

DATE March 1, 2018
TO The National Invasive Species Council
FROM The Invasive Species Advisory Committee
SUBJECT Considerations for the 2019–2021 NISC Management Plan

BACKGROUND

Established by Executive Order 13112¹ and furthered by Executive Order 13751,² the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) provides information and advice for consideration by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC).³ Herein, we provide recommendations for NISC to consider as it develops the 2019–2021 NISC Management Plan. These recommendations were informed by the: (a) written and verbal contributions of NISC non-federal stakeholders offered in response to five questions posed by NISC in a Federal Register Notice (83 Fed. Reg. 20, 4241, Jan. 8, 2018; Annex I), (b) dialogue with invited federal agency staff and NISC stakeholder representatives during the ISAC meeting from 27 February to 1 March 2018, and (c) expertise of ISAC membership. All supporting materials are available on the NISC website (ISAC Meeting Archive).⁴

THE ISSUE

Efforts to prevent⁵ the importation of invasive species are insufficient to protect the United States. Nor are resources adequate for the eradication or control of invasive species that have already entered the country. There is a clear need for more effective coordination and collaboration among federal agencies and other entities to address gaps and inconsistencies in relevant statutes, regulations, agency authorities, as well as to improve and sustain access to the data needed to inform decisions and direct action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To strengthen the biosecurity of the United States, including its territories and possessions, against the introduction and spread of invasive species, ISAC recommends that NISC consider the following recommendations when developing the 2019–2021 NISC Management Plan:

1. Meet regularly and provide coordinated leadership for the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species across respective agencies, including via relevant authorities, capacities, programmatic priorities, and actions. This includes ensuring continued support for the NISC Secretariat and the Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

1 <https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/executive-order-13112>

2 <https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/executive-order-13751>

3 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_charter_filed_121817.pdf

4 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/30/2018-01538/public-meetings-of-the-invasive-species-advisory-committee>

5 Including actions to detect and identify invasive species.

2. Enhance the effectiveness of federal response capacities by streamlining federal regulatory and administrative processes (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act; Endangered Species Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, And Rodenticide Act). For example, create a centralized mechanism for sharing risk assessments among agencies and apply exemptions (categorical and programmatic) for pesticides, biocontrol^{1,2}, and emerging technologies.⁶
3. Facilitate open access to and sharing of invasive species data to improve decision support capacities at all levels of government^{4,5,8} and in the private sector, including public and private universities and colleges.
4. Identify, apply, and participate in existing state and local cooperative agreements (e.g., cooperative weed management areas, cooperative invasive species management areas, coordinated resource management approaches, partnerships for regional invasive species management) to increase the capacity of government agencies to respond to local and regional invasive species issues.
5. Identify and expand use of Good Neighbor Authority and cooperative agreements with local, state, territorial, and tribal invasive species management agencies.
6. Establish a rapid-response funding mechanism, taking into consideration third party administrative options (e.g., the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). The fund should have the flexibility to address first time introductions to the United States, as well as the eradication or containment of species already established in the country.^{3,4}
7. Strengthen coordination between federal agencies, states, territories, and federally-recognized tribes to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. This include by, for example, establishing a Federal-State-Tribal Invasive Species Coordinating Committee, designating a full-time staff member to serve as chairperson of the Coordinating Committee, and enhancing on-the-ground implementation of federal-state-tribal invasive species efforts.^{4,5}
8. Support regional and international coordination efforts of federal agencies, states, territories and federally-recognized tribes to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, including negotiation of relevant international agreements, information sharing, research collaboration, and providing development assistance.^{4,5}
9. Promote the development and application of innovative tools and technologies for prompt and effective prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species.^{6,8}
10. Improve public engagement on the invasive species issue by supporting and expanding existing education and outreach efforts, emphasizing unified messaging and the application of social media platforms.
11. Review and address recommendations from the previous ISAC White Papers¹⁻⁸, reporting progress to ISAC on at least an annual basis.

1 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_biocontrols_white_paper_rev.pdf

2 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_biocontrols2016_white_paper_rev.pdf

3 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_infrastructure_white_paper.pdf

4 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_federal-state_white_paper.pdf

5 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_federal-tribal_white_paper.pdf

6 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_advanced_biotechnology_white_paper.pdf

7 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_managed_relocation_white_paper.pdf

8 https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/isac_wildlife_health_white_paper.pdf

ANNEX I

Questions published for public response in the Federal Register (83 Fed. Reg. 20, 4241, Jan. 8, 2018):

1. How can NISC help advance cooperative federalism—an approach in which national, state, territorial, tribal, and local governments work together to solve our shared invasive species challenges—in order to better protect our nation’s biodiversity, land and water resources, public health, and other assets?
2. How can NISC facilitate more effective partnerships with the private sector in order to reduce the risks of invasive species crossing U.S. borders?
3. What are the highest priority opportunities to streamline federal regulatory procedures to make it easier and more cost-effective for various sectors of society to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species?
4. How can NISC facilitate the mobilization of non-native species data into public information systems in order to improve decision support capacities at all levels of government and for the private sector?
5. How can NISC foster the development and application of innovative tools and technologies to enable the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species in a more timely and effective manner?