

**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 section 1201 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Act), as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 4721-28. The Task Force is operated pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10.
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Task Force will develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species. The Task Force will also monitor, control and study aquatic nuisance species and disseminate related information.
- 4. Description of Duties.** As specified in the Act, the Task Force provides advice on efforts to protect waters of the United States from the threat of domestic and international aquatic nuisance species.
- 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 \$400,000 including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.5 Federal staff years support.
- 8. Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a Service employee, designated by the Director, who is a full-time Federal employee 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 two times annually, and at such times as designated by the Task Force co-chairs.
- 10. Duration.** Continuing.

11. Termination. The Task Force will become 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 consists 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
- (7) Director of the National Park Service
- (8) Director of the Bureau of Land Management
- (9) Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

16 U.S.C. § 472l(b)(10) 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 of the U.S. Geological Survey
- (3) Administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration
- (4) Chief of the U.S. Forest Service

16 U.S.C. § 472l(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 subcommittees 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. Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally or informally established Council subcommittees. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Records must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

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Date Signed

March 28, 2024

Date Filed