

**Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species  
FY 2000 Work Plan  
October 2000-October 2001**

Activities outlined in the third Western Regional Panel (WRP) Work Plan were identified at the annual meeting of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species held in Oakland, California, October 1999 and subsequent Coastal and Inland Committee Meetings. The overriding goal is to refine development and implementation of a coordinated comprehensive approach to prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species and brown tree snake among state, provincial, tribal, federal, industrial, conservation and research entities in the western region. This goal will be met by finalizing the rapid response protocol, creating outreach products unique to the WRP and western region, building a Lewis and Clark Commemoration Component in the 100th Meridian Initiative and continuing the communication network.. The work plan is currently being supported by in-kind contributions of Panel Members. \*Additional funding or in-kind contributions are necessary to conduct specific projects which cannot be conducted by Panel members individually.

**Overall Panel Objectives**

All committees identified several priorities for the development of a coordinated comprehensive approach to prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species in the western region;

1. Finalization and Distribution of a Rapid Response Protocol 2. Development and implementation of an effective communication network for the western region regarding ANS issues and concerns. 3. Building a Lewis and Clark Commemoration Component into the 100th Meridian Initiative. These needs will be met by addressing the following objectives:

**Objective 1                      Development of a Rapid Response Protocol**

New exotic invasions into the western region, such as Giant Salvinia in the Colorado River and zebra mussels in the Missouri River have highlighted the need to develop an emergency response protocol for state, federal, tribal and private sector entities. The protocol would provide guidance on how to rapidly respond to these invasions. Early detection and rapid response provide an opportunity to eradicate species before economic and ecological impacts occur. However, several barriers have been identified to instituting a rapid response such as Endangered Species Act and NEPA coordination and compliance. In 1999 the WRP developed an outline and source materials for the Protocol which was reviewed by the WRP and ANSTF. In 2000-2001, the WRP will use the outline source materials and review comments to finalize the protocol.

**I.            The WRP will  
provide final review  
of protocol outline.  
October 2000**

**II.        The WRP will work with CA Department of Agriculture  
and CALFED to develop the final protocol document**

including case histories.

October 2001

**3. The Rapid Response Protocol will be presented to**

membership and ANSTF for use.

October 2001

**4.**

**Objective 2 Development and implementation of an effective communication network for the western region regarding ANS issues and concerns.**

**5. In order to effectively communicate WRP ANS issues and concerns, a WRP pamphlet/tabletop display tailored to specific administrative audiences will be developed.**

Lead: Regional Water Quality Board (Marsha Brockbank)

October 2001

**6. Refinement and operation of an E-mail reflector for WRP members. The E-mail reflector is used to communicate rapidly and efficiently topics such as; new ANS legislation, research on ANS species. The reflectors has been developed and is maintained by California Department of Water Resources.**

Lead CA EXCOM

Ongoing

**7. Development and implementation of a Coastal Committee Listserv for committee members to share information on; 1) proposed importation or movements on ANS, 2)State ANS Management Plans and plans in development, 3) coordinating comments on proposed legislation and draft regulations, 4) emergency response plans, 5) coordinating educational approaches and outreach products, and 6) facilitating and improving coordination of ANS monitoring efforts coast wide.**

Lead Coastal Chair and Vice Chair

Ongoing

Refinement and operation of a Western Regional Panel ANS web page. This page highlights WRP activities, western region species of concern, monitoring, control and prevention programs, and provides links to other valuable ANS resources.

Lead Federal Chair

Ongoing

8. **The Internet Western Region ANS Resource-Species Matrix developed in 1999 will be refined and distributed in 2001. The importance of identifying specific state/federal/provincial contacts was identified. Contacts are to be identified from those agencies working on specific aquatic nuisance species (plants, fish, invertebrates, etc.), whether or not western states/provinces have an aquatic nuisance species coordinator. Aquatic nuisance species are to be identified in the matrix to fill the information gap of what species are present, and what agency/person is coordinating control/monitoring efforts. The matrix identifies state, federal, provincial, tribal, and non-governmental representatives to aid in the coordination of invasive species activities. The matrix will identify whether or not a species is present, and if it is managed on any state or other level.**

Lead Alternate California  
Chair, Nate Dechoretz

September  
1999

At Large Chair Mark Sytsma

9. **Establishment and maintenance of a WRP liaison within the Western Governors Association (WGA) to facilitate meeting mutually identified ANS prevention and control goals and objectives in partnership with the State executive branch in the western region.**

Lead: WRP -WGA liaison

Ongoing

**Objective 3 Panel Support for Design and Implementation of a Lewis and Clark Commemoration Component to the 100th Meridian Initiative to prevent or slow the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance west of the 100th Meridian.**

