

Aquatic Nuisance Species and the ANS Task Force



Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)

- Plants and animals introduced accidentally or intentionally into new aquatic areas that cause harm to the commercial, recreational or agricultural uses or the ecological integrity of native aquatic resources.
- Once introduced, these organisms are often freed from natural predators, diseases and competitors. Without natural limiting factors, introduced species can create significant negative impacts.



Purple Loosestrife
A perennial wetland plant that is native to Europe and Asia, purple loosestrife has devastated many of the wetlands in the Upper Midwest. This plant is very aggressive and out-competes native vegetation, thereby impacting the wildlife that are dependent on these resources.



Round Goby
As another Great Lakes invader from the Eurasian region, the Goby has had a considerable impact on recreational fishing. This bottom-dwelling fish out-competes traditional forage fish and has disrupted the food cycle that sustains economically valuable game fish populations.

ANS Impacts

If these introduced species survive, they can impact:

- natural resources
- the economy
- human health



Spotted Jellyfish
A new invader to the Gulf of Mexico, this jellyfish is originally found in Australian coastal waters. While it has been migrating to the Caribbean for the past two decades, it is believed that an adverse weather system facilitated the jelly's movement into the Gulf. While initial studies are still taking place, there is much concern that the Spotted Jelly could adversely affect the ecology of the Gulf and the coastal fishing economies that are so dependent on this fragile system.



Rusty Crayfish
A native to the Ohio River Valley, this crayfish is used by anglers as bait. However, this species has inadvertently spread to waters of the Upper Midwest, where it negatively impacts native plants.



Chinese Mitten Crab
This invader hails from the far East and has impacted power plants, water control structures and the native ecology of the Pacific Northwest.

ANS Task Force

- The Task Force is comprised of 7 federal agency and 11 ex officio members.
- Coordinates ANS prevention and control efforts among federal agencies and affected industries, states and other interest groups.
- Implements legal mandates of the 1990 Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act and the 1996 National Invasive Species Act related to ANS.
- Participates in international ANS efforts.



Zebra Mussel
In the mid '80s, this non-native mussel was from the Black Sea region was introduced into the Great Lakes via the ballast water of transoceanic cargo ships. Since their introduction, the zebra mussel has become the poster child of the national ANS problem. It has expanded its range considerably and has impacted industrial water users in 35 states to where they have collectively spent approximately \$69 million from 1989-95.

ANS Task Force Activities

- Regional Panels
- State Management Plans
- Ballast Water Management
- 100th Meridian Initiative
- Intentional Introductions Policy Review
- Recreational Guidelines
- Focused Research
- Cooperative Control Programs

www.anstaskforce.gov

ANS Task Force Members

Federal Agencies



Ex Officio Members

