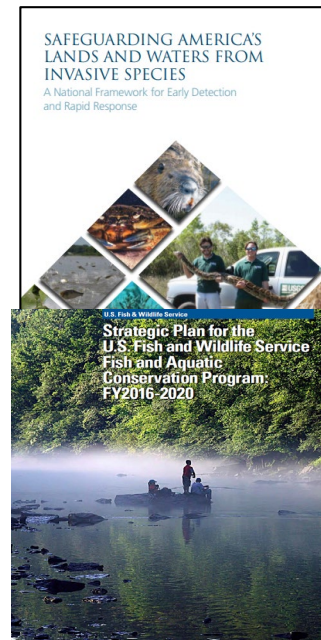


MODEL PROCESS FOR AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RAPID RESPONSE FUND

Rapid Response Fund Work Group Members:

Susan Pasko, US Fish and Wildlife
Michael Schmidt, U.S. Geological Survey
Patrick Kococsk, U.S. Geological Survey
Wes Daniel, U.S. Geological Survey
Hilary Smith, Department of the Interior
Angela McMellen Brannigan, National Invasive Species Council
Jolene Trujilo, Bureau of Reclamation
Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Kristina Alexander, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
Stephen Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
John Wullschleger, National Park Service
Tom Woolf, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
Jim Straub, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation,
Kristen Sommers, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & US Fish and Wildlife
Leah Elwell, Invasive Species Action Network

EDRR in Invasive Species Management is a Crosscutting Priority for DOI Bureaus and Offices.



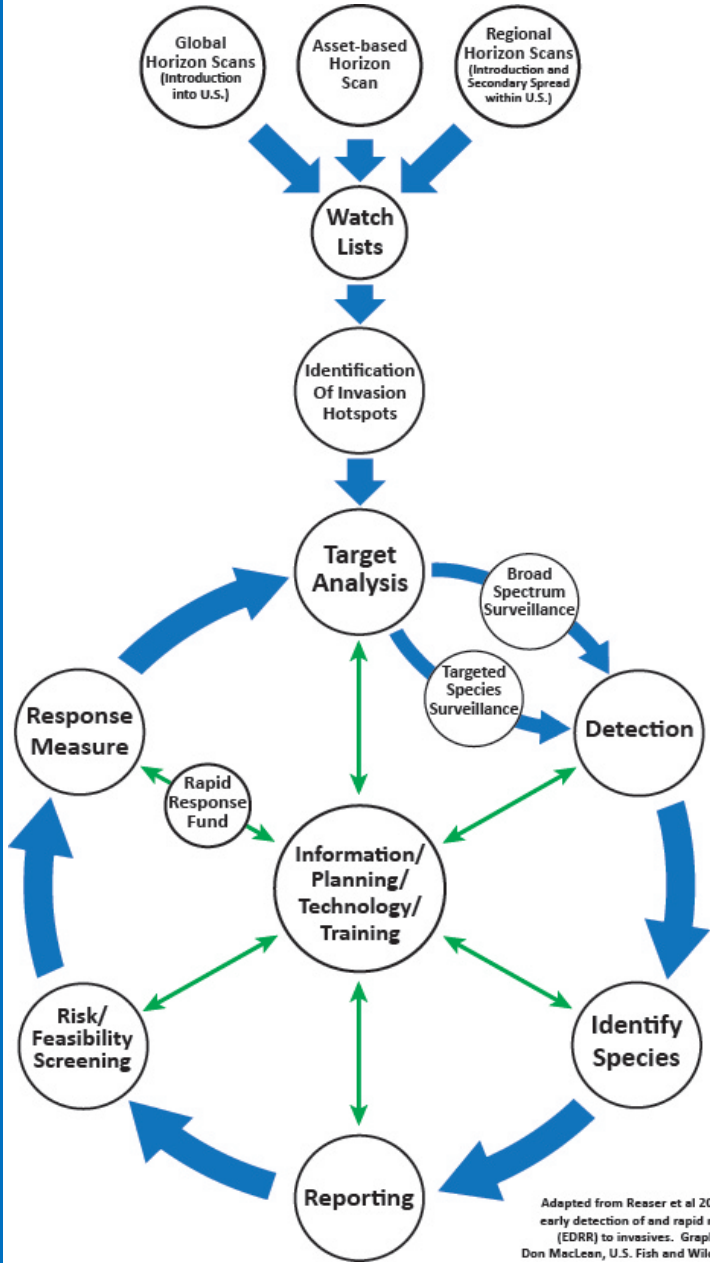
Biol Invasions
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-019-02156-w>

