



Fisheries
& Habitat
Conservation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

Aquatic invasive species occur throughout our nation's wetlands and all other aquatic habitats. Animals like zebra mussels, nutria, and snakehead fish, and plants such as hydrilla, purple loosestrife, and giant salvinia threaten the diversity and abundance of native species, the ecological stability of infested waters, and the commercial and recreational activities dependent on such waters.



Zebra Mussels on a Native Mussel, USFWS Photo

The Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program leads the Service's effort to implement aquatic nuisance species (ANS) prevention and control activities authorized under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended by NISA, 1996). This landmark law created the Interagency Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and gave the Service several critical, national leadership roles, including:

- Co-chairing and administering the ANSTF;
- Supporting ANSTF Regional Panels;
- Providing grants to States for ANS Management Plans;
- Implementing a National ANS Program.

The Service's ANS Program focuses on:

- Preventing new introductions;
- Early detection of and rapid response to newly discovered species;
- Control of established populations;
- Outreach and education.

SERVICE EFFORTS INCLUDE:

PREVENTION

- Conducting activities to keep invasive species out of the U.S. and preventing the spread of those already established.
- Supporting development of technologies to combat the entry of invasive species through ballast water.
- Working with partners on the 100th Meridian Initiative, an effort to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.
- Evaluating organisms to determine their injurious nature under the injurious wildlife provision of the Lacey Act.

EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

- Conducting detection and monitoring activities to find new introductions.
- Working with Regional, State, and local stakeholders to rapidly respond to new introductions.

CONTROL

- Conducting activities to control and reduce the impacts from aquatic invasive animals and plants.
- Providing cost-share grants to implement ANS Management Plans to help States address their aquatic invasive species issues.
- Developing species-specific, national control and management plans through ANS Task Force working groups.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

OUTREACH

- Leading the implementation of two national public awareness and partnership campaigns: The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! campaign, which targets aquatic recreationists, and the Habitattitude™ campaign, which focuses on aquarium hobbyists and water gardeners.



Habitattitude™

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS

P. 146 - U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE - BOBAC'S SEA GRANT
www.Habitattitude.net

For more information about Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, contact USFWS, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, Division of Environmental Quality at 703/358-2148 or visit us on the Internet at:

- www.fws.gov/fisheries/
- www.anstaskforce.gov/default.php
- www.ProtectYourWaters.net
- www.Habitattitude.net

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

February 2006