

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
October 2015**

Regional Panel Name: Western Regional Panel on ANS

Submitted by: Elizabeth Brown, Chair

Key ANS Activities from May 2015 through October 2015

Ongoing Work:

Annual Meeting: The 2016 Annual Meeting is planned for Jackson Hole, WY for October 2016. The meeting will be hosted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Coastal

Marine Invasive Species Regional Management Plan: The Coastal Committee has been actively pursuing the development of a Marine Invasive Species Biofouling Regional Management Plan. A regional plan will increase marine partnerships and opportunities to share resources, and provide a framework to facilitate regional marine invasive species management. The committee has held two face-to-face work sessions in April 2015 and September 2015. The committee has compiled regulations and rules on authorities to manage marine invasive biofouling from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. Next steps include an in-person work session to create a detailed plan outline in December 2015.

European Green Crab: Alaska, British Columbia and Washington continue cross border work to address the spread of invasive European green crab along the Pacific coast. A key project for 2015 is a Washington State volunteer early detection and monitoring project. In spring 2015, detection and monitoring protocol was developed and volunteer training began. The project is due for completion in mid-2016 and will collaborate with state, federal, international, local and tribal governments, and industry stakeholders.

Commercial Port Monitoring: The Coastal Committee is participating in a water sampling effort of commercial ports under a global project led by Governors State University. The project goal is to predict spread of aquatic invasive species via ballast water and biofouling using modeling, shipping data and biological samples. Sampling has not yet begun and participants are awaiting protocols from Governors State University.

Inland

Building Consensus in the West:

Following the ABYC Summit in January, a variety of opportunities and partnerships have developed. Representatives from the AIS management community hosted and presented at the 2015 International Boatbuilders Exposition in September.

Model Regulations: The Building Consensus Legal team is currently addressing the model regulations. Throughout the summer, the National Sea Grant Law Center held regional phone

sessions to characterize the regulation needs. In September 2015, a work session was held to further explore regulations. Additional work sessions are being planned.

Watercraft inspection and decontamination: WRP provides a forum through Building Consensus for communication regarding watercraft inspection and decontamination station operations by a variety of jurisdictions to prevent and contain zebra and quagga mussels, and other ANS, throughout the Western USA.

Watercraft inspection and decontamination training standards: A subcommittee of Building Consensus developed improved regional training standards and documents for inspectors and decontaminators. The committee also adopted Colorado's trainer's program and developed a standard trainer's course for those teaching inspectors and decontaminators. Lastly, the group is currently working to update the Uniform Minimum Standards and Protocols (PSMFC, 2012) and continue to update a new website for participants.

Workshop: Organization of a workshop in February 2016 to address action items from the Phoenix 2012 and Denver 2013/2014 Building Consensus workshops.

Recommendations

- a. ***Funding:*** Provide increased financial support to the panel(s) and identify methods for panels to raise additional funds to support annual meetings, coordination and panel activities.
- b. ***Funding:*** Continue to provide funding to support highest priority implementation components of QZAP.
- c. ***Marine AIS Biofouling Management Plan:*** Provide funding to support the writing of a Regional Biofouling Management Plan, an action item resulting from the Western Regional Panel's Tunicate Workshop (held August 2014).
- d. ***Next steps for the Federal Lands Committee:*** Explore options of joint rule-making for federal land management agencies that do not have clear authority (as noted by *Federal Policy Options: Addressing the movement of aquatic invasive species onto and off of federal lands and waters*, Appendix II, pages 22-29.)
- e. ***ANSTF Boat Industry Committee:*** Create an ANSTF committee specific to the Boat Industry.
- f. ***Symposium and workshop on management and research of marine invasions in the Arctic:*** Support the development of a timely symposium and encourage ANSTF members to actively support and provide resources toward this symposium. The proposed symposium and workshop would bring together scientists and managers in an international forum to discuss current understanding of marine bioinvasions in arctic waters and to identify research priorities and management policies needed to protect Arctic ecosystems.