

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task
Force

3b. GSA Committee No.

6

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
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No 03/28/2024 03/28/2026

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 4701 et. seq.

13. Effective Date

11/29/1990

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

This meeting included several sessions, including informational updates from the U.S. Geological Survey and the subcommittees of the Task Force. There were also informational presentations and discussion focused on marine and island biosecurity, invasive species nomenclature, organisms in trade, recent species detections in California, and the National Early Detection Rapid Response Framework. Task Force members had a facilitated session to provide input into the FWS Fish and Aquatic Conservation program's draft strategic plan. Ex-officio members of the ANS Task Force presented on current priorities and challenges regarding invasive species management and their nexus with the ANS Task Force.

11/06/2024 - 11/07/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force is the only federally mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling ANS (also known as aquatic invasive species, or AIS). The ANS Task Force strives to create opportunities and synergies among members and participants by sharing resources, expertise, and ideas across agency and organizational lines. Consistent with its authorizing legislation (the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, or NANPCA), the ANS Task Force Federal and ex-officio members develop recommendations and products (e.g., management plans and practices, guidance documents, outreach materials) to prevent and manage AIS for use by Federal, State, and Tribal agencies with AIS responsibilities. The ANS Task Force also manages national public awareness campaigns (Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and Habitattitude) that are implemented through partnerships at the National, State, and local levels. The ANSTF assists in the development and implementation of State or interstate ANS management plans (47 plans have been approved through FY 2025) and species-specific management/control plans (10 have been approved through FY 2025). These plans identify activities needed to eliminate or reduce the environmental, public health, and safety risks associated with ANS by focusing on feasible, cost-effective management practices and measures that can be undertaken by state agencies, local programs, cooperating federal agencies, and others. The ANS Task Force works in conjunction with six regional ANS panels and issue-specific committees to foster collaboration among states to address regional aquatic nuisance species threats and ongoing invasions.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The ANS Task Force continues to have a balanced membership with 13 Federal members and 12 ex-officio members that represent non-Federal entities. Task Force membership reflects a spectrum of interests impacted by or involved in responding to aquatic invasive species. These interests include fish, wildlife, and other natural resource protection; management and development; environmental protection; agriculture; aquaculture; shipping; recreation; electric power; water supply; and Great Lakes and other regional interests.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The ANS Task Force typically holds meetings two times per year. Meeting agendas for the ANS Task Force are constructed to address priority and/or emerging issues with the intent of informing the ANS Task Force members and allowing them to determine if action is warranted. Consideration is also given to recommendations from its members, regional panels, invited guests, and the public. ANS Task Force decisions are generally reached by consensus and are made at the public meetings, or, when necessary, through publicly announced webinars. In FY 2025, the ANS Task Force held a meeting in November 2024 (in-person with a virtual option) and another is planned for May 2025.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

ANS (also known as aquatic invasive species, or AIS) issues are significant in their breadth and scope, as this area involves all taxa of life and threatens natural ecosystems and create

economic burdens across the Nation. A variety of pathways can transport non-native species into the United States, including ballast water and hulls of ships, organisms in trade, imported goods and materials, and the international movement of people. Multiple efforts are necessary to encompass the various components of ANS management, including prevention, monitoring, removal, research, and education. Without the ANS Task Force, there would not be a mechanism to coordinate Federal ANS government efforts or facilitate cooperation with State, Tribal, and local agencies; the private sector; and other National interests. As a result, efforts to manage ANS would be performed in isolation and be significantly weakened, resulting in duplication of efforts, a halt to the exchange of ideas and leveraging of resources, and less effective interaction between the Federal Government and States on issues related to ANS. The management and prevention of ANS in the United States would face significant challenges, resulting in a variety of negative ecological, economic, and social consequences at National, State, Tribal, and local levels.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings and webinars are open to the public.

21. Remarks

Federal members and ex-officio members of the ANS Task Force who are statutorily designated (the Great Lakes Commission, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the San Francisco Bay Estuary Program) do not have a fixed term of service other than the dates of the charter. Ex-officio members who are not statutorily designated are appointed

for 2-year terms. In accordance with 16 U.S.C. 4721(b)(1) to (6) and the ANS Task Force charter, each Federal agency appoints its own representatives to the ANS Task Force. The co-chairs (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) may invite State agencies and other governmental entities to recommend individuals to serve as ex-officio members. Note: In the section listing committee members, Federal and ex-officio members who are statutorily mandated (and thus have no fixed term of appointment) have been given an "Appointment End Date" that matches the "Expected Renewal Date" for the charter. The appointment dates for ex-officio members who hold 2-year terms initially reflect their first term; once they go beyond their first term, the appointment dates reflect their total time as part of the ANS Task Force.

