

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE
CHARTER**

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (Task Force).
- 2. Authority.** The Task Force is established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 4721-28, as amended (Act), and regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Task Force shall develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information.
- 4. Description of Duties.** The Task Force provides advice on aquatic nuisance species infesting waters of the United States and other nations, as well as other duties as specified in the Act, including an annual report to Congress.
- 5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Task Force reports to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce through its co-chairs, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
- 6. Support.** The Service will provide administrative and logistical support for the Task Force.
- 7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Task Force's functions are estimated to be \$305,000 including all direct and indirect expenses and 2.0 Federal staff years support.
- 8. Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Executive Secretary of the Task Force and is a full-time Federal employee of the Service, appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Task Force and subcommittee meetings; prepare and approve all meeting agendas; attend all Task Force and subcommittee meetings; adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest; and chair Task Force meetings when directed to do so by the chairs of the Task Force.
- 9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Task Force will meet approximately 1-2 times annually, and at such times as designated by the Task Force co-chairs.
- 10. Duration.** Continuing.

11. Termination. The Task Force will be inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of the FACA. The Task Force will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. Membership and Designation. Membership of the Task Force shall consist of:

- (1) Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (co-chair)
- (2) Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (co-chair)
- (3) Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- (4) Commandant of the United States Coast Guard
- (5) Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- (6) Secretary of Agriculture

16 U.S.C. § 4721(b)(7) authorizes the co-chairs to invite the head of any other Federal agency they deem appropriate to be a member of the Task Force. The following Federal members joined the Task Force in this manner:

- (1) Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
- (2) Director, U.S. Geological Survey
- (3) Director, National Park Service
- (4) Administrator, U.S. Maritime Administration
- (5) Director, Bureau of Land Management
- (6) Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
- (7) Chief, U.S. Forest Service

16 U.S.C. § 4721(c) requires the co-chairs to invite representatives of the Great Lakes Commission, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Chesapeake Bay Program, San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program, and state agencies and other governmental entities to participate as ex officio members of the Task Force.

Non-Federal members of the Task Force and its subcommittee members serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal Task Force and subcommittee members engaged in Task Force or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.

- a. **Federal Employees.** Members who are appointed to the Task Force in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.

b. **Non-Federal Employees.** Non-Federal members of the Task Force and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal Task Force or subcommittee members will participate in any Task Force or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

14. Subcommittees. Subject to the Task Force co-chairs' approval, subcommittees may be formed to focus on specific disciplines or issues that warrant the attention of the Task Force. However, such subcommittee must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Task Force for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agencies. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. Recordkeeping. Records of the Task Force and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Task Force must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, or other approved agency records disposition schedules. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.


Secretary of the Interior

March 24, 2022
Date Signed

March 28, 2022
Date Filed