

# 2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

Report Run Date: 05/21/2026 04:58:20 PM

<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of the Interior	2026
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force	6

<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No		

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
16 U.S.C. 4701 et. seq.	11/29/1990	Continuing	No

**15. Description of Committee** Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

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

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

<b>Current</b>	<b>Next</b>
<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	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 two virtual meetings.

**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 creates 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

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Batten, Benjamin	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association	Ex Officio Member
Bogenschutz, Kim	01/21/2009	03/28/2026	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Ex Officio Member
Corson, Sean	02/28/2025	03/28/2026	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	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	U.S. 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
Khairullah, Afnan	08/04/2025	03/28/2026	U.S. Department of Transportation	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	U.S. 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	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shinen, Jenna	05/14/2025	03/28/2026	U.S. Department of State	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Somerville, Michael	03/28/2024	03/28/2026	American Water Works Association	Ex Officio Member
Tam, Cindy	04/17/2025	03/28/2026	U.S. Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Weinstock, Andrew	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	American Public Power Association	Ex Officio Member
Wullschleger, John	03/31/2025	03/28/2026	National Park Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Zabaglo, Dennis	03/28/2022	03/28/2026	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Ex Officio Member
Daniel, Wes [Coordination Subcommittee]	08/01/2023	03/28/2026	US Geological Survey	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Andreozzi, Phil [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/03/2022	03/28/2026	US Department of Agriculture	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
Garcia, Amanda [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/02/2023	03/28/2026	US Coast Guard	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Miller, Scott [Early Detection/Rapid Response Subcommittee]	10/01/2024	03/28/2026	Bureau of Land Management	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Carney, Jenny [Education and Outreach Subcommittee]	10/01/2024	03/28/2026	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	Ex Officio Member
Junemann, Carolyn [Prevention Subcommittee]	10/08/2024	03/28/2026	U.S. Department of Transportation	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

### Number of Committee Members Listed: 31

### 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 and Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States.

**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?**

172

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

During FY25, the ANS Task Force made 5 recommendations. 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 the draft New Zealand Mudsail Management Plan be posted in the Federal Register for public comment. In July 2025, the ANS Task Force made three recommendations: 1) The ANS Task Force recommended approval of the Rapid Response Plan Template. 2) The ANS Task Force recommended archiving the Ruffe Control Plan. 3) The ANS Task Force recommended approval of the Guidance for Aquatic Nuisance Species Control and Management Plans.

**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. Subcommittees meet virtually on a regular basis to implement annual work plans that advance applicable recommendations as well as priority actions within the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan. 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.

**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 recommendations are currently underway but not yet completed. These include: (1) developing a national plan to address the potential impacts of the golden mussel; (2) creating an online national resource to communicate watercraft inspection and decontamination requirements, procedures, and State contacts; and (3) establishing a work group focused on genetic biocontrol.

**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 ANS Task Force 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 listserv. The DFO monitors the Task Force email (anstaskforce@fws.gov) and directs any public inquires to the appropriate party or resource.

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

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 2025, funding was provided to support implementation of 47 approved State or interstate ANS management plans. A Notice of Funding Opportunity for continued implementation of these management plans is planned for 2026.

**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