

## **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 engage Tribes and Indigenous Nations in discussions regarding the development and deployment of genetic biocontrol tools, and provide updates to the ANSTF and regional ANS panels on progress.

**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.

**How:** Undertake a process consistent with each agency's established process 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:** *If 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 Grass Carp and *Phragmites*, etc.) continues, it is critical to consider the needs and perspectives of the tribes on whose lands these tools may be considered for use. The Great Lakes Panel affirms treaty rights and respects those treaties with Indigenous Nations are fundamental matter of ethics and legitimacy. The Panel recognizes that Indigenous communities and sovereign nations have historically not been engaged in full consultation which has eroded their treaty rights established under the Constitution of the United States. This recommendation is intended to ensure that tribes, tribal governments, and tribal nations are treated as equal and sovereign entities in decision-making regarding research, development, and potential future use of genetic biocontrol tools.

**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):**

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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.*