



# NOAA's Update: Aquatic Invasive Species Program



*Margaret M. (Peg) Brady, DOC/NOAA Senior Policy  
Liaison to NISC  
ISAC Meeting, Washington DC  
December 7 - 9, 2010*



# Presentation Outline

- **NOAA Highlights and Activities**
  - NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
  - Sea Grant – Aquatic Nuisance Species Awards
  - AIS technical assistance for habitat restoration projects
  - Availability of AIS prevention document
  - NAISN Workshop
  - NOAA response to lionfish invasion
- **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Update**



# NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan

NOAA released the finalized plan in November, 2010.

NOAA's Vision of the Future:

**Resilient Ecosystems, Communities, and Economies**

NOAA's Long-term Goals:

- **Climate Adaptation and Mitigation**  
*Informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts*
- **Weather-Ready Nation**  
*Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events*
- **Healthy Oceans**  
*Marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity are sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems*
- **Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies**  
*Coastal and Great Lakes communities are environmentally and economically sustainable*

The plan is available at: <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/ngsp.html>



## NOAA Actions:

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- NOAA has awarded \$9.2 million to nine projects throughout the Great Lakes Region
- Funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency through President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- The project selected will restore over 700 acres of habitat and open more than 100 miles of river for migratory fish passage by:
  - Removing dams and barriers
  - Constructing fish passage
  - Restoring wetlands
  - Removing marine debris and
  - Removing invasive species
- Projects include a Special Award Condition for Invasive Species: including development of an ISRAP plan & post-project monitoring
- NOAA has partnered with the National Wildlife Federation to focus on climate change and making habitat restoration projects "climate smart."



## NOAA Actions: Sea Grant Aquatic Invasive Species

NOAA's National Sea Grant Program awarded \$2M to 5 regional grants to combat high-priority Aquatic Invasive Species:

- *Alaska Region - \$400,000*  
*Implement an early detection and rapid response framework for AIS in Alaska.*
- *Great Lakes Region - \$384,000*  
*Educate professional and tournament anglers about the need to prevent AIS.*
- *Mid-Atlantic Region - \$400,000*  
*Outreach efforts aimed at preventing introduction AIS into coastal waters with live bait used by anglers.*
- *Pacific Northwest and Southwest Regions - \$416,000*  
*Predict the risk of AIS and better understand the economic value of EDRR*
- *Pacific Region - \$400,000*  
*Explore how AIS may be controlled by fish, snails and other marine herbivores.*



## NOAA Actions:

# Technical Guidance for the Development & Review of Habitat Restoration Practices

- To assist with technical support to proposed and ongoing habitat restoration projects, NOAA has composed several BMPs related to invasive species issues. These documents are intended to:
  - Provide guidance to grant recipients and technical reviewers to consider invasive species during the planning and development of habitat restoration actions.
  - Increase awareness and understanding of ramifications of the potential effects of invasive species on proposed habitat restoration activities
  - Encourage NOAA habitat restoration staff and grant recipients to consider ways to avoid or minimize the introduction of invasive species.
- The documents are available at:

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/partners/toolkits/partnertoolkit.html>





## NOAA Actions:

# Availability of Documents Used to Prevent the Introduction of Invasive Species

## Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Risk Analysis Protocol

- The Protocol is intended to ensure that research activities do not result in the introduction of ANS.
- Draft was approved by ANSTF in Fall, 2009 and submitted for public comment
- Notice of availability of the finalized research protocol was published on Nov. 30.
- The finalized document will replace the 1994 document titled “Protocol for Evaluating Research Proposals Concerning Aquatic Non-indigenous Species”.
- The protocol is available at: <http://www.anstaskforce.gov>



# NOAA Actions:

## Availability of Documents Used to Prevent the Introduction of Invasive Species

### **Invasive Species Risk Assessment and Planning (ISRAP)**

- Habitat restoration projects funded by the GRLI must follow a SAC that instructs grantees to construct and implement an ISRAP plan.
- This tool conducts a risk assessment to determine pathways that may introduce IS and identifies control measures to reduce this risk.
- NOAA has conducted 5 training sessions for grantees and technical monitors.
- ISRAP documents are available at:  
<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/programs/invasivespecies.html>



# North American Invasive Species Network

- NAISN, is a collaborative trilateral (Canada, US, & Mexico) initiative to establish a coordinated network that advances science-based understanding of invasive species in North America.
- Workshop held November 15-17, 2010 in Boise, ID
- NAISN governance structure and by-laws and NAISN were adopted tentatively.
- A training seminar was offered by NAISN and GISIN.
- NAISN participants agreed to:
  - 1) Board of Directors
  - 2) Hubs to effectively act in a coordinated manner from local to international levels
  - 3) Nodes-Agencies and other entities with a recognized role in IS management
  - 4) Affiliates-Individuals with an interest in IS issues
- For more information visit the NAISN website:  
<http://www.invasive.org/NAISN>



# Marine Invasive Species: The Lionfish



The lionfish (*Pterois volitans*, *Pterois miles*) has established along the Southeast USA and in the Caribbean Basin. The species pose a serious threat to the marine communities of these regions. NOAA is responding to this invasion by:

- Working to document the biology and ecology of lionfish and to address ecological impacts and policy issues.
- Collaborating with intergovernmental partners, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative and the United Nations to advise countries in the Wider Caribbean Region of the threat of lionfish.
- Leading an international effort to develop a best practices manual. Anticipated completion Summer/Fall 2011.
- Expanding it's "Eat Lionfish" campaign which promotes lionfish as a sustainable seafood choice.
- Producing a series educational materials on how the public can assist with early detection, advice for treating lionfish stings, and how to report sightings.
- More information is available at:

[http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/stressors/lionfish\\_outreach.aspx](http://www.ccfhr.noaa.gov/stressors/lionfish_outreach.aspx)



# **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting Update**

**November, 2010 – Arlington, VA**



# ANSTF Decisions

November 2010

- Explore the potential for a quagga–zebra mussel coordinator position.
- Approved the Wyoming and Nebraska ANS State Management Plans; Conditionally approved the Alabama plan pending incorporation of final comments.
- Established a committee to update the Aquatic Invasive Species Recreational Guidelines.
- Co-chairs will request increased U.S. federal agency participation within the ANSTF regional panels.
- Distribute genetic biocontrol regulations paper (National Sea Grant Law Center ) to ANSTF members.
- Review Great Lakes Panel recommendation to reflect the advisory nature of the Task Force in regards to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Advice will be submitted to the U.S. EPA and Department of State contacts.
- **Next Meeting - Little Rock, Arkansas; 2-5 May, 2011 (tentative)**



# ANSTF Recommendations

November 2010

- Have a FACA specialist visit to discuss roles and responsibilities.
- Explore the development of a Task Force database to track strategic plan accomplishments.
- Research federal agency's incident command system training capabilities and perform an ICS needs assessment.
- Consult with NISC about the viability of the Pathways Working Group to address pathways.



# Questions ?

