



Dedicated to the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species

# AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE: OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC PLAN

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL PANEL MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2021

# **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

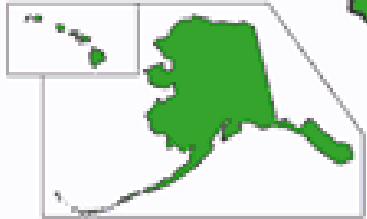




# The Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force

## Western

(Members include: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY and Guam - Estab. 1997)



## Great Lakes

(Members include: IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, PA, OH, WI - Estab. 1991)



## Northeast

(Members include: CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT - Estab. 2001)



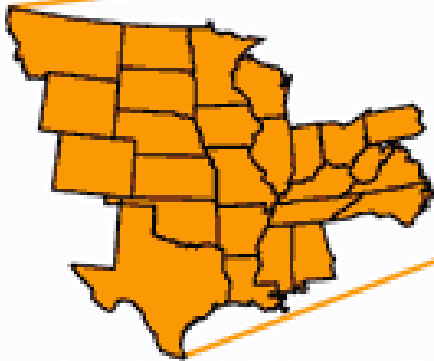
## Mid-Atlantic

(Members include: DE, DC, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV - Estab. 2003)



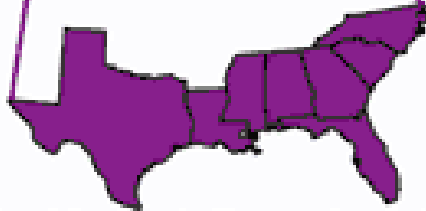
## Mississippi River Basin

(Members include: AL, AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV, WY - Estab. 2002)



## Gulf and South Atlantic

(Members include: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX - Estab. 1999)



June, 2010  
Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

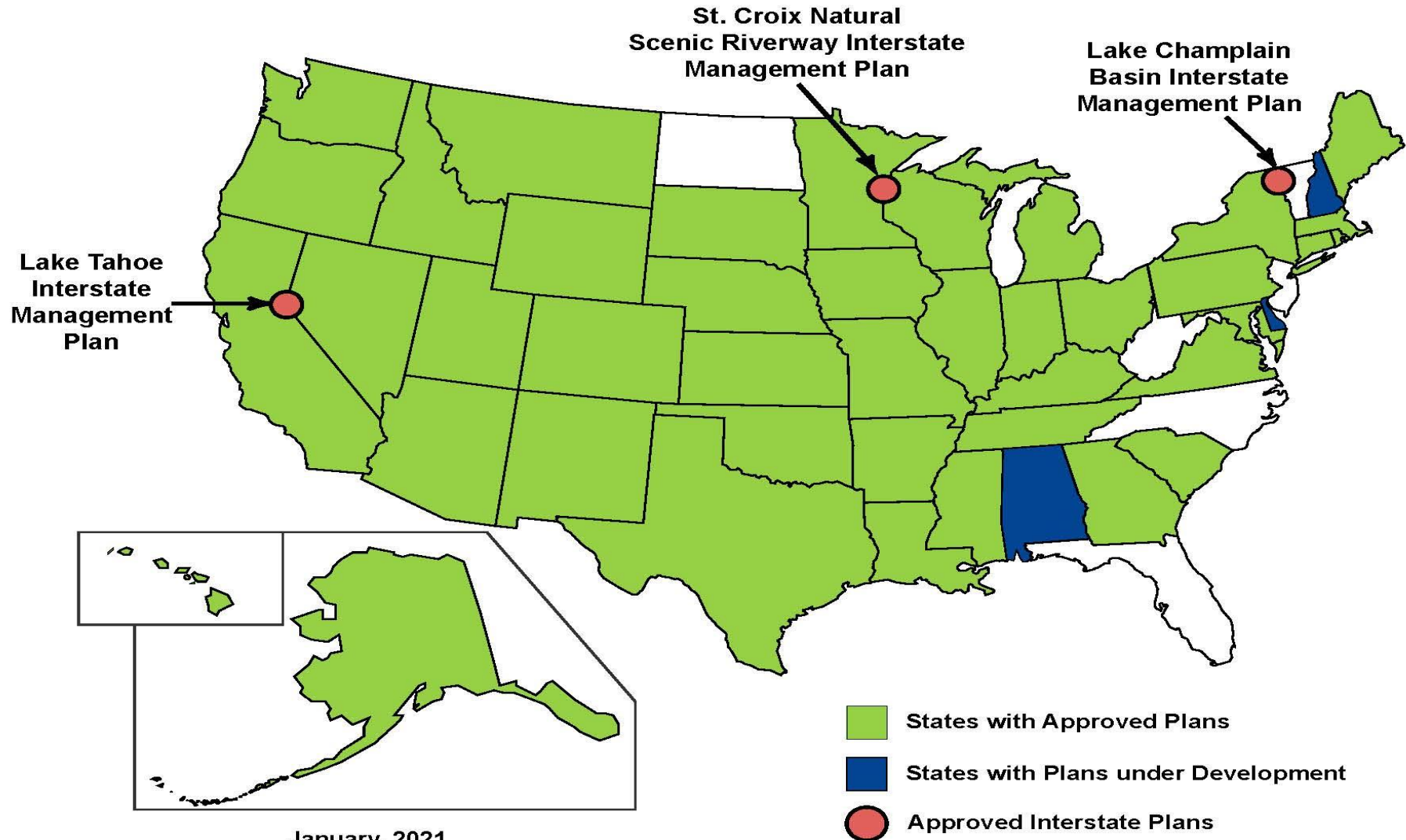
Great Lakes – 1991  
Western Regional – 1997  
Gulf and South Atlantic -1999  
Northeast – 2001  
Mississippi River Basin - 2002  
Mid-Atlantic – 2003

