



NISC

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SECRETARIAT

TOOLS AND TRAINING FOR NISC MEMBER DEPARTMENTS

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

BACKGROUND

The NISC Management Plan identifies the high priority, interdepartmental actions that the federal government and its partners can take to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species, as well as recover species and restore habitats and other assets adversely impacted by invasive species. In the 20 years since the initial signing of EO 13112, membership of NISC grew from 8 to 16 member departments and White House Offices, a Secretariat has been put in place to provide leadership and coordination on invasive species issues throughout the federal government, and three National Invasive Species Management Plans have been developed and implemented through interdepartmental cooperation. Growing interest and attention to the invasive species issue creates new opportunities for collaboration and innovative problem-solving. It also creates a need for the federal government to re-evaluate priorities for policy guidance and program management.


EO 13751 (Section 6) directs NISC to “ensure that the Federal agency and interagency activities concerning invasive species are coordinated, complementary, cost-efficient, and effective. . .” Due to varying levels of expertise on the invasive species issue, ongoing capacity building is necessary to ensure effective coordination of federal actions to address invasive species. As such, the 2016–2018 NISC Management Plan calls for the “development and implementation of guidance for strengthening institutional leadership, coordination, and programmatic effectiveness on the invasive species issue throughout the Federal government” (Action 1.3). It also calls for the “identification and initiation of steps to strengthen the ability of NISC member Departments to effectively motivate, coordinate, and report on inter-agency actions to implement NISC priorities” (Action 2.1).

ACTIONS

The following initiatives were facilitated and implemented by the NISC and NISC Secretariat in accordance with the 2016–2018 NISC Management Plan Actions 1.3 and 2.1:

✎ Training Courses

- World Conservation Congress (Hawaii, September 2016) – Make it a Priority and Make it Stick! How to Effectively Institutionalize Invasive Alien Species Programmes: In order to effectively prevent and mitigate the impacts of invasive species, governments need to become more effective at institutionalizing invasive species programs to integrate the invasive species issue into high priority agendas, develop mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation, establish relevant authorities and financial mechanisms, and apply the best available science to decision making (<https://portals.iucn.org/congress/session/10200>).
- US Territories Invasive Species Workshop: Capacity Building through Collaboration (Honolulu, Hawaii; June 2016) – The conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2016 was co-hosted by the Office of Insular Affairs and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with contributions from the NISC Secretariat. The conference sought to strengthen capacity building training and knowledge



for territorial officials on how to improve invasive species management in their respective jurisdictions (<https://on.doi.gov/2ig3Y4E>).

- ✎ Establishment and Facilitation of the US Arctic Invasive Species Working Group (USAISWG).
 - The US Arctic Invasive Species Working Group (USAISWG) is a cross agency working group aimed at fostering communications and project coordination on Arctic invasive species initiatives across the federal government. This group also serves as the US vehicle for communicating international Arctic work to US agencies.
- ✎ Establishment and Facilitation of the Science/Technology and Policy/Law Community of Practice Webinars.
 - In 2017, the NISC Secretariat established two NISC Communities of Practice (NISC-COPS) to enhance communication with federal agency staff working on invasive species issues: the NISC Policy/Law COP and the NISC Science/Technology Innovation COP. The purpose of the NISC-COPS is to:
 - Communicate NISC priorities to the federal agency community and seek input relevant to those priorities from technical experts across the federal government;
 - Provide a venue for sharing pressing concerns that may have inter-departmental implications and that may need to be elevated to NISC leadership for attention/action;
 - Provide a venue for sharing success stories and the lessons learned that may have inter-departmental applicability; and
 - Promote effective communication and coordination among the federal community of invasive species experts to create opportunities for greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- ✎ Invasive Species Podcasts: The NISC Secretariat produced a series of podcasts that provide federal agencies and their partners with the information necessary to effectively implement EO 13751 and related directives by: raising awareness of emerging threats, research, and technologies; providing a forum for dialogue on complex and/or controversial aspects of the invasive species issue; and promoting innovative work by federal agencies and their partners to prevent, eradicate, and/or control invasive species. Link forthcoming.
- ✎ Management of an updated NISC website: The NISC Secretariat manages and updates the NISC website as a reporting mechanism for effective, consistent information sharing, as well as to raise public awareness of the invasive species issue. Information and products on NISC, the NISC Secretariat, and the Invasive Species Advisory Committee can be found on the website (www.invasivespecies.gov).
- ✎ BISON Database/Regulated Non-native Species List: The NISC Secretariat is currently working with USGS to foster the development, adoption, and sharing of decision support tools to advance horizon scanning and strengthen federal-state cooperation. This will be supported through the creation of a database of non-native species regulated as harmful by federal and/or state agencies.