

# U.S. Department of the Interior Responses to Recommendations and Actions from the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee's (ISAC) May 2015 Meeting

October 2015

## Recommendation

### *ISAC Recommendation:*

"ISAC recommends that the NISC member agencies develop the early detection and rapid response framework and emergency funding plan called for in the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience and Natural Resources Working Group's Priority Agenda: Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources (October 2014); and, that they seek the involvement and advice of non-federal stakeholders, subject matter experts, tribal, state, and local government representatives who will be critical partners in the successful implementation of this framework and fund."

### *DOI Response:*

The Department of the Interior (DOI) recognizes the critical importance of public-private partnerships to help manage invasive species. To engage the involvement and advice of non-Federal stakeholders in developing a national Early Detection and Rapid Response framework, DOI and the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) formed an *ad hoc* advisory team of non-Federal representatives, operating through ISAC's Early Detection and Rapid Response subcommittee. The Advisory team consisted of more than 40 representatives from states, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and industry, among other groups. DOI and NISC held seven Advisory Team meetings and two tribal consultations (one tribal listening session via conference call and one in person tribal consultation). Insights focused on a variety of programmatic aspects of EDRR such as the value added of a national EDRR framework, opportunities to connect and build upon existing EDRR networks, gaps in EDRR capabilities and capacities, and EDRR funding needs and mechanisms. Various components and preliminary drafts of the report were shared for review and feedback by the Advisory Team and tribes, which informed the development of the final report, which is in progress. The Department is grateful to the Federal and non-Federal representatives who participated in the development of the report. Their continued involvement will be essential for successful implementation of a national EDRR framework.

## Action Items

### *Research / Control and Management Subcommittees:*

"Request NISC staff to liaise with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify and resolve issues that impede the timely and successful completion of Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act for biological control agents."

### *Response:*

DOI and NISC staff held conversations with staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to learn about the history and status of the concerns raised by ISAC. They also participated in a web-ex organized by USFWS during July 2015 that helped to further identify issues. USFWS will describe their efforts, interagency discussions, and action items related to these issues at the fall 2015 ISAC meeting.

*Communication, Education and Outreach:*

“Request NISC, for our next meeting, to provide summary reports on current regional and national invasive species outreach campaigns conducted by agencies, including, if available: (1) estimated funding, (2) target audiences, (3) scope, (4) and their effectiveness and evaluation metrics used.”

*Response:*

To compile general information on this request, DOI canvassed Bureau invasive species program leads. Bureaus are involved to varying degrees in a range of regional and national invasive species outreach campaigns. Some of the main regional/national campaigns identified include:

- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers (SAH!) (BIA, BLM, BOR, NPS)
- Clean, Drain, Dry™ (BLM, BOR, NPS, USFWS)
- Don't Move a Mussel (BOR, NPS, USFWS)
- Play Clean Go™ (BOR, NPS, USFWS)
- Habitattitude (NPS, USFWS)
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Bureau funding of these efforts includes support for a variety of outreach mechanisms (e.g., bill boards, radio ads, magazine ads, signage, websites etc.). The USFWS provided a detailed description of their involvement in SAH! and Habitattitude (please see separate document: *Summary Reports on SAH and Habitattitude campaigns*).

Though not the focus of the ISAC inquiry, Bureaus also are involved in statewide awareness initiatives as well as local education and outreach efforts. For example:

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs reported on a range of tribal led education and outreach activities that focus on the general invasive species threat, specific invasive species of concern, partnership efforts to address invasive species, and youth outreach, among other efforts.
- The Bureau of Land Management reported supporting outreach at boat launches at Lake Havasu in Arizona.
- The National Park Service reported that Exotic Plant Management Teams engage in various educational activities (e.g., curriculum development, development of specific invasive species awareness materials, and participation in integrated education approaches).

Please note that this is intended to give a broad overview and is not a comprehensive summary of DOI involvement in regional or national awareness campaigns or education and outreach activities.

**Additional Request:**

*Systematics:*

Request that DOI hold a preliminary conversation with ISAC's Research subcommittee about DOI's systematics capability and capacity.

*Response:*

DOI organized and facilitated a conference call in June 2015 among DOI Bureaus and the ISAC Research subcommittee co-chairs to learn more about ISAC's interest in systematics, their associated action items, and opportunities for DOI engagement. DOI formed an *ad hoc* systematics work group and is awaiting additional guidance from the Research subcommittee co-chairs on next steps.