

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
AMONG THE FEDERAL AGENCIES OF THE
AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE**

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding among the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of the Army, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the U. S. Department of State describes the roles of the Federal member agencies of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in jointly carrying out Subtitle C of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-646; 16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.). This MOU fulfills the requirements of Section 1201(e) of the Act.

This MOU will be entitled the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force MOU.

II. Background

The increasing problem of the introduction of nonindigenous species into aquatic ecosystems was recognized by Congress with passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Act established the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to provide, in an advisory capacity, an intergovernmental mechanism for the development and coordination of a comprehensive Federal program to prevent and control nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species introductions. The Act designated the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere as Task Force co-chairs with the responsibility for developing an MOU describing the roles of the Task Force agencies. Since all Federal members of the Task Force are responsible for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, the co-chairs have invited the other Federal members to join in this MOU.

After reviewing the attached Task Force Charter, developed in accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), we, the undersigned Task Force agencies, have concluded that it fully serves the purposes of the MOU envisioned by Congress, as reflected by Article 14 of the Charter. Subscription to this MOU thus indicates approval of the Charter.

III. Period of Agreement

This MOU shall become effective upon the date of signature of all Federal members. Agencies designated as Task Force members under Section 1202(b)(6) of the Act may terminate their agreement under this MOU by providing 90 days notice to the Task Force co-chairs.

John F. Turner APR 17 1992
Date
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Director
Fish and Wildlife Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

John A. Knauss Jan 31, 1992
Date
John A. Knauss
Under Secretary for Oceans
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U. S. Department of Commerce

Eric Bretthauer 4/10/92
Date
Eric Bretthauer
Assistant Administrator for Research
and Development
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

J. W. Kime 2/25/92
Date
Admiral J. William Kime
Commandant
U. S. Coast Guard

Nancy P. Dorn 4 Feb 92
Date
Nancy P. Dorn
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

E. U. Curtis Bohlen 2-24-92
Date
E. U. Curtis Bohlen
Assistant Secretary, Oceans and
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Robert Melland 04/05/92
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Robert Melland
Administrator
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U.S. Department of Agriculture