

## Recommendations

Many recommendations for future action were generated during this project. Most of these can be found embedded throughout the report, but also have been pulled out and placed together in this section, organized in the following categories.

**General Project Recommendations** – things that are national in scope, gathered from the states and their partners, the regions, and the experiences of the contractor team.

**From Pilot State Projects** – things that pertain specifically to state agencies and their in-state partners. These are mostly from state agency personnel.

**From Regional Workshop Efforts** – things that are regional in scope, or that pertain to states or groupings of states within particular regions.

### General Project Recommendations

The number one recommendation received from all the many agencies and organizations that participated in this project is to ***keep the ball rolling!***

Project participants were in agreement that ANS issues are some of the most critical issues that face natural resources conservation today. This project developed tools and mechanisms that resource managers can use immediately. It also elevated recognition of the issue in many sectors, helped states and regions better organize their communications on this issue and set the stage for states and their partners to leverage tremendous additional resources to aid in this battle. **But with this project ending, there is a critical need for IAFWA and the regional associations to capitalize on its momentum.**

Throughout this project, the contractor team heard from participants that state agencies needed a more unified voice and a bigger stake in the ANS issue at the national level. This project has brought many of those pieces together. It is critical for the IAFWA and the regional associations to seize this opportunity to move the whole thing forward.

These recommendations contain the collective wisdom of hundreds of project participants—they describe specific actions that will maximize effectiveness of all stakeholders:

- Generate additional funding at the state, regional and national levels for regulation, enforcement, planning, education, and control, through legislative efforts. Because passage of NAISA legislation does not seem imminent, consider other options (e.g., define the issue as resource management issue and pursue support for the States).
- IAFWA fund another survey of the state fish and wildlife agencies regarding ANS to show the growth of the issue and how States are continually using Wallop-Breaux money to address it (important for NAISA reauthorization).
- IAFWA make a financial commitment to annually support the continuation of the work begun in the pilot states (perhaps with matching commitments from USFWS and/or selected partners) to help other states develop and enhance their capacity.
- Enhance development and communication of federal and state regulatory authority to prevent invasive species, including adequate screening and risk assessment.

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- Increase resources for enforcement of importation laws, including training for species identification, investigation into Internet sales, and inspection of shipments.
- Develop proactive early detection and rapid response planning with adequate funding and regulatory authority for identification and control of newly established populations.
- Develop regional and national IAFWA committees to address invasive species issues.
- Reinforce effective relationships between the state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations, including multi-agency coordination within states, Regional ANS Panels, Governors' Associations, and multi-national cooperation.
- Develop and use economic impact information to promote prevention strategies among traditional constituent groups and nontraditional audiences.
- Encourage all states to partner with Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and link to the web site.
- Find funding to develop Best Practices for ANS management (ANS Task Force?).
- Hold workshops at ANS panel meetings to help stakeholders use this report and customize the tools it contains.

## Recommendations from Pilot State Projects

### New Hampshire

- Use a comprehensive communications and marketing approach to identify and strengthen outreach to targeted audiences through the use of a brand (e.g., the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers logo) and consistent messages.
- Develop a partnership among the various entities addressing ANS issues to provide the opportunity for partners to review the outreach efforts associated with each of the ANS-related program areas to determine whether there are more cost effective ways to do things, as well as to identify cost-sharing possibilities.
- Engage adjacent states in common ANS prevention tactics that include a coordinated communication and outreach effort.
- States and their partners should use the process from this pilot project because it can establish a communications plan without a large financial commitment at the front end.
- The NHFGD strongly encourages other state fish and wildlife agencies in the Northeast to engage in a communications planning process. As with most planning initiatives, the process can be good for team building, it allows partnerships to be formed, buy-in is gained through stakeholder participation, and coordination improves.
- Seek partners and outside funding sources to help implement the strategies in the plan.
- A communication plan can serve as a catalyst for better partnerships to be formed among those entities that share responsibilities in addressing ANS.
- If a state can develop an ANS Management Plan prior to developing a communications plan, it would provide more focus in addressing priority needs.
- If a state does not have an ANS management plan, development of an ANS communication strategy can help focus attention on the need for a plan to more effectively coordinate efforts so that ANS issues can be addressed efficiently.

