

Regional Panel Recommendation Submission Form

- To be completed by the Regional Panel -

Regional Panel(s): Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

Date Submitted: 10/24/23

Recommendation to the ANS Task Force: *State the recommended action including the following information, as appropriate.*

What: Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species recommends that relevant federal agencies establish a plan to clarify policy implications of research, development, and deployment of genetic biocontrol tools with invasive species applications, and include states, Tribes/Indigenous Nations¹, and relevant partners/stakeholders within international watersheds (e.g., Canadian provincial government agencies, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, etc.) and provide updates to the ANSTF and regional ANS panels on progress. Further, we recommend that the ANSTF set up a work group dedicated to the topic of genetic biocontrol to facilitate communication among regional ANS panels and relevant federal agencies, researchers, etc. and to collaboratively further work on this issue.

Who: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; International Life Sciences Institute; and National Sea Grant Law Center: engage with relevant jurisdictions, partners, and stakeholders

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force: set up working group

How: Identify/establish which agencies are responsible for making which policy/regulatory decisions relevant to genetic biocontrol tool research, development and deployment and communicate these roles and responsibilities to the ANSTF and regional ANS panels. Utilizing each agency's established process, engage with states, Tribes/Indigenous Nations, and relevant partners/stakeholders within international watersheds to clarify policy needs and provide regular updates at ANSTF meetings and regional ANS panel meetings.

Timeline: If this process is not already underway, recommend starting immediately. Provide updates semi-annually at ANSTF meetings and regional ANS panel meetings.

Background Information: In applicable, *state key facts and pertinent information that has led up to the recommendation.*

Genetic biocontrol is a novel tool with the potential to change the landscape of AIS management in North America. As research and development into these tools (e.g., Bureau of Reclamation funded/support development of zebra and quagga mussel engineered disseminated neoplasia, U.S. Geological Survey research and development of RNA interference for *Phragmites*, etc.) continues, it is critical to consider the needs and perspectives of the communities where these tools may eventually be utilized. There are multiple policy questions related to genetic biocontrol (see summary of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' 2019 Genetic Biocontrol Workshop, linked as an Attached Document below) that are unclear at this time, and agency responsibility for answering these questions/leading policy development and implementation is also unclear. Further, policy decisions in the United States

¹ A separate recommendation has been submitted with further information related to Tribal engagement on this topic

related to the deployment of genetic biocontrol tools in shared/international waters and watersheds should be made responsibly in consultation with international agencies (e.g., Canadian provincial, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and federal governments) that share responsibility for management of international watersheds.

Link to ANS Task Force Strategic Plan: *State the goal(s) or objective(s) in the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan that would be supported by the recommendation.*

Relevant ANS Task Force Strategic Plan goals: Coordination; Control & Restoration; Research; Outreach & Education

Relevant ANS Task Force Strategic Plan objectives:

1. Coordination – Strengthen ANS Task Force operations to provide effective communication, information sharing, and decision making
2. Coordination – Strengthen the capacity for ANS management at State and regional levels
3. Control & Restoration – Identify gaps in available control and restoration measures and encourage innovation
4. Research – Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs

List of Attached Documents or Images (optional):

Summary of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ 2019 Genetic Biocontrol Workshop:
<https://www.glpanel.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GeneticBiocontrol-InvasiveSpecies-Summary2019-11-06.pdf>

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Relevant Federal Member Responses:

Federal Agency Member	Response (e.g., support or concerns)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
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	
U.S. Department of Transportation	
U.S. Forest Service	
U.S. Geological Survey	

Final Task Force Resulting Action:

Action: *Describe action to be taken and timeline for completion. If the recommended approach from the regional panel is not being implemented, include justification for modification.*

No Action: *Include justification if no action will be taken.*