



# AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL PANEL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

# **AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE**

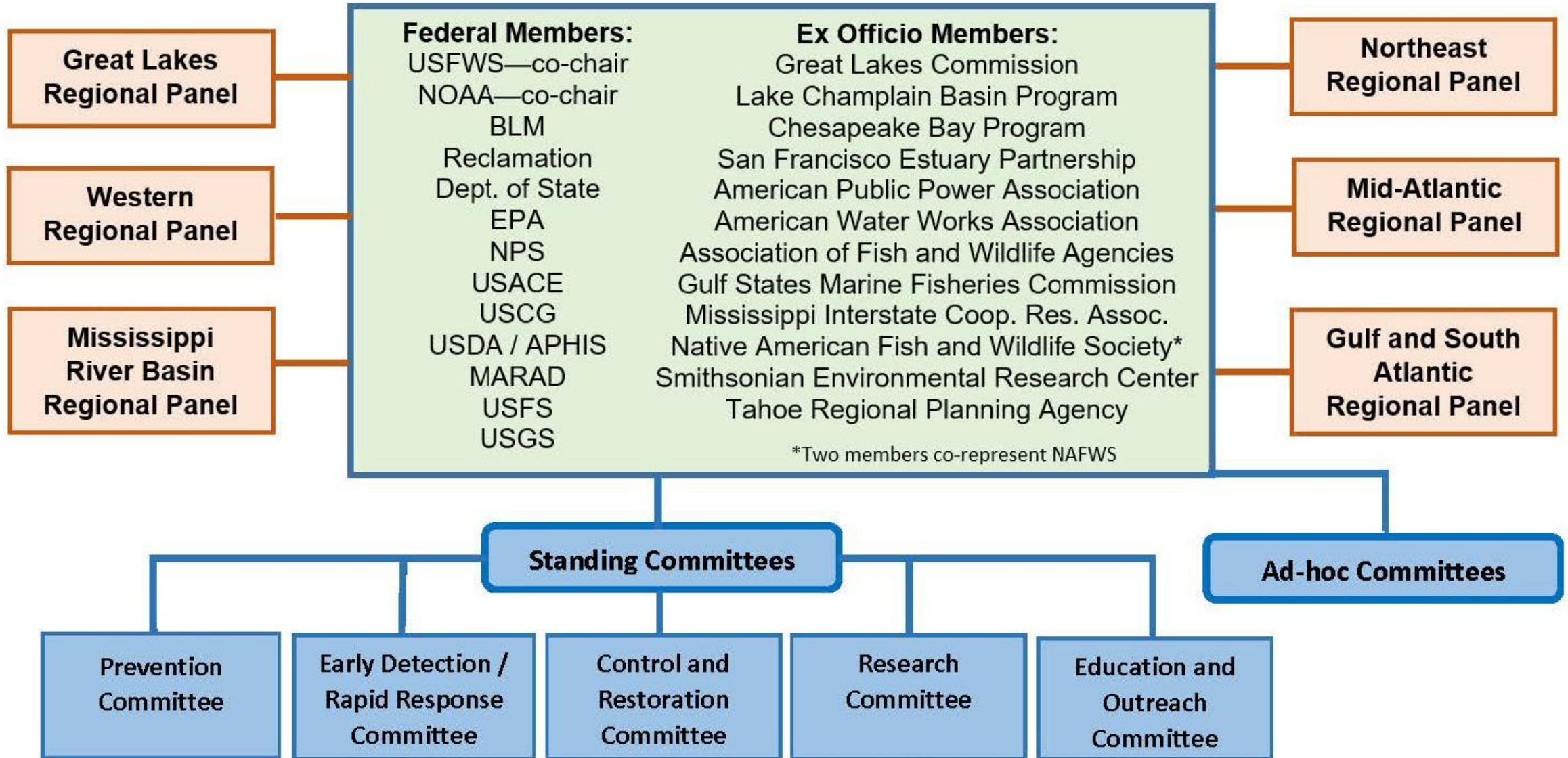
**The only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species.**

**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



# ANS TASK FORCE JULY 2023 MEETING

## Agenda:

- **Updates:** USGS NAS database, National Invasive Species Council, AIS Commission
- **Prevention:** Wildland Fire Guidance Recommendation, Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz, Data Drive Tools, Stop the Spread (OIT), Mitigating the Risk of AIS in Commerce
- **EDRR:** National Framework, RR Fund, Aggregating Risk Evaluations
- **Control:** European Green Crab, Northern Snakehead
- **Outreach:** Storytelling through Podcasts

