



# Fish and Aquatic Conservation



**SFBPC BRIEFING  
JUNE 25, 2019**

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

# FAC Program at a Glance



- Over 1200 employees nationwide
- Core Programs:
  - National Fish Hatchery System
  - Habitat Conservation
  - Aquatic Invasive Species

# Stations



- 70 National Fish Hatcheries
- 8 Fish Health Centers
- 7 Fish Technology Centers
- Total of \$2.8 billion real property assets in the NFHS with \$195 million in deferred maintenance needs
- 51 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices

# FAC Strategic Plan: FY 2016 - 2020



- **7 Goals:**
  - **Conserve Aquatic Species**
  - **Conserve, Restore and Enhance Aquatic Habitats**
  - **Manage Aquatic Invasive Species**
  - **Fulfill Tribal Trust and Subsistence Responsibilities**
  - **Enhance Recreational Fishing and Other Public Uses of Aquatic Resources**
  - **Increase Staffing Levels, Technical Capabilities, and Natural and Physical Assets to Fully Meet our Mission**
  - **Educate and Engage the Public and our Partners to Advance our Conservation Mission**

# Annual Work Plans



- Established new process in FY 16 for the development of annual work plans nationwide tied to implementation of Strategic Plan
- Uniform template for work plans includes major activities, outputs and resource management outcomes
- Project categories consistent across 4 major types of regional facilities, 8 regional offices, and HQ
- Improved work planning by incorporating it into Fisheries Information System (FIS) database in FY 19

# Fish and Aquatic Conservation Budget



Program	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Enacted	2019 Enacted
National Fish Hatchery Operations <b>(\$000)</b>	\$53,418	\$55,418	\$55,822	\$59,822
Maintenance and Equipment <b>(\$000)</b>	\$19,920	\$22,920	\$22,920	\$22,920
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation				
Habitat Assessment and Restoration	\$28,641	\$29,391	\$33,987	\$31,987
<u>Population Assessment and Cooperative</u>	<u>\$30,821</u>	<u>\$30,821</u>	<u>\$30,150</u>	<u>\$30,150</u>
<u>Management</u>	<u>\$59,462</u>	<u>\$60,212</u>	<u>\$64,137</u>	<u>\$62,137</u>
<b>(\$000)</b>				
Aquatic Invasive Species <b>(\$000)</b>	\$15,456	\$16,660	\$21,748	\$22,348
<b>Total, Fish and Aquatic Conservation (\$000)</b>	<b>\$148,256</b>	<b>\$155,210</b>	<b>\$164,627</b>	<b>\$167,227</b>

# National Fish Hatchery System Overview



- 70 National Fish Hatcheries: propagation and rearing facilities owned and operated by the FWS to help recover T/E species, restore imperiled species, support tribes, and enhance recreation
- 8 Fish Health Centers: health certification, inspections, wild fish health surveys, and emerging diseases/pathogens and diagnostics
- 7 Fish Technology Centers: physiology and nutrition, genetics, reproduction biology, population dynamics and modeling, engineering and technology
- AADAP: conducts research to obtain FDA approval of new drugs for aquaculture and fisheries management and through INAD program makes these drugs available to federal, state, tribal, and private aquaculture facilities nationwide

# Maintenance and Equipment



- **FY 17 included \$3,000,000 increase for deferred maintenance to repair mission-critical infrastructure and water delivery systems**
- **Increased funds will help address \$195,000,000 DM backlog and human health and safety concerns.**

# New DM and AM Allocation Methodologies



- Beginning in FY 19, implementing new allocation methodologies for DM and AM funding to ensure limited funding is directed at highest priority needs nationwide:
  - **DM Allocations based on asset priority (API) and facility condition (FCI)**
  - **AM Allocations based on .5 FTE per station and Current Replacement Value (CRV)**

# Habitat Assessment and Restoration



- **National Fish Passage Program: \$14 M**
- **National Fish Habitat Action Plan: \$6.66 M**
- **Delaware River Basin Conservation Act: \$6.0 M**
- **Chehalis Fisheries Restoration: \$268,000**
- **GPA: \$5.1 M**