## South Carolina

- Enhance instate communication/coordination by identifying agencies with ANS authority and interest and create ad hoc or permanent work group to begin dialogue on the issue.
- Enhance regional (interstate) communication/coordination by joining and participating in one or more of southeastern ANS regional panels such as the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel, Mississippi River Basin Panel, and/or Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel.
- If staffing is limited, consider hiring consultants to help complete tasks. It's important that someone be assigned to track progress.
- Use the model strategies, plans, and materials already developed for South Carolina or other states and modify to suit your state's unique needs.
- At a minimum, develop state/agency ANS web page that identifies problems and potential problems in your state and actions (behaviors) the public can take to help prevent introduction and spread of ANS.

## Missouri

- The Missouri Department of Conservation encourages other states in our region to develop ANS management and communication plans. We are willing to work with other states in this regard, because ultimately that will help Missouri prevent ANS.
- Develop a regional Midwest ANS Working Group where we can share ideas and work across state boundaries. Without involving other states, we can spend a lot of budget and still have ANS coming across our borders. It would be beneficial to have someone to coordinate the work group. It would help to have one "go to" person in each state identified to help collect and share information, and to direct questions to from bordering states. Having someone contact us from the IAFWA ANS Team, as part of the pilot project, always brought the issue back to the forefront and allowed us to keep it a priority. It was a real asset having that IAFWA ANS Team always there to help when ever we needed it and their marketing experience and contacts nationwide was a wealth of knowledge that we could tap at any time as a valuable resource. Having someone regionally available would help in a similar manner and would go a long way in keeping ANS a priority and preventing spread.
- We are considering doing a state survey of boaters to determine boater awareness of the issue and to document user patterns among our various waters and to identify marketing strategies to further develop our awareness efforts particularly on zebra mussels. However, we felt a regional or national survey would be far more effective to meet these objectives and help identify marketing strategies on a national scale.
- We also recommend that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or American Sportfishing Association and Boating Association work with manufactures, particularly those who manufacture bait buckets, to include an ANS message on their products.
- We recommend that at the 2006 IAF&WA meeting to be held in Colorado that a panel discussion of the four pilot states selected for the ANS Communication Strategies be held as part of the Fisheries Technical Committee where pilot states can present the results of their efforts discuss the advantages of why other states may want to consider developing a marketing strategy and discuss how regional working groups might be a goal to pursue as one potential mechanism for improving coordination among the states.
- We encourage state and federal agencies to share experiences, ideas and awareness materials with others and to work toward common the goal to prevent the spread of ANS nationally.

## Arizona

[To be imported]

## Additional

Following are some additional recommendations for state agencies to consider:

- The state is often the primary administrator for ANS issues. They are the appropriate leader, but also need support from Governor's office, other state agencies, businesses, etc. Aside from habitat loss, invasives are one of the most critical threats. Policies, enforcement, inter-state leadership are needed.
- Forming inclusive partnerships with multiple partners and stakeholders helps form and reinforce valuable relationships, pool resources, and better communicate and coordinate on ANS issues.
- Boaters, anglers, lake associations and other grassroots organizations are critical partners to include because they have excellent communications channels to key constituents. Make sure you bring them to the table.
- It is important to keep partners active and engaged on a continual basis. Don't leave them uninvolved or uninvited.
- It is critical to narrow the project's focus to things that are attainable as far as resources, staff availability, and time frame. The project must have realistic goals from the beginning and take into account and address barriers.
- It is critical to get leadership on board. Early leadership and administrative buy-in is important to focus resources and attention to the project. Without directives and priority coming from above, it's easy for projects to languish or for managers' attention and time to be diverted to other high priorities or projects.
- It is important to include the Governor's office or key politicians to gain support and understanding at that level. They can push for success and contribute their knowledge and expertise on political issues. They also can ensure more smooth sailing when ANS take precedence in the political arena.
- It is critical to have an outside group like IAFWA to provide seed money and push to raise visibility. It's good to help other states do a similar push and hear about the pilot projects. It can help counterparts network and learn from each other in different states.
- Identify messages that hit home with key audiences. Public isn't concerned about aquatic invasives until it hits home to them specifically. Then it is a good outreach opportunity. Help public realize ANS is huge economic and ecologic concern.

## Recommendations from Regional Workshops

### Midwest

- Develop a specific recommendation from this workshop to the Midwest directors to recommend that they establish a committee and identify their charge with action items (see Appendix A).
- Distribute results of workshop:
  - Article in *ANS Update* (Great Lakes ANS Panel news)
  - Present at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference.

