

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Northeast Regional Panel Meeting**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Northeast Regional Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

DATES: The Northeast Regional Panel will meet from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2004, and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2004.

Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: The Northeast Regional Panel meeting will be held at the Inn at Newport Beach, at the corner of Memorial Boulevard and Wave Avenue, Newport RI 02840. Phone 401.846.0310. Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Tremblay, NEANS Panel Program Manager at (603) 796-2615 or, by e-mail, at info@northeastans.org or Everett Wilson, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at (703) 358-2148.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Northeast Regional Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Northeast Regional Panel was established by the ANS Task Force in 2001. The NEANS Panel, comprised of representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests, performs the following activities:

- a. Identifies priorities for the Northeast Region with respect to aquatic nuisance species,
- b. makes recommendations to the Task Force,
- c. assists the Task Force in coordinating Federal aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Northeast region,
- d. coordinates aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Northeast region,

e. provides advice to public and private individuals and entities concerning methods of controlling aquatic nuisance species, and

f. submits an annual report describing activities within the Northeast region related to aquatic nuisance species prevention, research, and control.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise and make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on issues relating to the Northeast region of the United States that includes seven Northeast region States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. The Northeast Regional Panel will discuss several topics at this meeting including: proposed bylaws for the panel; future panel meeting scheduling; status update on NAISA bill reauthorization; activities update on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee; activities updates of the ANS Task Force and Invasive Species Council; committee break-out planning sessions and updates; a group discussion on establishing research priorities; a discussion on the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE); a summary of the New England Rapid Assessment; a discussion on species priority listing, the pet industry and zebra mussels.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

Mamie Parker,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries & Habitat Conservation.

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BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel Meeting**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

DATES: The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2004, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2004. Minutes of the meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

ADDRESSES: The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel meeting will be held at

the Marriott Mobile, 3101 Airport Boulevard, Mobile, Alabama 36606. Phone (251) 476-6400. Minutes of the meeting will be maintained in the office of Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 322, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Lukens, Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel Chair and Assistant Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at (228) 875-5912 or Everett Wilson, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, at 703-358-2148.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces meetings of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel was established by the ANS Task Force in 1999. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel, comprised of representatives from Federal, State, local agencies and from private environmental and commercial interests, performs the following activities:

- a. Identifies priorities for activities in the Gulf of Mexico,
- b. develops and submits recommendations to the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force,
- c. coordinates aquatic nuisance species program activities in the Gulf of Mexico,
- d. advises public and private interests on control efforts, and
- e. submits an annual report to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

The purpose of the Panel is to advise and make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on issues relating to the Gulf of Mexico region of the United States that includes five Gulf of Mexico States: Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. The Gulf of Mexico Regional Panel will discuss several topics at this meeting including: a facilitated session on the panel strategic plan; a review of Panel efforts to date including adding Mexican Government membership; status reports of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas State ANS management plans; status reports from panel working groups; presentations on prevention activities such as the use of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning; the pet industry and invasive species (invited presentation); status of the Mobile Bay Rapid Assessment Project; recommendations for the ANS