

Federal Lands Committee: Options for Next Steps (for ANSTF consideration) April 15, 2016

At the November 2015 meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), the ANSTF requested that the Federal Lands Committee develop a proposed plan to implement the “Federal Policy Options: Addressing the Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species Onto and Off of Federal Lands and Waters” (Report). In response, the attached table “Options for Next Steps” was developed to serve as a Framework of activities to support implementation of the recommended Federal agency actions outlined in the Report.

The Framework focuses on movement of aquatic invasive species onto and off federal lands by recreational watercraft in order to concentrate efforts on this priority pathway; future work of the committee will consider other potential pathways. The table columns that make up the Framework include the following information:

- **Policy Option:** Lists the eight policy options included in the Report.-
- **Activity:** Breaks down each policy option into more detailed implementation steps.
- **Actor:** Designates the specific actors responsible for implementing the aforementioned activities. Potential actors include the ANSTF Executive Secretary (ANSTF ES), the NISC Secretariat (NISC Sec) and Federal ANSTF member agencies (Agencies [TBD]).
- **Implementation Commitment(s) by Actor:** Will include information on the specific steps that each of the responsible actors will undertake for that activity. Federal ANSTF member agencies are expected to self-identify which activities they will undertake.
- **Notes:** Includes additional information relevant to the activity and its implementation (e.g., additional sources of input, linkages to other ANSTF activities).

As a next step to completing the Framework, Federal ANSTF member agencies, the ANSTF Executive Secretary and the NISC Secretariat are requested to identify:

- The Activities that they will undertake based on those listed in the Activities column;
- For each identified Activity, complete the “Implementation Commitment(s) by Actor” with:
 - Specific steps (implementation commitments) they will take to implement.
 - The status of that effort (i.e., in progress, for integration into existing plans, requiring additional planning); and
- Projected timeline (start and end date) for completion, if appropriate.

The Framework, associated activities, and next steps will be discussed by the ANSTF at its next meeting (May 4-6, 2016; Traverse, City, Michigan).

Federal Policy Options: Addressing the Movement of Aquatic Invasive Species Onto and Off of Federal Lands and Waters Options for Next Steps

FOCUS: Movement of AIS on recreational watercraft onto and off of federally-managed lands and waterbodies

Terms:

Agencies: ANSTF member federal agencies

NISC Sec: NISC Secretariat

AIS: aquatic invasive species

SAH: Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

ANSTF ES: ANSTF Executive Secretary

	Policy Option		Activity	Actor	Implementation Commitment(s) by Actor	Notes
1	Clarify existing authorities for management and law enforcement activities and clearly communicate guidance from headquarters to local federal land management facilities.	1.1	Clarify existing agency authorities and policies regarding the movement of AIS on recreational watercraft	Agencies (TBD)		Focus on areas of uncertainty identified in Annex II of the policy options paper; where appropriate identify differences at the agency vs. land management unit (e.g., specific species of concern)
		1.2	Assess and report on status of implementation to ANSTF	Agencies (TBD)		Incorporate results in ANSTF tracking system as appropriate
		1.3	Identify and address issues/sites where implementation insufficient	Agencies (TBD)		
		1.4	Make information on policies and requirements publically available on agency website	Agencies (TBD)		Where appropriate identify differences at the agency vs. land management unit (e.g., specific species of concern)
		1.5	Collate information/links in a web-based portal	ANSTF ES		
2	Support the ANSTF Regional Panels' and states' efforts to create and enact corresponding state-based, but regionally coordinated, regulations, and laws.	2.1	Provide support (institutional, financial, technical) for state and regional efforts	ANSTF ES, Agencies (TBD)		e.g., WID training, tools and facilities; Building Consensus in the West; 100th Meridian Initiative; boat construction and design
		2.2	Coordinate with other relevant regional panel efforts	ANSTF ES		e.g., WRP has been actively focusing on State-based laws and regulations; the Great Lakes and NEANS regional panels are discussing the topic

3	Ensure that senior agency leaders are aware of land-management responsibilities and provide support, where appropriate, for regional efforts addressing AIS introduction and spread.	3.1	Distribute policy options to agency leadership	Agencies (TBD)		
		3.2	Integrate issues regarding the movement of AIS on recreational watercraft into relevant thematic and landscape priorities	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec, Agencies (TBD)		
		3.3	Identify potential sources of internal political and financial support	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec, Agencies		
4	Inform visitors to federal lands of the pertinent state AIS laws and regulations and cooperate closely with state law enforcement personnel to ensure compliance.	4.1	Brief site staff and provide with relevant material for outreach	Agencies (TBD)		States will need to provide clear info on requirements; may need to develop guidance for how units should do this
		4.2	Convene HQ, site managers and enforcement personnel to discuss issue and extent of remit for cooperation	Agencies (TBD)		
		4.3	Liaise (local site managers and law enforcement) with state counterparts	Agencies (TBD)		
5	Increase coordination between state and federal AIS and communication experts to ensure that the public receives a consistent message about what can be done to prevent the spread of AIS from federal lands and waters and across the nation.	5.1	Address communications coordination through ANSTF's Recreational Guidelines and SAH! campaign efforts	ANSTF ES, Agencies (TBD)		The ANSTF CEO committee could consider this issue
6	Explore the issuance of joint rulemaking by federal agencies to allow managers of federal lands, waters, and facilities to address the movement of invasive species both onto and off of federal lands and waters.	6.1	Assess feasibility and content of a joint rule on federal facilities and the movement of AIS on recreational watercraft	Agencies (TBD)		Consider based on outputs from Recommendation 1; emphasis on filling gaps in agencies that currently lack necessary authorities
		6.2	Assess feasibility and content of BMPs or other guidance on federal facilities and the movement of AIS on recreational watercraft	ANSTF ES, Agencies (TBD)		For 6.1 & 6.2, consider costs/benefits of policy harmonization across agencies; areas could include HACCP, Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards (Dreissenids), information sharing

		6.3	Include annex to NEPA guidance on invasive species on the movement of AIS on recreational watercraft for (1) boaters, and (2) federally managed lands/waters	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec		
7	Develop funding mechanisms to include new alternatives and expansion of existing financial tools.	7.1	Identify and leverage funding opportunities	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec, Agencies (TBD)		
8	Continue to work with Congress to strengthen federal and state efforts to stop the spread of invasive species.	8.1	Educate and inform Congress as appropriate on relevant federal, regional and state activities through ANSTF and other agency reporting mechanisms	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec, Agencies		Use ANSTF tracking systems and reports to Congress
		8.2	Respond to requests from Congress as appropriate	ANSTF ES, NISC Sec, Agencies (TBD)		