# Population Assessment and Cooperative Management



- Alaska Fisheries Subsistence/Yukon River Salmon Treaty: \$12.2 M
- Atlantic Salmon/Penobscot River Restoration: \$ 991,000
- Great Lakes Restoration/Consent Decree: \$ 1.0 M
- Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control \$500,000
- GPA: \$ 15.1 M

# Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices



- Network of 51 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices
- Strategically located across Nation and play an essential role in implementing the Service's aquatic species propagation and habitat programs
- Assess status of wild populations, monitor survival of stocked species, assist Tribes with cooperative management, and work with broad range of partners to restore fish habitat and control aquatic invasive species

# National Fish Passage Program



- Over 6 Million barriers in U.S.
- 2,933 barriers removed or bypassed, reconnected 52,592 river/stream miles and 192,361 wetland acres
- Partnership funding at 3:1 Ratio



# National Fish Passage Program



- NFPP increasingly recognized by FEMA and other Recovery Agencies
- Fish Passage engineers assisting DOT in rebuilding road crossings in Puerto Rico to fish friendly and flood resistant standards
- Working with water users and partners in Upper Clark Fork River in Montana to install efficient fish friendly water diversion infrastructure



# Benefits



- **Reduced Habitat Fragmentation:**
  - **Increases available habitat for spawning, rearing, and foraging for fisheries**
  - **Benefits numerous other aquatic species**
  - **Increases flood resiliency for communities by reconnecting floodplains and allowing a riverine system to function properly**
  - **Increases recreational opportunities such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and wildlife viewing**

# Aquatic Invasive Species



- Asian Carp: \$11.0 M
- Quagga-Zebra Mussel Control/Prevention: \$1.0 M
- Sea Lamprey: \$711,000
- Lake Tahoe: \$3.1 M
  
- NISA Implementation/ANSTF: \$1.57 M
- AIS State and Interstate Plans: \$2.0 M
  
- Prevention, Control and Management: \$2.8 M



# Aquatic Invasive Species - Overview



- Invasive species (e.g. Asian carp, sea lamprey, zebra and quagga mussels) affect health of native species and cause tens of billions of dollars in economic and ecological impacts each year
- Once established, invasive species are often impossible to eradicate; prevention, early detection and eradication are the most cost-effective strategies
- FAC administers Title 18 of Lacey Act and co-chairs Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)
- Grants for 44 State/Interstate ANS Management Plans and to control spread of Q-Z Mussels in west