## Specific Duties:

- Identify regional priorities;
- Coordinate regional ANS activities;
- Provide advice pertinent to regional ANS issues;
- Make recommendations
- Report annually to the ANS Task Force.

# Status of State ANS Management Plans

(44 Approved Plans - 41 State, and 3 Interstate)



January, 2021  
Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

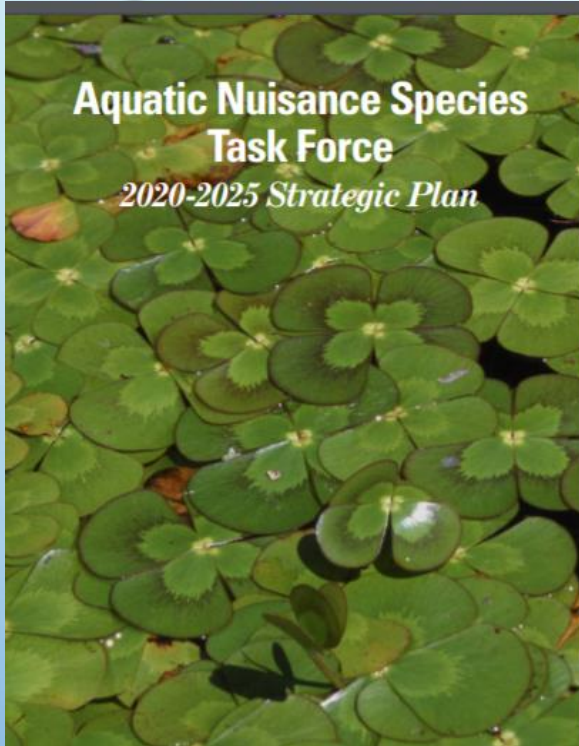
# ANS TASK FORCE JUNE 2021 MEETING







- **Approved two documents from the Control Subcommittee**

## **Action Items:**

- **Refine the ANS Task Force Bylaws**
- **Prevention Subcommittee**
  - Work with WRP to pursue a traffic assessment to inform roadside inspection station
  - Distribute the Watercraft Best Management Practices for review
  - Pursue establishing an Ballast Water ad-hoc committee
- **Control Subcommittee**
  - Working on identifying Leads for Species Plan Revisions
  - draft Framework for Determining the Need for Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Management Plans
- **Ballast Water**
  - USGS work with NEANS on collection and sharing of BW management program
  - EPA to report back on funding requests for the GLLCIAP

# 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>



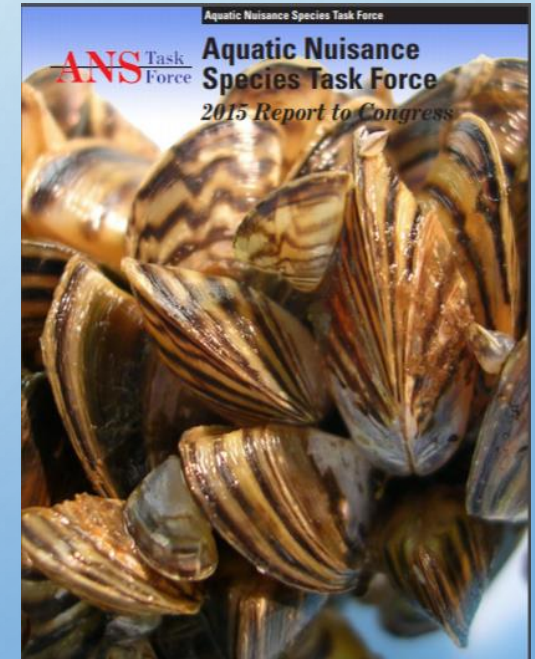


# COORDINATION GOAL AND WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Strengthen ANS Task Force operations to provide effective communication, information sharing, and decision making**
  - Hold 2 ANS Task Force and at least 1 Regional Panel Principal meetings per year
  - Develop ANS Task Force bylaws that are consistent with FACA guidelines
  - Develop an information packet for new members
  - Update the ANS Task Force website
- **Strengthen the capacity for ANS management at State and regional levels**
  - Continue to provide technical assistance for State and Interstate ANS Management Plan development
- **Construct a national assessment of the ANS Program for waters of the United States**
  - Annually assess ANS Task Force accomplishment reports and report on the progress and gaps to the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan
  - Prepare the next ANS Task Force Report to Congress







