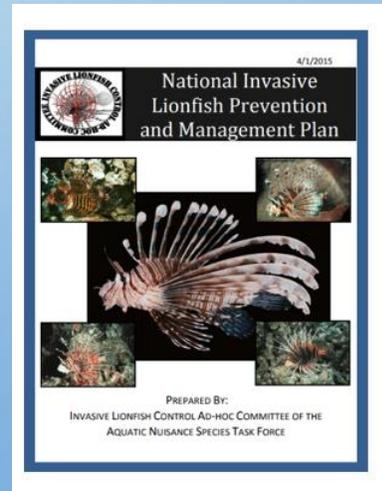
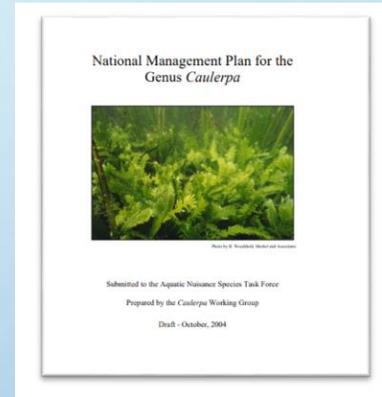


CONTROL AND RESTORATION GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Coordinate the development and implementation of ANS Management and Control Plans**
 - Complete the Control Plan Assessment and Control Plan Development Process Guidance
 - Determine a lead for each ANS Plan to monitor and report plan progress and implementation needs
- **Identify and communicate effective control and restoration techniques**
 - Communicate management perspectives on the development, risk characterization, and possible utilization of genetic-based tools for ANS control.
- **Identify gaps in available control and restoration measures and encourage innovation**
 - Survey ANS Task Force members and regional panels for gaps in control and restoration measures; communicate the gap and measures that are needed to address the deficiency





RESEARCH GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Establish ANS Task Force research priorities and identify prospective partners**
 - Develop an annual priority research list that shows both regional and national priorities
 - Survey ANS Task Force members and regional panels for a list of research entities that have the ability to address ANS research needs.
- **Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs**
 - Develop a communication plan to promote ANS Research Priorities List, including communicating research priorities to ANS Task Force members and regional panels to guide internal efforts and award selections.
- **Track and disseminate study results to incorporate into ANS management decisions and activities**
 - Develop a system to track progress of regional and national ANS research priorities; regularly communicate ongoing studies or results that address the priorities



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



Goal Objectives:

- **Evaluate ANS communication, education, and outreach efforts to ensure they are consistent and effective**
 - Conduct an assessment of national campaigns that target outdoor recreational users
 - Identify social science research priority needs; partner with practitioners to develop guidance that can be used to address these priorities
- **Develop processes to share information and consistently implement ANS outreach strategies**
 - Populate the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers portal to serve as a national clearinghouse for education, outreach, and marketing materials
 - Define and identify leaders for an ANS Outreach Community of Practice
- **Raise the profile and communicate priorities of the ANS Task Force**
 - Develop one-page fact sheet about the ANS Task Force and regional panels
 - Develop templates for ANS Task Force messaging and briefings to ensure consistency



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HITCHHIKERS!™**

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PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

ANS TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

- **COORDINATE:** Well informed, engaged ANS Task Force members and regional panels that work collectively
- **PREVENT:** Cooperative efforts that prevent new introductions and spread of existing ANS
- **EDRR:** ANS Task Force that is equipped to detect new ANS early in the invasion process and prepared to rapidly respond
- **CONTROL & RESTORE:** Cooperative efforts that suppress or eradicate ANS populations and restore native ecosystems
- **RESEARCH:** Ongoing research that supports prioritized needs from all aspects of ANS management
- **EDUCATE:** Consistent and coordinated outreach campaigns and materials that increase awareness and change behaviors to prevent the introduction and spread of ANS

THANK YOU!



Dedicated to the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ANS TASK FORCE WEBSITE – WWW.ANSTASKFORCE.GOV

OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!