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- Through ANS Panel coordinators.
- Don't assume that other organizations are aware of IAFWA and this project.
- Summarize pilot project results and promote findings through other groups.
- State and regional actions (from workshop and evaluation responses):
  - Assigning specific tasks at the state, federal and regional level.
  - Follow through on having all information received and provide additional comments.
  - Implement action items under "Next Steps" of last portion of workshop.
  - Develop a technical task force or invasive species committee for MAFWA.
  - Present results, particularly recommendations from workshop to:
    - Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to implement the action plan.
    - Market findings through avenues that reach as many AIS groups as possible.
  - Promote ANS programs at the state level, particularly enforcement programs.
  - Support development and implementation of state ANS management plans. Support regional panel and other groups working on ANS. Support development at ANS / AIS committees at the MAFWA and IAFWA.
  - While planning to improve future policy, look at what can be done right now.

### Northeast

- The Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourage its member states to support the objectives of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ANS Panels, including:
  - Providing regional coordination and leadership for ANS programs and activities,
  - Providing regional support for and commitment to state, provincial, and regional Aquatic Nuisance Species policies,
  - Providing regional support for the use of regulatory and legislative authorities, when necessary, to prevent and control Aquatic Nuisance Species,
  - Increasing Aquatic Nuisance Species awareness among all sectors of the public emphasizing the need for and importance of prevention,
  - Supporting and fostering research initiatives that advance control, eradication, base line monitoring, and prevention of Aquatic Nuisance Species, as well as research that contributes to the understanding of the biology, ecology, and potential impacts of Aquatic Nuisance Species and the vectors by which they are dispersed
- NEAFWA also encourages its member states to:
  - Establish a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee,
  - Establish and implement a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan,
  - Appoint and support active participation by a state agency representative to the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panels,
  - Participate on Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ANS Panel Technical committees,
  - Develop support and awareness for increased funding through federal programs and the National Invasive Species Act of 1996,
  - Communicate and coordinate regulated species lists among states in the Northeast region for effective regulation and enforcement, and
  - Assist development and implementation of ANS screening/risk assessment tools.

(See Appendix B).

## **Southeast**

The participants of the ANS Workshop held on October 30, 2004, in Hilton Head, S.C., recommend the establishment of an Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee.

The charge of the Committee shall be to address issues and matters concerning management of aquatic nuisance species and proper use of introduced aquatic species which are or may be relative to members of the SEAFWA to address their responsibilities for the protection and management of their states' fish and wildlife resources.

The committee charge shall include but not be limited to:

1. Law enforcement;
2. Fisheries and aquatic plant management;
3. ANS program funding;
4. Both salt and fresh water; and
5. Coordination and communication between member states concerning ANS matters.

It is further recommended that the members of the Committee be appointed from state personnel with ANS responsibilities, and specifically, personnel who are state representatives to regional or basin ANS Panels.

## **Western**

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages its member states to adopt the recommendations of the Western Regional Panel of the ANS Task Force, including:

- Appointment of a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species or Invasive Species Committees;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species Plans;
- Appointment of a representative from each state to the Western Regional Panel;
- Establishment of programs with additional resources to prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic nuisance species;
- Establishment of early detection and rapid response plans; and
- Establishment of authorities necessary to implement these programs and plans.

The WEAFWA also encourages a partnership with the Western Governors' Association to convene an Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group to work toward the development and implementation of a comprehensive program to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the water resources of the western states (as per WGA Policy Resolution 04-11).

(See Appendix C.)

## **Legislative Recommendations**

Many of the same high priority issues that were identified in all of the regional workshops will require regional and federal action. Many of the needs that span the nation's fish and wildlife agencies could be addressed within NAISA. Recommendations for action based on issues that were consistently in the top ten concerns across all regions and their relationship to legislation introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress can be found in Appendix D.

## **Appendix A. Midwest Association Recommendation to Establish an AIS Committee.**

### **Recommendation to establish a MAFWA AIS Committee**

The participants at the Midwest ANS Regulation and Enforcement Workshop held on December 12, 2004, in Indianapolis, IN, recommend the establishment of a MAFWA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee.

The charge of the Committee shall be to address issues and actions concerning management of aquatic invasive species and proper use of introduced aquatic species for the protection and management of the fish and wildlife resources in the Midwest states within the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

The committee charge shall include but not be limited to the following actions:

- Elevate AIS issues among directors of Midwest fish and wildlife agencies.
- Break the complex issues down into manageable components and address highest priority issues to develop and implement actions.
- Develop a resolution to increase work on invasive issues.
- Host and attend conference calls, meetings, and summits that develop personal relationships and improve working associations.
- Support symposia on invasive species at the Midwest fish and wildlife conferences.
- Maintain contact with other relevant committees (e.g., private and public lands committees, MICRA, regional ANS panels).
- Compile invasive species issues from all state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies in the Midwest region.
- Prepare grant requests to external organizations, such as NFWF, on behalf of state and federal agencies.

