

**American Fisheries Society
RESOLUTION ON**

**THE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO PREVENT,
CONTROL, AND MANAGE
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
Adopted March 6, 2013**

WHEREAS, since the European colonization of North America, it has been estimated that between 5,000-50,000 nonnative species have been introduced into the United States (Pimentel et al. 2000) and at least 4,500 species of foreign origin have established free-living populations in the United States (OTA 1993) and;

WHEREAS, the Office of Technology Assessment estimates that 10-15 percent of introduced species may become established and about 10 percent of established species become invasive (OTA 1993) and;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health and;

WHEREAS, in the Executive Summary of the National Invasive Species Management Plan the term “invasive species” was further clarified and defined as “a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” and;

WHEREAS, Pimentel et al. (2005) have conservatively estimated annual economic costs to the United States of nonindigenous species, exceeds 120 billion dollars and;

WHEREAS, species introductions have been both intentional and accidental and the following pathways for the introduction of invasive aquatic species have been identified: aquaculture, water gardening, fishing, fisheries management, ballast water and other media, transportation, shipping, boating, natural disasters, the aquarium and pet industry, cultural traditions and;

WHEREAS, the US Congress in recognition of the harm caused by the introduction of the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and out of concern about increasing numbers of aquatic invasive species introductions passed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (Act), as amended by the National Invasive Species act of 1996 and;

WHEREAS, this Act mandates the development and implementation of a comprehensive national program to prevent and respond to problems caused by the unintentional introduction of nonindigenous aquatic species into the waters of the United States which led to the formation from 1991-2003 of six Regional Panels on Aquatic Nuisance Species (Regional Panels) covering the entire country and;

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WHEREAS, in response to this Act, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) was created and has approved seven National Species Management and Control Plans (Eurasian ruffe *Gymnocephalus cernuus*, brown tree snake, *Boiga irregularis* European green crab *Carcinus maenas*, Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*, Caulerpa *Caulerpa taxifolia*, New Zealand mudsnail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, and Asian carp, (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and has approved 39 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans (State/Interstate Plans) with the goal of each state having an approved Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan in the near future and;

WHEREAS, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 authorized and provided for the development of State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans with authorized funding of \$4,000,000 in Section 1301(c) to support implementation of State/Interstate Plans but that level of funding has never been fully appropriated (USFWS 2012a, USFWS 2012b) and;

WHEREAS, since 2004 annual federal authorizations and appropriations have resulted in only \$300,000 for all Regional Panels and \$1,075,000 for all State/Interstate Plans to implement activities and programs to prevent, monitor and control aquatic invasive species and thus the amount of funding per State/Interstate Plan—\$29,800 in FY 2011 (USFWS 2012b)— is decreasing as more State/Interstate Plans are approved by the ANSTFS since the \$1,075,000 is divided equally among all State/Interstate Plans and;

WHEREAS, funding for State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans is not part of the FY2013 President’s budget (USFWS 2012b) and funding has been significantly reduced to support the maintenance of the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database and;

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species biologists have recommended that adequate funding would be \$1,000,000 per year for adequate implementation of each State/Interstate Plans (39 plans), each Regional Panel, the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (2010), and for the USGS Aquatic Nuisance Species Database and;

WHEREAS, in the near future it is anticipated that there will be at least 53 State/Interstate Plans (50 State Plans and 3 Interstate Plans),

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Fisheries Society urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$61,000,000 on an annual basis to fund the Regional Panels (\$6,000,000), the State/Interstate Plans (\$53,000,000), the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan, (\$1,000,000) and to fund the USGS Aquatic Nuisance Species Database (\$1,000,000) for prevention, control and management of nonnative aquatic invasive species.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if it is not possible for the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$61,000,000 on an annual basis for these plans, panels and database that federal funding should be increased dramatically for each approved state/interstate plan, for each regional panel and for the USGS Aquatic Nuisance Species Database. Furthermore, future appropriations should account for the development of additional state/interstate plans, so that the funding allocated for each of these plans will not decrease in future years as more such plans are approved with equal funding provided to each approved state/interstate plans and each regional panel.

**Literature Citations for the
American Fisheries Society
Resolution on
Federal Funding for Programs to Prevent, Control, and Manage
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Pimentel, D., Lach, L., Zuniga, R. & Morrison, D. 2000. Environmental and economic costs of nonindigenous species in the United States. *Bioscience*, 50(1): 53-65.

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USFWS. 2012c. The evolution of the state/interstate aquatic nuisance species management plan grant program. Third in a series of three. Washington, DC.