At the introductory forum of the WRP, a number of pathways and vectors for introduction of aquatic exotics into the west were identified including ballast water, commercial and public sector

movement of animals and plants, and recreational and commercial boat traffic. One of the roles of the Panel identified in Sec. 1203 of the National Invasive Species Act is to make recommendations to the Task Force regarding an education, monitoring (including inspection), prevention, and control program to prevent the spread of the zebra mussel west of the 100th Meridian pursuant to section 1202(I) of the Act. The 100th Meridian Initiative meets a significant objective of this section by addressing the vector of commercial and recreational boats carrying ANS through the west via overland routes. In 2003, millions of boaters are anticipated to visit the west to revisit the Lewis and Clark Trail during the commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. This boating and touring event creates a expanded pathway of boaters not anticipated in the 100th Meridian Initiative. Therefore, the WRP will recommend the modification of the Initiative to address this new invasion source. The WRP will be actively supporting the 100th Meridian Initiative and a Lewis and Clark Component through the following activities.

**10. Implementation of selected strategies; including operation of boat education stations in 100 the Meridian States by State Members**

Lead USFWS (Bob Pitman), State Members

October 2001

**11. Recommendations on Lewis and Clark pathway**

provided to USFWS to include in Initiative

October 2000  
Lead USFWS(Bob Pitman)

**12. Contact Coast Guard Auxiliary to recommend inclusion**

100th Meridian Boat Survey/Inspection Work in annual work plans

Lead USCG(John Koster)

January 2001

**13. Conduct Colorado River 100th Meridian Initiative Workshop**

to expand boat survey/activities into

CO River

Lead USFWS(Bob Pitman)

October 2000

**Objective 5 Preparation of annual report on WRP activities for submission to ANS Task Force.**

Lead WRP Coordinator

Due Date April  
2001

### **Coastal Committee**

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**GOAL STATEMENT:** Stop or reduce the spread of ANS in the Coastal Zone. For the purposes of this committee the Coastal Zone is defined as marine and tidally influenced estuarine areas on the West Coast.

A major function of the Western Regional Panel Coastal Committee is to serve as a resource for networking/linking groups and individuals involved in coastal research, education, and management of ANS in the Western States. The committee will provide a forum for groups to share the status of ongoing ANS management activities, to secure input on activities and work products, and to plan and implement joint projects. To achieve these coordination goals, the committee will meet at least twice per year, with additional meetings and conference calls as needed. A listserv has also been generated for committee members to share information.

The committee will perform a number of specific coordination functions including: 1) sharing information on proposed importation or movements on ANS, 2) sharing state ANS Management Plans and plans in development, 3) coordinating comments on proposed legislation and draft regulations, 4) sharing emergency response plans, 5) coordinating and sharing educational approaches and outreach products, and 6) facilitating and improving coordination of ANS monitoring efforts coast wide.

**Objective I General Coordination** A major function of the Western Regional Panel Coastal Committee is to serve as a resource for networking/linking groups and individuals involved in coastal research, education, and management of ANS in the Western States. Coordination will be achieved via biannual meetings, conference calls, and email communication. We will also research and provide guidance on management approaches, and provide this information to the WRP. Specific workplan items are detailed below.

**14. Meet biannually and hold conference calls every other month to share information and resources.**

**15. Maintain coastal listserv**

Lead Chair and Vice Chair

Through 2001

**16. Listing of priority west coast and estuaries for rapid surveys.**

Lead Andy Cohen and Ted Grosholz

September  
2001

**17. Development of coastal research/management priority list in conjunction with Coastal Society Meeting.**

Lead Coastal Co-

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### **Inland Committee**

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**The Commonality of this Committee:** To prevent or slow the inland spread of nuisance aquatic species in western North America.

There are a number of unique factors that separates the Inland Committee from the Coastal Committee other than mere geography. The variety of species of concern to inland western states and provinces considered to be exotic and invasive separates the two committees, as does the potential pathways of introduction, and public education strategies. While we recognize that there are certain commonalities between the two committees none were summarized for this discussion. This committee placed a high importance on communication and co-ordination between state and federal representatives of various agencies.

**Objective 1** Development of Management/Research Priorities for Inland ANS.

- 18. Development of a management/research priority list will be developed to provide a As resources for management and research on ANS become available within non-governmental organizations, state, provincial, and federal agencies and tribal governments. The draft listing will be provided to WRP members for analysis, amendment and final adoption at annual Panel meeting in September 2000.**

Lead Mark Sytsma

Due Date Sept.  
2001