

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting  
May 2016**

**Regional Panel Name:** Western Regional Panel on ANS  
**Submitted by:** Elizabeth Brown, Chair  
**Key ANS Activities from October 2015 through May 2016**

***Ongoing Work:***

**Annual Meeting:** The 2016 Annual Meeting is planned for Jackson Hole, WY for October 19-21 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 compiled regulations and rules on authorities to manage marine invasive biofouling from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii. An in-person work session in December 2015 determined that the committee would create a white paper to help guide the development of a plan. On March 31, 2016 the committee gathered to determine next steps.

**Inland**

***Building Consensus in the West:***

***Model Regulations:*** The Building Consensus Legal team is currently addressing the model regulations. Over 2016 winter, a task team comprised of AGs, AIS coordinators and LEs have worked in coordination with Sea Grant Law Center to develop model regulations.

***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 has released the updated 2016 training documents to be freely utilized by managing entities across the US. The committee also assisted in the completion of revising the *Uniform Minimum Standards and Protocols* (PSMFC, 2016). The committee continues to update westernais.org for interested parties.

***Workshop:*** A workshop in April 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. **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.).
- d. **Increase communication and cooperation:** The recent USCG final rule altering ballast water management reporting requirements resulted in significant challenges to the states to perform their ballast water management activities. USCG, EPA, and NBIC should increase communication and cooperation with west coast states on ballast water management reporting.
- e. **Biofouling Legal Framework Support:** The model legislative provision for watercraft inspection and decontamination programs for dreissenid management has been effective. The WRP Coastal Committee requests financial support to develop a similar model regional legal framework for reducing introductions/transport of marine biofouling organisms on West Coast. This process will draw on expertise from National Sea Grant, including the National Sea Grant Law Center.
- f. **Biofouling BMP Development Support:** Using ANSTF voluntary recreational guidelines as template, WRP Coastal Committee requests financial/staff support to develop BMPs for biofouling vector management.
- g. **Arctic Update:** The Coastal Committee remains concerned about commercial activity in the Arctic and the risk of invasive species spread. The WRP requests an update from NOAA at the fall 2016 ANSTF meeting regarding activities to limit introductions to the Arctic (Arctic Council).