It is further recommended that the members of the AIS Committee be appointed from state personnel with AIS responsibilities, and specifically, personnel who are state representatives to regional or basin ANS Panels.

## **Appendix B. Northeast Association ANS Resolution.**

**State Fish and Wildlife Agency Leadership for Aquatic Nuisance Species**, April 19, 2004

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association Standing Committee of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the authority and the leadership role of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies in conserving aquatic wildlife and aquatic wildlife habitat within their states; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fisheries and Water Policy Standing Committee of the IAFWA has identified that enhancing and improving state fish and wildlife abilities to manage unwanted (invasive) species is a national conservation need; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that Aquatic Nuisance Species can pose a significant threat to the aquatic wildlife and the aquatic wildlife habitats of the Northeast; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that additional infrastructure and resources within each State Fish and Wildlife Agency and within each State is needed to coordinate, plan, and seek funding to address threats from Aquatic Nuisance Species; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that to achieve the desired security of the region's aquatic wildlife and their habitats it is necessary to employ new, consistent, and cooperative approaches among all Northeast states; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panels were established under the auspices of the Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to "protect the marine and freshwater resources of the Northeast from invasive aquatic nuisance species through commitment and cohesive coordinated action".

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages its member states to support the objectives of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panels, including:

- o Providing regional coordination and leadership for ANS programs and activities,
- o Providing regional support for and commitment to state, provincial, and regional Aquatic Nuisance Species policies
- o Providing regional support for the use of regulatory and legislative authorities, when necessary, to prevent and control Aquatic Nuisance Species;
- o Increasing Aquatic Nuisance Species awareness among all sectors of the public emphasizing the need for and importance of prevention,
- o Supporting and fostering research initiatives that advance control, eradication, base line monitoring, and prevention of Aquatic Nuisance Species, as well as research that contributes to the understanding of the biology, ecology, and potential impacts of Aquatic Nuisance Species and the vectors by which they are dispersed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages its member states to:

- o Establish a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee,
- o Establish and implement a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan,
- o Appoint and support active participation by a state agency representative to the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panels,
- o Develop support and awareness for increased funding through federal programs and the National Invasive Species Act of 1996,
- o Communicate and coordinate regulated species lists among states in the Northeast region for effective regulation and enforcement, and
- o Assist in the development and implementation of Aquatic Nuisance Species screening and risk assessment tools.
- o Encouraging participation on Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel Technical committees.

## **Appendix C. Western Association ANS Resolution.**

### **WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

#### *STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY LEADERSHIP FOR AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES*

**WHEREAS**, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the authority and the leadership role of state fish and wildlife agencies in conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat within their states; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that aquatic nuisance species can pose a significant threat to the aquatic wildlife and aquatic wildlife habitats of the western United States; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that additional infrastructure and resources within each state fish and wildlife agency and within each state is needed to coordinate, plan and seek funding to address threats from aquatic nuisance species; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that in order to achieve the desired security of our western aquatic wildlife and their habitats, it is necessary to employ new, consistent, and cooperative approaches among all of the western states; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force has offered its Recommendations on State Actions to Improve our Regional Capacity for Managing Aquatic Invasive Species (incorporated herein by reference); and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Governors' Association has offered its resolution regarding Undesirable Aquatic, Riparian, and Invasive Species (WGA Policy Resolution 04-11, incorporated herein by reference).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies encourages its member states to adopt the recommendations of the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, including:

- Appointment of a state Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species or Invasive Species Committees;
- Establishment of state Aquatic Nuisance Species Plans;
- Appointment of a representative from each state to the Western Regional Panel;
- Establishment of programs with additional resources to prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic nuisance species;
- Establishment of early detection and rapid response plans; and
- Establishment of authorities necessary to implement these programs and plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests of, and partner with, the Western Governors' Association to convene an Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group to work toward the development and implementation of a comprehensive program to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the water resources of the western states (as per WGA Policy Resolution 04-11).

