

American Fisheries Society
Southern Division
Adopted January 27, 2012

RESOLUTION ON THE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS
TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND MANAGE
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

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, it has been conservatively estimated that annual economic costs to the United States of nonindigenous species, exceeds 120 billion dollars (Pimentel et al. 2005) 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, 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 and concerned about increasing numbers of aquatic invasive species introductions passed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1992 (Act) 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;

WHEREAS, in response to this act, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) has approved seven National Species Management and Control Plans (ruffe, brown tree snake European green crab, Chinese mitten crab, Caulerpa (seaweed), New Zealand mudsnail, and Asian carp) 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, since 2004 annual federal authorizations and appropriations have resulted in only \$300,000 dollars for all Regional Panels and \$1,075,000 dollars 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 is decreasing as more State/Interstate Plans are approved by the ANSTF since the \$1,075,000 is divided equally among all State/Interstate Plans and;

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species experts have recommended that adequate funding would be \$1,000,000 dollars per year for each of the six Regional Panels and the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (2010) and estimated that approximately \$1,000,000 dollars was needed for adequate implementation of each State/Interstate Plans (39 plans) 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), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 27th day of January in the year 2012 at Biloxi, Mississippi urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$59,000,000 dollars funding on an annual basis for Regional Panels and State/Interstate Plans for prevention, control and management of nonnative aquatic invasive species.