

July 28, 2016

TO: Members of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC)
SUBJECT: Recommendations to the NISC from the ISAC Meeting held July 12–14, 2016

During the July 12–14, 2016 meeting held at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) approved the white paper entitled, *Addressing the Needs of Classical Biological Control Programs*. The paper includes the following agreed upon recommendations:

Recognizing that classical biological control plays an essential role in the suppression of invasive species in both natural and agricultural ecosystems, ISAC recommends that NISC agencies:

1. Develop transparent criteria to prioritize those invasive species for which classical biological control is the most cost-effective control option. For high priority invasive species, provide sufficient resources to fully support the development, implementation, and monitoring of classical biological control programs.
2. Identify and establish collaborations with local scientists in the country of origin to facilitate collection and shipment of new biological control agents in areas of limited accessibility (e.g., due to political instability).
3. Work with the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants Global Commission and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol) to exclude biological control agents from the list of organisms regulated by access and benefit sharing procedures.
4. Encourage APHIS and DHS to continue their efforts to streamline shipping and entry requirements for the importation of biological control agents approved for testing and/or quarantine rearing.
5. Institute a holistic ecological risk/benefit analysis in the regulatory decision-making process that assesses the threat, treatment options, and benefits (economic, environmental, social, and cultural) of the release of biological control agents.
6. Establish a defined process and timeline for the approval or disapproval of requests to import and release new imported biological control agents.
7. Improve communications regarding biological control decision-making among the TAG, APHIS, and FWS and the classical biological control petitioner.
8. Review federal permitting requirements, such as the interstate movement of fully established classical biological control agents and associated host material and the movement of not fully established biological control agents with the aim of improving the implementation of biological control.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Wiltshire
Chair, Invasive Species Advisory Committee
Invasive Species Action Network

Attachments:
NISC Distribution List

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NISC Liaison: NONE APPOINTED

USTR – AMB. MICHAEL FROMAN

NISC Liaison: Rebecca Rasdall (Environment & Nat. Resources)

NASA – MAJ. GEN. CHARLES F. BOLDEN, JR.

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