*Adopted in Convention Sun Valley, Idaho July 29, 2004*

## Appendix D. Recommendations for Federal Legislation.

### IAFWA ANS Regional Workshops

#### *Recommendations for Federal Legislation including*

#### *The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2005*

August 2, 2005

### Legislative history

In 1990, a single law has been the nation's chief protection against aquatic invasive species. The law began as the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA). It was revised in 1996 as the National Invasive Species Act (NISA), which expired in September 2002. Congress has been considering a second revision since 2003 to reinstate provisions that would defend the country from both intentional and unintentional harmful introductions of aquatic nuisance species.

In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2006), several bills have been introduced to address invasive species, including reauthorization and amendment of NISA through the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2005 (see below).

### Results of nationwide IAFWA workshops

In 2004, the IAFWA sponsored a series of workshops among the four Regional Associations of Fish & Wildlife Agencies to identify high priority issues that require regional and federal action. Many of the needs that span the nation's fish and wildlife agencies could be addressed within NAISA.

Recommendations for action based on issues that were consistently in the top ten concerns across all regions and their relationship to legislation introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress are:

**Priority Recommendation:** Generate **additional funding at state, regional and national levels** for regulation, enforcement, planning, education, and control, including reauthorization of the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) and similar federal and state legislation. **Support for development and implementation of State ANS Management Plans** is particularly critical for establishing local and regional infrastructure to combat AIS.

### S. 507 or H.R. 1593 (National Invasive Species Council Act 2005) –

- Requires the Council to develop a National Invasive Species Management Plan that details and recommends performance-oriented goals.
- Amends 16 U.S.C. 4724(b)(1) to allow use of Federal funds to develop state ANS Management Plans as long as the total amount does not exceed 10 percent of the amounts made available for grants under this section for each fiscal year and continues to allow funding for implementation of those plans.

**Priority Recommendation:** Reinforce effective relationships between the state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations, including **multi-agency coordination** within states, Regional ANS Panels, Governors' Associations, and multi-national cooperation. The Regional Associations and IAFWA are developing regional and national committees to address invasive species issues, and increasing their involvement with the national ANS Task Force and associated Regional ANS Panels.

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### *S. 770 or H.R. 1591 (NAISA 2005) –*

- Requires the Invasive Species Council to coordinate with the Task Force to combat aquatic invasive species.

### *S. 1224 (Oceans Protection Act 2005) –*

- Requires the Invasive Species Council to coordinate with the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to combat aquatic invasive species.
- Requires the Task Force, the Council, and the Secretary of State to ensure that international efforts to prevent and control aquatic invasive species are coordinated with U.S. policies.

### **S. 507 or H.R. 1593 (National Invasive Species Council Act 2005) –**

- Establishes within the executive branch the National Invasive Species Council to ensure that Federal agency efforts concerning invasive species are coordinated, effective, complementary, and cost-efficient.
- Requires the Council to create the Invasive Species Advisory Committee to provide information and advice for consideration by the Council.

**Priority Recommendation:** Enhance federal and state regulatory authority to prevent invasive species, including adequate **screening and risk assessment** procedures. Due to pressing concerns about carp and other species in the Mississippi and Great Lakes systems, the 28 member states of Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) specifically have requested through IAFWA that immediate action be taken to “establish a screening process prior to importation into the U.S. of any nonindigenous species of aquatic flora and fauna.”

### *S. 770 or H.R. 1591 (NAISA 2005) –*

- Prohibits the importation of a live aquatic organism of a species not in trade without specified screening and approval.
- Requires the Task Force to recommend additions to the list of aquatic invasive species to the appropriate Federal agencies.
- Directs the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to establish a priority pathway management program that identifies those pathways that pose the highest risk for the introduction of aquatic invasive species unless further managed.
- Requires the Task Force, the Council, and the Secretary of State to ensure that international efforts to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species are coordinated with U.S. policies.

### *H.R. 3049 (Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act 2005) –*

- Amends section 42 of title 18, United States Code, popularly known as the Lacey Act, to add certain species of carp to the list of injurious species that are prohibited from being imported or shipped.

### **H.R. 1592 (Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act 2005) –**

- Requires the administering agencies to: (1) develop standardized protocols for conducting ecological and pathway surveys of such species; (2) conduct research to identify the relationship between the introduction and establishment of such species; and (3) analyze the data collected and develop a profile that determines whether a species planned for importation is likely to invade an aquatic ecosystem.

**Priority Recommendation:** Develop proactive **early detection and rapid response procedures** with adequate funding and regulatory authority for identification and control of newly established populations.

