

## MRBP Recommendations for ANS Task Force

April 1, 2016

1. The MRBP requests the ANS Task Force lead efforts to coordinate, with the Regional Panels, an international workshop on CRISPR gene-drive technology in 2016 or early 2017.

### Context:

Clustered regularly-interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) Cas-9 gene-drive technology is a powerful, emerging technology with incredible potential to affect ANS management. This method of altering genes is relatively inexpensive and easy to accomplish, highlighting the need to establish ethical standards nationally and internationally to minimize the likelihood of accidentally altering genes in non-target populations. Although there are many beneficial uses for such a technology, there are also many dangers to consider. Hosting an international workshop on CRISPR would facilitate discussions on the pros and cons of this technology as well as the types of standards that may be necessary when considering its use.

2. The MRBP recommends that the ANS Task Force invite the American Waterways Operators (AWO) to attend the next ANS Task Force meeting (Fall 2016) and engage in discussions about ANS prevention and control with ANS Task Force members at the National and regional levels.

### Context:

The American Waterways Operators (AWO) is the national organization for the tow and barge industry, with hundreds of member companies represented. Not only do their vessels represent potential pathways for ANS introductions and spread, but they also are affected by various control technologies, management efforts, and regulatory decisions made by state and federal entities. Representation from this group would further cooperation, and include this stakeholder group in discussions on potential pathways of spread, best management practices, and potential regulation options for minimizing the introduction and spread of ANS nationally.

3. See accompanying letter requesting ANS Task Force member assistance with filling vacant and inactive MRBP membership positions.