REVIEW

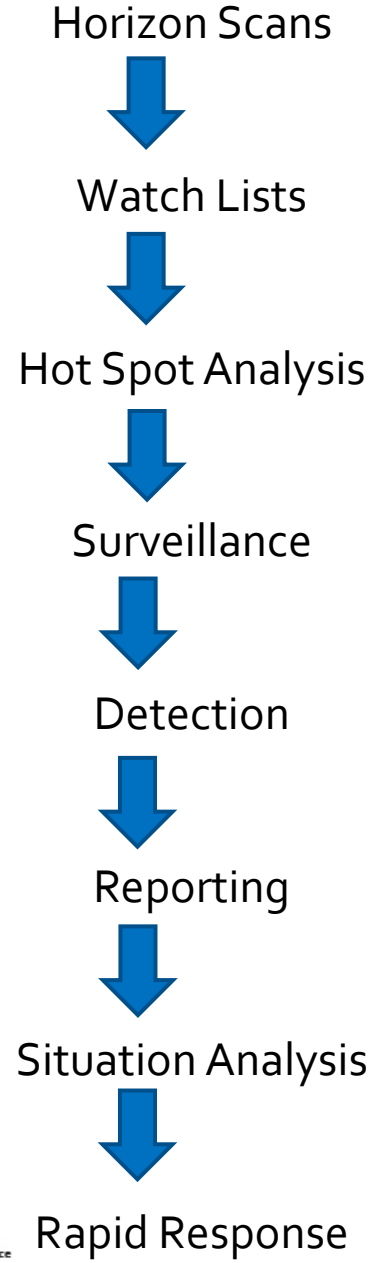
The early detection of and rapid response (EDRR) to invasive species: a conceptual framework and federal capacities assessment

12 papers published in Biological Invasions (2019)
 "A blueprint for a national program for the EDRR to invasive species"

"Work with tribes, states, and other partners to implement a National EDRR Framework"



Adapted from Reaser et al 2020. The early detection of and rapid response (EDRR) to invasives. Graphic by Don MacLean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