*S. 770 or H.R. 1591 (NAISA 2005) –*

- Requires the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a national system of ecological surveys for rapid early detection and monitoring of invasive species.
- Establishes the Emergency Rapid Response Fund to assist States in implementing rapid response measures for aquatic invasive species.
- Requires the Task Force to review and approve State rapid response contingency strategies.
- Requires the Invasive Species Council to establish a Federal rapid response team for each of the ten Federal regions.

*S. 1224 (Oceans Protection Act 2005) –*

- Sets forth protocols for the early detection and monitoring of recently established aquatic invasive species in U.S. waters.
- Requires certain administering agencies to conduct a marine and freshwater research program to assess rates of, patterns of, and conditions surrounding introductions of nonindigenous aquatic species in aquatic ecosystems.

**H.R. 1592 (Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act 2005) –**

- Requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Smithsonian Institution, and the U.S. Geological Survey (administering agencies) to: (1) enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the implementation and coordination of this Act; and (2) develop a marine and fresh-water research program to support efforts to assess introduction rates and patterns of invasive nonnative species into the aquatic ecosystem, and efforts to detect, prevent, and eradicate them.
- Requires the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a central, national pathway and ecological surveys database of information. Makes the Invasive Species Council responsible for disseminating such information and develop a national strategy for how it will be shared with Federal, State, and local entities.
- Requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a grant program to fund research, development, demonstration and verification of environmentally sound, cost-effective technologies and methods to control and eradicate such species.

**Priority Recommendation:** Increase **resources for enforcement of importation laws**, including training for species identification, investigation into Internet sales, and inspection of shipments.

*S. 770 or H.R. 1591 (NAISA 2005) –*

- Funds provided to States for implementation of plans pursuant to may be used by States to enforce requirements relating to aquatic invasive species under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).
- Requires the National Science Foundation to establish a grant program for researchers at institutions of higher education and museums to carry out research in systematics and taxonomy.

**Priority Recommendation:** Develop and use **economic impact information** to promote prevention strategies among traditional fish and wildlife agency constituent groups and nontraditional audiences.

*S. 507 or H.R. 1593 (National Invasive Species Council Act 2005) –*

- Requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare and submit to Congress and the Council a yearly budget analysis and summary of all Federal programs relating to invasive species.
- Encourage the posting of regionally specific public warnings or other educational materials at Federally funded access points regarding dangers of spreading invasive species and prevention methods.
- Develop an education, outreach, and training program directed toward marinas and marina operators regarding inspection and prevention methods for watercraft.
- Provide guidelines for proper disposal of live nonindigenous aquatic organisms in trade in consultation with industry and other affected entities.
- Support the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative regarding westward transport of watercraft, especially within the States of origin.
- Develop a program to provide public outreach and other educational activities to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by recreational watercraft in parkland or through events sponsored by the National Park Service.
- Conduct activities to inform and promote voluntary cooperation and regulatory compliance by members of the national and international maritime, horticultural, aquarium, aquaculture, and pet trade industries on preventing the spread of invasive species.

Next steps must include translating and promoting these recommendations as effective legislative actions, enhanced relationships and improved efficiencies in how the U.S. responds to the challenges of aquatic invasive species. Further delay on these critical issues may leave the door open to irreversible devastating effects on U.S. economic and natural resources.

**Invasive Species Bills for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2006)**

According to the National Invasive Species Council website ([www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov)), the following list of bills for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2006) relate to invasive species. Those bills that have passed into law have been noted. Current status information is from the [THOMAS legislative database](#) by the Library of Congress. Links to the [GPO Access Congressional Bills](#) database are provided for text and PDF versions of the bills. An explanation of bill abbreviations and types is available in the [Congressional Bills Glossary](#).

*This information last updated July 20, 2005.*

**House**

- **H.R.489 – “Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Assessment and Demonstration Act”**
- **H.R.1591 – “National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005”**
- **H.R.1592 – “Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act”**
- **H.R.1593 – “National Invasive Species Council Act”**
- **H.R.1636 – “Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005”**

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- **H.R. 2720 – “Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act”**
- **H.R.3049 – “Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act”**

**Senate**

- **S.177 – “Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act”**
- **S.363 – “Ballast Water Management Act of 2005”**
- **S.507 – “National Invasive Species Council Act”**
- **S.770 – “National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005”**
- **S.793 – “Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005”**
- **S.1224 – “National Oceans Protection Act of 2005”**