# PREVENTION AND EDRR

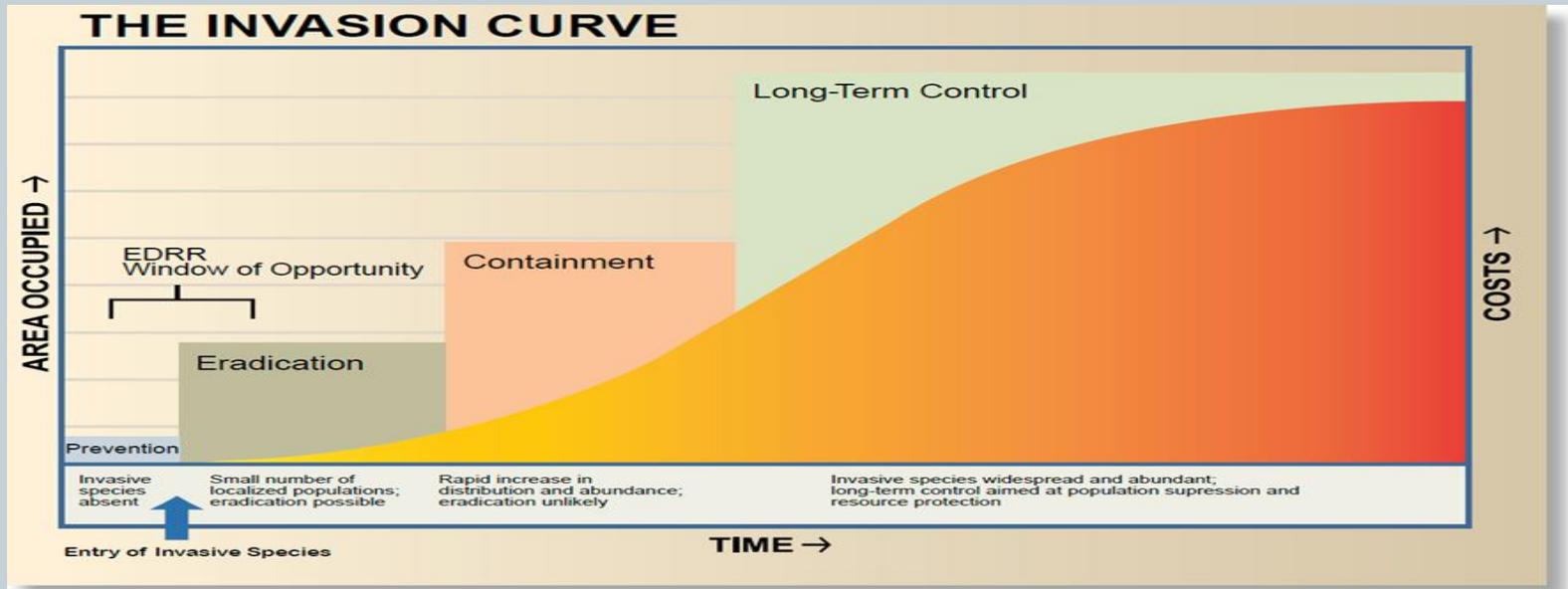


**Objective 1: Prevent introduction of invasive species into the U.S.**

**Objective 2: Implement a national early detection and rapid response framework**

**Objective 3: Prevent the spread of invasive species already in the U.S.**

**Objective 4: Manage AIS populations through population suppression**



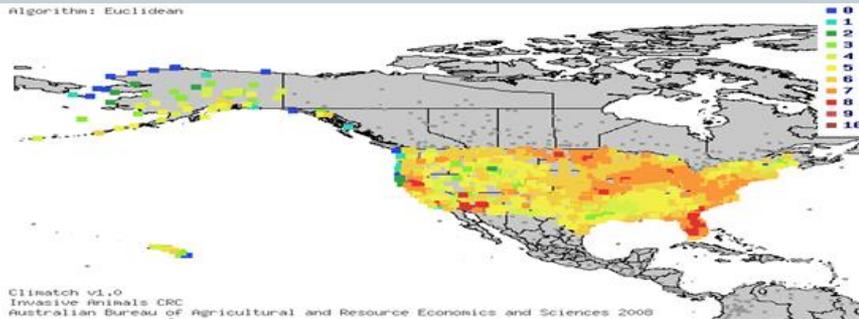
# PREVENTION AND EDRR



## Objective 1: Prevent introduction of potentially invasive species into the U.S.

- Conduct risk assessments
- Utilize regulatory and voluntary mechanisms
- Manage key pathways to reduce risk of introduction