Designated Federal Officer

Susan Pasko Executive Secretary, Aquatic
Nuisance Species Task Force

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bogenschutz, Kim	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Ex Officio Member
Bourgeois, Robert	04/28/2023	04/28/2025	Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association	Ex Officio Member
Corson, Sean	03/01/2025	03/28/2026	NOAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Crossland, Jeremy	02/01/2022	03/28/2026	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Ielmini, Mike	10/28/2008	03/28/2026	USDA Forest Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Jensen, Erika	02/11/2013	03/28/2026	Great Lakes Commission	Ex Officio Member
Jepsen, Sharmila	02/28/2023	03/28/2026	Bureau of Land Management	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Junemann, Carolyn	08/31/2005	03/28/2026	U.S. Department of Transportation	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Larson, Courtney	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Lee, Deborah	01/10/2021	02/28/2025	NOAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Lewandowski, Mark	08/31/2015	03/28/2026	Chesapeake Bay Program	Ex Officio Member
McDowell, Karen	10/28/2008	03/28/2026	San Francisco Estuary Partnership	Ex Officio Member
McMaster, Heidi	02/28/2023	03/28/2026	Bureau of Reclamation	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Miko, David	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Minton, Mark	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	Ex Officio Member
Modley, Meg	11/01/2009	03/28/2026	Lake Champlain Basin Program	Ex Officio Member
Morris, John	08/31/2015	03/28/2026	U.S. Coast Guard	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Reed, Mitzi	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	Native American Fish and Wildlife Society	Ex Officio Member
Robertson, Charles	04/28/2023	03/28/2026	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	Ex Officio Member
Russo, Nicole	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	Department of Agriculture	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sauvajot, Raymond	08/31/2015	03/31/2025	National Park Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Somerville, Michael	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	American Water Works Association	Ex Officio Member
Weinstock, Andrew	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	American Public Power Association	Ex Officio Member
Zabaglo, Dennis	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Ex Officio Member
Andreozzi, Phillip [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/03/2022	03/28/2026	US Department of Agriculture APHIS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Bradford, Jacob [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/02/2023	03/28/2026	Bureau of Reclamation	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Darling, John [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	09/16/2019	03/28/2026	Environmental Protection Agency	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Garcia, Amanda [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/02/2023	03/28/2026	US Coast Guard	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Wullschleger, John [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/03/2022	03/28/2026	National Park Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Carney, Jenny [Prevention Subcommittee]	10/02/2023	03/28/2026	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	Ex Officio Member
Daniel, Wes [Prevention Subcommittee]	10/03/2022	03/28/2026	US Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Weibert, Ceci [Prevention Subcommittee]	10/02/2023	03/28/2026	Great Lakes Commission - Michigan Dept of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy	Ex Officio Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 32

Narrative Description

Consistent with the requirements of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANCPA), the ANS Task Force helps the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service support and fulfill its mission by focusing on aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues through coordination with many other affected entities at the Federal, regional, State, Tribal, and local levels. The ANS Task Force helps the Service to develop, approve, and implement the overall AIS Program as well as its projects and activities. The ANS Task Force is a focal point for information about AIS activities to prevent their introduction into and spread within the United States, and efforts to control them. It encourages and facilitates cooperative efforts to address nationally significant AIS problems and concerns.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

Under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, the ANS Task Force is the only multimember organization legislatively mandated to coordinate ANS (also known as aquatic invasive species, or AIS) activities on a national scale. A primary role of the ANS Task Force is to support the development and implementation of State/interstate ANS management plans and 10 species management and control plans, including the Zebra Quagga Action Plan for Western Waters.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

The coordinating mechanism provided by the ANS Task Force has helped create efficiencies and avoid duplicative efforts and their associated costs. Estimating the avoided costs of unperformed activities is not feasible.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

169

Number of Recommendations Comments

In November 2024, the ANS Task Force made two recommendations: 1) The ANS Task Force recommended approval of the Delaware State ANS Management Plan 2) The ANS Task Force recommended that draft New Zealand MudSnail Management Plan to be

posted in the Federal Register for public comment

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

98%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

While not every operational aspect of the approved plans and protocols have been implemented due to resource constraints, these are all ongoing activities that relate to the plans' implementation. Funding has been provided to support ANS Task Force-approved State/interstate ANS Management Plans and to support select ANS Task Force-approved species management and control plans. Subcommittees meet virtually on a regular basis to implement annual work plans that advance the priority goals and actions within the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

2%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Some efforts to address recommendations are in progress, but not yet completed, including enhancement of the invasive species experts database and development of online national resource similar for communicating watercraft inspection and decontamination requirements, procedures, and state program contacts.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided through the semi-annual ANSTF meetings (or webinars), as well as via frequent telephone and email communications from the DFO to the members between meetings. The DFO also maintains a committee website and listserve.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities ☐
Reallocated resources ☒

Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program priorities, resource allocations, grant approval, and regulatory efforts have been directly influenced by the Task Force's recommendations. Projects in the field are focused on implementing ANS Task Force recommendations. In FY 2024, funding was provided to support implementation of 45 approved state/interstate ANS management plans. A Notice of Funding Opportunity for these management plans is planned for 2025.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A