# PREVENTION GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Evaluate and refine risk analysis procedures to assess potential ANS and pathways for introduction**
  - Evaluate and refine the pathway risk assessment process; complete guidelines for the use and interpretation of these tools
- **Identify priority pathways and species of concern**
  - Work with Federal agencies and responsible industry sectors to make organisms in trade importation data electronically available and searchable
  - Assess new ANS introductions to determine where prevention measures may have been lacking or ineffective, or resulted from gaps in authority
- **Encourage implementation of measures to manage high priority pathways and species**
  - Evaluate seaplanes as a potential pathways for ANS, identify mitigation measures
  - Establish an ad-hoc subcommittee to evaluate and implement the roles and responsibilities of the ANSTF under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act



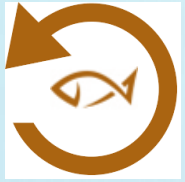


# EDRR GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and report new sightings of ANS**
  - Develop a plan for capacity-building in NAS to meet stakeholder needs
  - Develop ANS watch lists
- **Develop processes to rapidly assess new species detections and determine appropriate management actions**
  - Develop a report describing available tools for interpretation of eDNA detection patterns and recommendations regarding current best practices and future research needs
- **Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to new invasions**
  - Develop a report describing where emergency response funds are currently in use to address ANS, providing a model to establish and administer an emergency rapid response fund
  - Develop ISC training training tailored to ANS Response

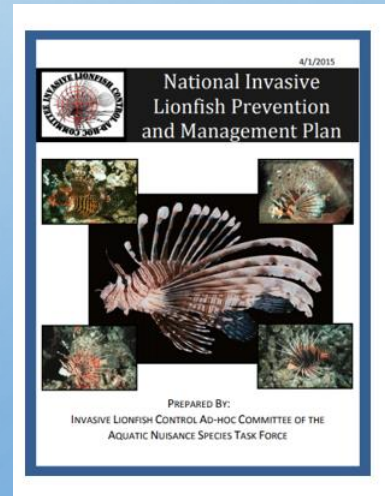
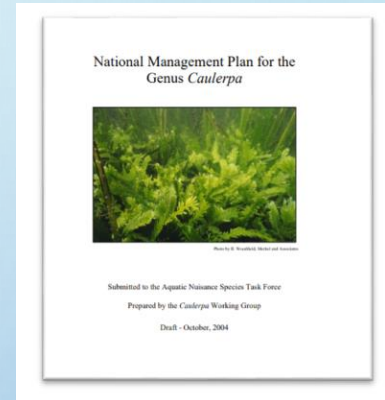


# CONTROL AND RESTORATION GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Coordinate the development and implementation of ANS Management and Control Plans**
  - Complete the Control Plan Assessment and Control Plan Development Process Guidance
  - Determine a lead for each ANS Plan to monitor and report plan progress and implementation needs
- **Identify and communicate effective control and restoration techniques**
  - Communicate management perspectives on the development, risk characterization, and possible utilization of genetic-based tools for ANS control.
- **Identify gaps in available control and restoration measures and encourage innovation**
  - Survey ANS Task Force members and regional panels for gaps in control and restoration measures; communicate the gap and measures that are needed to address the deficiency







# RESEARCH GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Establish ANS Task Force research priorities and identify prospective partners**
  - Develop an annual priority research list that shows both regional and national priorities
  - Survey ANS Task Force members and regional panels for a list of research entities that have the ability to address ANS research needs.
- **Facilitate activities that support priority ANS research needs**
  - Develop a communication plan to promote ANS Research Priorities List, including communicating research priorities to ANS Task Force members and regional panels to guide internal efforts and award selections.
- **Track and disseminate study results to incorporate into ANS management decisions and activities**
  - Develop a system to track progress of regional and national ANS research priorities; regularly communicate ongoing studies or results that address the priorities



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH GOAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021



## Goal Objectives:

- **Evaluate ANS communication, education, and outreach efforts to ensure they are consistent and effective**
  - Conduct an assessment of national campaigns that target outdoor recreational users
  - Identify social science research priority needs; partner with practitioners to develop guidance that can be used to address these priorities
- **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
  - Define and identify leaders for an ANS Outreach Community of Practice
- **Raise the profile and communicate priorities of the ANS Task Force**
  - Develop one-page fact sheet about the ANS Task Force and regional panels
  - Develop templates for ANS Task Force messaging and briefings to ensure consistency



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**<sup>TM</sup>

Be A Good Steward.  
Clean. Drain. Dry.

[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)



**Habitattitude**<sup>TM</sup>

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT  
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

# THANK YOU!



Dedicated to the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species

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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!**