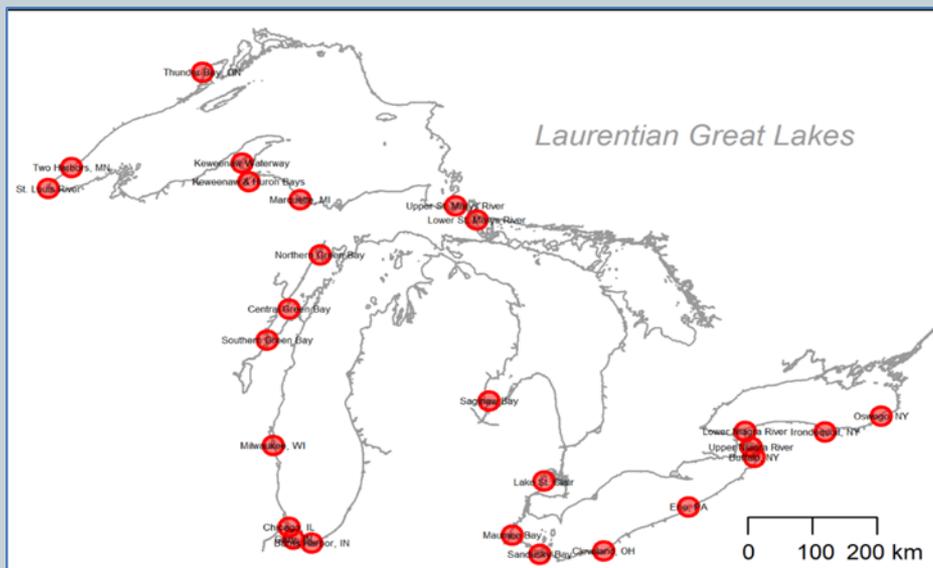
Stone moroko



# PREVENTION AND EDRR

## Objective 2: Implement a national early detection and rapid response framework

- Comprehensive aquatic invasive species early detection program
- Nationally coordinated rapid response program





# PREVENTION AND EDRR

## Objective 3: Prevent the spread of invasive species already in the United States

- Prioritize species
- Reduce the risk of spread
- Educate the public how they can take action



### Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters

Submitted to the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force  
Final February 2010

by the  
Western Regional Panel  
on Aquatic Nuisance Species

The Western Regional Panel  
Aquatic Nuisance Species



Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)



Quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*)



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

# Communications and Partnerships



- FAC supports work of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- RBFF Goal: 60 Million Anglers in 60 Months; 5-year grant renewed 2018 for approximately \$12 M per year
- Working with FWS Native American Liaison to implement Service Tribal Policy and FAC Strategic Plan
- Partnering with local Friends Groups to engage public in FAC recreation and conservation education mission at our hatcheries

# Public Access and Engagement



- **Visitation** – National fish hatcheries are visited by over one million people at 70 locations each year offering opportunities to learn about hatchery operations and participate in outdoor activities. Fishing events held nationwide.
- **Junior Angler Program** – 29 Hatcheries offer the Junior Angler Program. Youth are provided an opportunity to learn about fishing and receive a badge for completing a workbook at hatchery events.
- **First Catch Centers** – In collaboration with RBFF, launched pilot program to recruit new anglers on 2 refuges and 1 hatchery.
- **R3 Plans** - FWS regions and FAC headquarters developing R3 plans to further support states and partners in efforts to increase angling nationally.
- **Increased Access on FWS Lands** – On June 5, the DOI Secretary announced a proposed rule to increase public access for hunting and fishing on 74 Refuges and 15 Hatcheries, on a total of 1.4 million acres.



# Partner Outreach and Collaboration

- **60-in-60 MOU** – Enhance collaboration collaborate on efforts to increase angling. FAC leading a multi-agency outreach and education efforts.
- **Training** – RBFF and NCTC provide annual state and federal agency staff training in marketing and outreach strategies.
- **Social Media** - FAC launched a National Fishing and Boating Week webpage highlighting stories, blogs, and social media content on all digital platforms.
- **Online License Access** - FAC has incorporated a digital widget, developed by RBFF, that links directly to all 50 states boating and fishing license platforms.

# SFBPC Budget



<b>Funding</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Carry-Over	667,058	757,129	844,004
New Funding	400,000	400,000	400,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>1,067,058</b>	<b>1,157,129</b>	<b>1,244,004</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salary	172,411	186,921	119,810
Benefits	67,541	59,653	39,210
Travel	48,086	22,010	113,128
Rent	19,202	34,242	16,948
Printing	2,168	1,081	5,000
Contracts	469	831	59,910
Supplies	52	8,387	5,446
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>309,929</b>	<b>313,125</b>	<b>359,452</b>

# Questions

