

**Committee Activities and Recommendations for the Aquatic Nuisance Species
Task Force Meeting, Arlington, Virginia, October 28-29, 2008**

Committee Name: Research Committee
Committee Chair: David Reid (NOAA)
Email address: david.reid@noaa.gov

High-Priority and/or Emerging Issues:

The Research Committee (RC) was reorganized in early 2008 with a substantial change in membership. The first order of business assigned by the ANSTF was to conduct a review and update of the July 1994 Research Protocol as identified under Task 1 of the RC Roles and Responsibilities document:

- *Periodically review and update the ANSTF's "Protocol for Evaluating Research Proposals Concerning Nonindigenous Aquatic Species" (Research Protocol); and*
- *Promote the proper use of the Research Protocol.*

An initial review of the 1994 Protocol was completed by the Committee in April 2008, and concluded that the existing Research Protocol is unwieldy - it is complicated, requires too much information, and in some areas is over-specified. On the other hand, the risk-assessment approach is useful, but could be simplified. In addition, the present Protocol assumes the existence of a Research Protocol Committee to review all federally funded AIS-related proposals for compliance with Protocol guidelines prior to release of funds. Since no such committee exists and has not existed since the original Research Protocol was adopted (July 1994), responsibility for implementing the Protocol needs to be considered and redirected.

Reid (Committee Chair) drafted a revised and simplified Protocol using the original as a starting point and sent this draft to all RC members in mid-August 2008 for comment, revisions, and recommendations, or identification of alternate or expanded approaches. Comments and revisions were received from 4 of 12 (not including Reid) RC members, and no members proposed an alternate approach to the Reid draft. Reid is compiling a second revised draft based on comments received, and will send it back to full RC for further/final comment by the end of October 2008. Final recommendations to the ANSTF should be in place by the spring 2009 meeting.

Key Committee Activities from May 2008 to October 2008:

- Drafted revised Protocol, sent to Committee for comment and/or additional work.
- Second round of revisions, compiling Committee feedback, in progress.

Recommendations to the ANS Task Force (Any recommendations for ANSTF Action?)

Where do you need assistance from ANSTF?

The Research Committee report for April 2008 included a number of Action Requests to which no responses were received. The Research Committee requests a response to these previous requests:

Action Request: ANSTF agencies and stakeholder institutions with members named in Appendix 1 should confirm that this is their designated representative.

Action Request: ANSTF agencies or stakeholder institutions without a member on the 2008 Research Committee should determine if they wish representation and if so, provide a name and contact information to david.reid@noaa.gov

Action Request: I would like a sense of the ANSTF concerning 1) usage of the existing protocol – has it been required in federal RFPs from member agencies? If not, why not? If yes, how are the resulting responses reviewed and who determines if the response is adequate and in keeping with the Protocol requirements? Has there been any follow-up oversight to confirm adherence to the Protocol requirements?