# ANS Task Force July 2023 Meeting

## Decisional Items:

**Decisional:** Task Force approved the formation of the ‘Legislative Report’ workgroup.

*Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022: the Task Force shall submit a report to Congress recommending legislative, programmatic, or regulatory changes to eliminate remaining gaps in authorities between members of the Task Force to effectively manage and control the movement of aquatic nuisance species.*

**Decisional:** Approved the ‘Management Plan for the European Green Crab’ to be posted in the Federal Registry for public comment

**Decisional:** Adopted the “Decontaminating Firefighting Equipment to Reduce the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species”

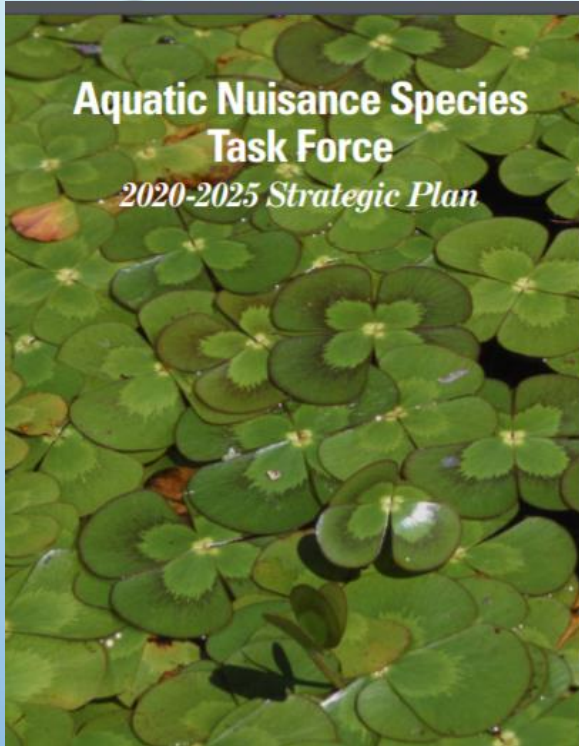
# ANS Task Force July 2023 Meeting







**“Decisional:** Approved the ‘Model Process for a Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species’

- NOFO F24AS00018: Opened August 17, 2023, closed October 18, 2023. Will reopen in November 2024.
- Scope: Funds may be used to respond to new AIS introductions in the United States as well as range expansions in which an existing AIS was found in an area where not been previously detected.
- Eligible Applicants: Federal and state agencies, U.S. territories agencies, interstate organizations, and federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and Native American Organizations.
- Eligible Activities: Those directly associated with the planning, delineation, or deployment of response measures that target a species in a defined location.



# ANS TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN



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



# ANSTF PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE



## Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

- Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking or ineffective, or resulted from gaps in authority
- Evaluate seaplanes as a potential pathways for ANS, identify mitigation measures
- Established the Organisms in Trade (OIT) Hitchhikers Workgroup.



## Upcoming Work Elements:

- Facilitate a discussion to encourage the use of the guidelines to prevent AIS transport by wildland fire operations.
- Complete an assessment of gaps in federal authorities.







# ANSTF EDRR SUBCOMMITTEE



## Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

### Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and report new sightings of ANS

- National EDRR Framework Develop ANS horizon scanning and watch lists

### • Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to new invasions

- Modernize and enhance the ANSTF Experts Database
- Develop a Rapid Response Template
- Implement the RR funding process approved by the ANS Task Force



# ANSTF CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE



**Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:**

## **Coordinate the development and implementation of ANS Management and Control Plans**

- Plan revisions: European Green Crab and New Zealand Mudsnail
- Decision-making Process for Approval to Develop new Species Control and Management Plans





# ANSTF OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE



## Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

Evaluate ANS communication, education, and outreach efforts to ensure they are consistent and effective

- A national assessment of recreational water users was completed in 2022
- Currently sharing results of this assessment and working to implement results

## • 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
- Establish an ANS Outreach Community of Practice



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HITCHHIKERS!™**

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PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT  
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS



# ANSTF RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE



## Priority Work Elements in 2022/23:

### **Establish ANS Task Force research priorities and identify prospective partners**

- National AIS Priority Research List approved in November 2021.  
(<https://www.fws.gov/media/aquatic-nuisance-species-task-force-national-priorities-list-research-aquatic-invasive>)
- **Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs**
  - Promote the annual priority research list – agency letters, social media, journal article
- **Track and disseminate study results to incorporate into ANS management decisions and activities**
  - Survey AIS community for current /planned AIS research that aligned with priorities
  - Develop process to update the National AIS Priority Research List

**THANK YOU!**



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ANS TASK FORCE WEBSITE –**

**[WWW.ANSTASKFORCE.GOV](http://WWW.ANSTASKFORCE.GOV)**

**OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!**