

Aquatic Nuisance Species Information

ANS Web Sites and Outreach Material Available through ANSC

Many water related activities such as SCUBA diving, waterfowl hunting, angling, boating, seaplane operations, and the use of personal watercraft can transport foreign marine organisms to new environments. These foreign invaders are called Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and when they are introduced to a new body of water they displace native species, degrade aquatic ecosystems and impede local municipalities. ANS can have devastating effects on both the economy and the environment. People who use the water for recreation or business are critical to stopping their spread. Auxiliarist can help by educating the public on this issue through public education, public affairs, marine dealer visits and vessel safety checks.

Web sites:

The following is a list of ANS specific web sites dedicated to research, education, and outreach:

U.S. Coast Guard-Environmental Standards Division:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/estandards.htm>

U.S. Coast Guard-Environmental Standards Division develops and maintains standards, national regulations and polices, and guidelines for industry, the states, and the public, to implement laws and treaties on marine environmental protection. On this web site you will find more information about the U.S. Coast Guard's Ballast Water Management program, the Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program (STEP), Aquatic Nuisance Species Program updates, Anti-Fouling Information, IMO/MEPC Information, as well as links to additional, related sites.

ANS Taskforce:

www.anstaskforce.gov

The ANS Taskforce is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the prevention and control of Aquatic Nuisance Species and implementation of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) of 1990. There are several links to other agencies ANS web sites and information on ANS research, conferences, legislation and actions.

ANS Taskforce (voluntary guidelines for recreational boaters):

<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/TF%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Rec.%20Guidelines.pdf>

The ANS taskforce has published **voluntary guidelines** for preventing the spread of ANS while participating **in aquatic activities**. SCUBA diving, boating, waterfowl hunting,

seaplane operations, bait harvesting, personal watercraft use and angling are addressed in the guidelines.

“Protect Your Waters:”

www.protectyourwaters.net

“Protect Your Waters” is the ANS Taskforces Public Awareness Campaign for recreational boaters. This site is a very good resource for information on how to clean your aquatic equipment after exposure to infested marine environments. Cleaning equipment is an important way to prevent the spread of ANS. There is also information on specific aquatic nuisance species.

100th Meridian Initiative:

www.100thmeridian.org

The 100th Meridian Initiative is a cooperative effort between state, provincial, and federal agencies to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species in North America.

National Sea Grant:

<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/themesnpa/aquaticinvasivespecies.html>

This is the web site for the National Sea Grant program.

<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/other/programsdirectors.html>

A directory with links to the individual Sea Grant programs can be found on this web site.

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Marine Invasions Research Lab:

<http://invasions.si.edu>

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Marine Invasions Research lab studies non-native species invasions in coastal ecosystems.

National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC):

<http://invasions.si.edu/nbic/>

The National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) is a joint program of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and the United States Coast Guard that collects, analyzes, and interprets data on the ballast water management practices of commercial ships that operate in the waters of the United States

Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Site:

<http://sgnis.org/>

The Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Site (SGNIS) is a project of the National Sea Grant College Program, produced by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. It is a national information center that contains a comprehensive collection of research publications and education materials produced by Sea Grant programs and other research institutions across the country on zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species.

United States Geological Survey:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>

This is United States Geological Survey's web site on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

Outreach Materials

The following is a list of ANS specific items that can be ordered from the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC) for use in public affairs booths, public education classes and member training.

| ANSC Number | Item | Description |
|-------------|--|--|
| 4025 | Training Guide – US Coast Guard's Aquatic Nuisance Species and Ballast Water Program | This training guide for members covers aquatic nuisance species and ballast water, legislation and regulation, and recreational activities. It can also be downloaded from the Marine Environmental Protection Department site, which is located on the Auxiliary National web page. |
| 4061 | ID Card - Zebra Mussel | This wallet size card is designed to help boaters recognize zebra mussels and what to do if they find one. Zebra mussels were first found in 1988 in the Great Lakes and are slowly spreading across the US. |
| 4075 | Video – Stop Exotics: Clean Your Boat | This 11-minute video, featuring John Ratzenberger (a.k.a. Cliff Clavin from the TV show "Cheers"), highlights the five steps boaters can take to prevent the spread of ANS. |
| 4076 | Video – You Ought to Tell Somebody | This 24-minute video gives a good overview of ANS problems being faced by the Northwest and focuses on the introduction of Chinese mitten crabs. The aim of the video is early detection and quick response. |

