DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meetings

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the winter meeting, field trip, and awards presentation of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and meetings of its Ballast Water Program Effectiveness and Adequacy Criteria Committee, Western Regional Panel, Recreational Activities Committee, and Great Lakes Panel to be held in conjunction with the Ninth International Zebra Mussel and Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701-4741). The activities or topics for each event are summarized below.

ANS Task Force Awards Presentation

The First Annual ANS Task Awards for an individual and an organization recognizing significant long-term contributions to identifying and responding to ANS issues and problems will be presented during the Conference luncheon.

Ballast Water Program Effectiveness and Adequacy Criteria Committee

This brief inaugural meeting of the Criteria Committee will identify the requirements to be addressed and begin exploring how to address them.

Western Regional Panel

During this Breakfast Roundtable, the Panel will receive updates from its members, discuss the status of its annual report, work plan, and October 1999 meeting agenda, discuss the Western Informational Strategy, and honor the Panel Chair upon his retirement.

Recreational Activities Committee

The Committee will discuss ideas for a plan to disseminate the recommended national voluntary recreational activities guidelines recently submitted to the ANS Task Force. This will involve the implementation of Task B of the Committee’s February 1998 draft Action Plan, i.e., develop an education/outreach strategy.

Duluth/Superior Harbor Tour

Weather permitting, a brief boat tour of this major international port in the middle of North America will explore introduced fish ecology, monitoring and impacts, highlight industry generated voluntary Great Lakes ballast water management guidelines, and visit the Great Lakes Ballast Demonstration Project facility.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting, field trip, and awards presentation of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and meetings of its Ballast Water Program Effectiveness and Adequacy Criteria Committee, Western Regional Panel, Recreational Activities Committee, and Great Lakes Panel to be held in conjunction with the Ninth International Zebra Mussel and Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701-4741). The activities or topics for each event are summarized below.

ANS Task Force Awards Presentation

The First Annual ANS Task Awards for an individual and an organization recognizing significant long-term contributions to identifying and responding to ANS issues and problems will be presented during the Conference luncheon.

Ballast Water Program Effectiveness and Adequacy Criteria Committee

This brief inaugural meeting of the Criteria Committee will identify the requirements to be addressed and begin exploring how to address them.

Western Regional Panel

During this Breakfast Roundtable, the Panel will receive updates from its members, discuss the status of its annual report, work plan, and October 1999 meeting agenda, discuss the Western Informational Strategy, and honor the Panel Chair upon his retirement.

Recreational Activities Committee

The Committee will discuss ideas for a plan to disseminate the recommended national voluntary recreational activities guidelines recently submitted to the ANS Task Force. This will involve the implementation of Task B of the Committee’s February 1998 draft Action Plan, i.e., develop an education/outreach strategy.

Duluth/Superior Harbor Tour

Weather permitting, a brief boat tour of this major international port in the middle of North America will explore introduced fish ecology, monitoring and impacts, highlight industry generated voluntary Great Lakes ballast water management guidelines, and visit the Great Lakes Ballast Demonstration Project facility.

Great Lakes Panel Ballast Water Research Agenda Symposium

This Symposium will identify current initiatives in ballast water research, allow the research community and users to provide their perspectives on gaps and unmet needs in ballast water research, and begin identifying points of consensus on priorities for additional research and next steps.

ANS Task Force Meeting

Topics to be covered Thursday afternoon will include briefings about the Chicago Waterways Nonindigenous Species Dispersal Barrier, the voluntary national ballast water management guidelines and regulatory changes, and the U.S. position on the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee’s proposal for a new international instrument requiring ballast water management such as a new annex to MARPOL. In addition, updates on mitten crab and Caulerpa taxifolia efforts, an overview of Executive Order 13112 and its implementation (including agency efforts), a legislative update, regional panel updates, and the report of the National Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Survey Program Work Group will be presented. Topics to be covered on Friday include the Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel, recommended voluntary national recreational activity guidelines, the 100th Meridian Initiative to Prevent Westward Spread of Zebra Mussels, adoption of the Ballast Exchange Study, ballast water management initiatives under the Clean Water Act, establishment of a Legislative Committee, and the Executive Secretary’s report.

Minutes of all meetings will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 840, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622. Minutes of the committee and panel meetings will also be maintained by the committee chairs and panel administrators as follows:

Criteria Committee: Professor Jim Carlton, Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program, 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355-0990. 860-572-5359, Ext. 3, jcarlton@williams.edu

Western Regional Panel: Linda Drees, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 315 Houston Street, Suite E, Manhattan, KS 66502. 785-539-3474, Ext. 20, linda_drees@fws.gov

Recreational Activities Committee: Patricia Carter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Room 240, Atlanta, GA 30345. 404-679-7108, pat_carter@fws.gov

DATES: The ANS Task Force events will occur as follows:

ANS Task Force Awards Presentation, Monday, April 26, 1999, 12:25 to 12:45 p.m.

Criteria Committee Meeting, Monday, April 26, 1999, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Western Regional Panel Breakfast Roundtable, Tuesday, April 27, 1999, 7:15 to 8:30 a.m.

Recreational Activities Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

ANS Task Force Harbor Tour, Tuesday, April 27, 1999, 12:45 to 3:00 p.m.

Great Lakes Panel Ballast Water Research Agenda Symposium, Thursday, April 29, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ANS Task Force Meeting, Thursday, April 29, 1999, 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, April 30, 1999, 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: All events will occur at or depart from the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Peoples, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at 703-358-2025 or robert_peoples@fws.gov.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory Bird Hunting; Application for Approval of HEVI-METAL™ as a Nontoxic Shot Material for Waterfowl Hunting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of review.

SUMMARY: We have reviewed Standard Resources Corporation's (Standard) application for approval of HEVI-METAL™ shot as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the United States. We have found that the information provided in the application is inconclusive and we are requiring additional information from the manufacturer before further consideration is given.

ADDRESS: Standard's application may be reviewed in Room 634 at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We continue to provide opportunity for submission for approval of alternative types of shot for waterfowl hunting that, when spent, does not pose a significant toxic hazard to migratory birds and other wildlife when ingested. Currently, only bismuth-tin and steel shot are unconditionally approved by the Service for use in waterfowl hunting. Tungsten-iron (published October 7, 1998; 63 FR 54016), tungsten-polymer (published October 7, 1998; 63 FR 54022), and tungsten-matrix (published October 19, 1998; 63 FR 55840) shot types received temporary conditional approval for the 1998-99 waterfowl hunting season. We are currently reviewing applications for approval for shot types other than those previously referenced in this notice. We anticipate that approval of additional suitable candidate shot materials as nontoxic is feasible in the near future.

On April 9, 1999 (64 FR 17308), we announced our intention to review Standard's Tier 1 application for approval of HEVI-METAL™ under the revised test procedures for shot and shot coatings that we published in 50 CFR 20.134 (December 1, 1997; 62 FR 63608). A toxicologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, assisted in review of the application. Part A of the application contained a statement of proposed use, a chemical and physical description of the shot material, information on expected variability of shot during production, an estimate of yearly production, and a 5-pound sample of the fabricated shot. Part B of the application contained a discussion of the acute toxicities of HEVI-METAL™ components to mammals and to birds, information on the fate of ingested shot on a small sample of captive-reared mallard ducks, and a summary of the known toxicities of HEVI-METAL™ components for vertebrates. Part C of the application considered the effects of firing on the shot, the half-life of components of breakdown products, the estimated environmental concentration in soil and water, and other environmental impacts of components of the shot.

We have determined that the Tier 1 information provided for HEVI-METAL™ does not provide sufficient information to allow us to conclude that it does not impose a significant danger to migratory birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Specific toxicological concerns have been provided to the applicant. In light of our concerns, the applicant is advised to proceed with the additional testing described for Tier 2 before further consideration is given to the candidate shot. Tier 2 test requirements are outlined in 50 CFR 20.134.

Authorship: The primary author of this document is James R. Kelley, Jr., Wildlife Biologist, Office of Migratory Bird Management.


Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.