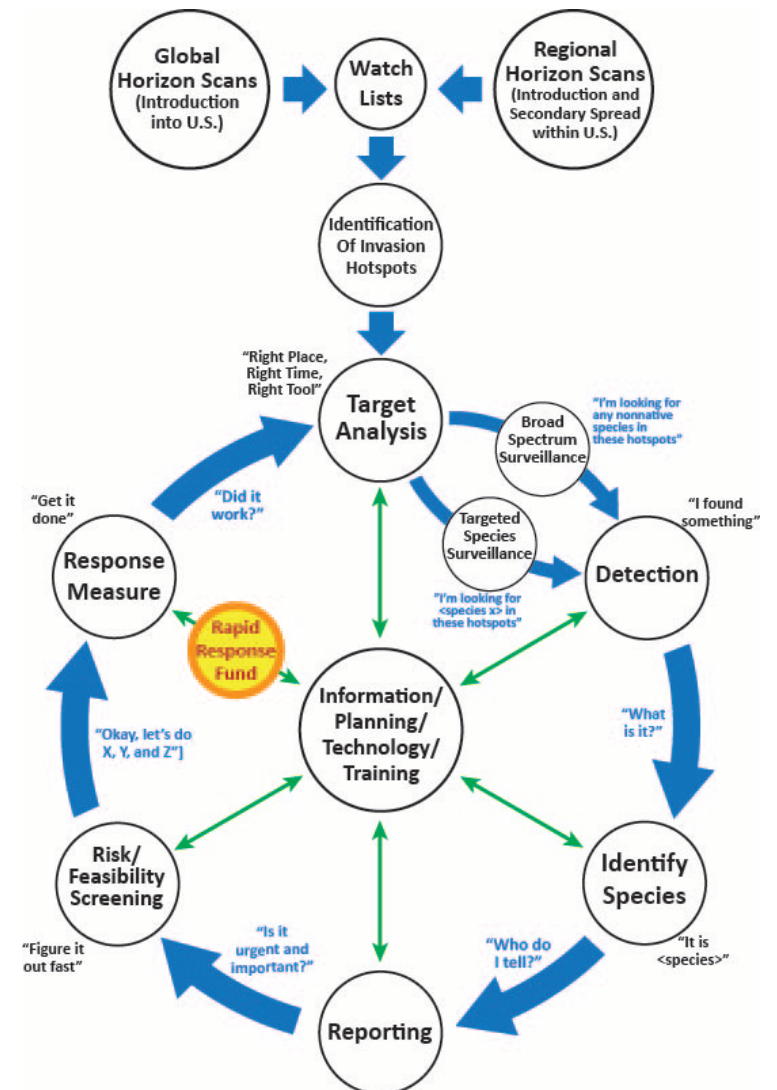


a National EDRR Framework is coordinated, strategic, and focuses on:

- the right species
- at the right time
- in the right place

RAPID RESPONSE FUND: A PRIORITY NEED

- **ANSTF Strategic Plan Objective 3.3.c:** Identify obstacles and explore opportunities to establish an emergency rapid response fund
- **NISC Output (FY 21/22 Work Plans):** Rapid Response Fund: white paper that assesses existing invasive species funding mechanisms and models to inform the criteria and considerations for the development of a rapid response fund
- **Fiscal Year 2023 President's Budget:** included funds to establish a pilot AIS Rapid Response Fund to be coordinated through the ANSTF
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** Congress asked DOI to direct BIL funding towards a Rapid Response Fund



Adapted from Reaser et al 2020. The early detection of and rapid response (EDRR) to invasives. Graphic by Don MacLean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SCOPE OF THE RAPID RESPONSE FUND

- **Eligible Taxa:** Aquatic invasive plants and animals
 - (Not pathogens or harmful algal blooms)
- **Eligible Locations:** New detections or (significant) range expansion of species into to within the U.S. or insular areas
- **Eligible Applicants:** Federal and state agencies, U.S. territories, Native American tribal governments or organizations, and interstate organizations

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Planning and site delineation:

- Delineation to determine the spatial extent and abundance of an isolated AIS population
 - Analysis and assessment of potential response measures
 - Planning, environmental documentation and/or permit acquisition
 - Measures to contain the population during the species assessment or while a long- term response plan is formulated
- **Deployment of response action:**
 - Implement actions on site to implement response measures that support or lead up to eradication of the targeted species,
 - Survey surrounding areas
 - Monitor the population and effectiveness of applied response measures



AWARD TYPE AND CYCLE

Award type: Discretionary competitive funding opportunity

Award Cycle: Quarterly

- NOFO posted to grants.gov beginning of each FY
- Open for 60 days
- Review Team may defer lower priorities
- Pre-award cost may be allowed



APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION



- Project Abstract
- Project Narrative: need, scope, proposed actions
- Agency / Organization applying for funds (capacity, experience)
- Species Description (impact, history, watchlists)
- Location description (size, characteristics)
- Rapid Response Plan
- Management Goal and Objectives
- Approach / Treatment Options* / Environmental Compliance
- Timeline
- Commitment for post-rapid response activities (surveys, biosecurity)
- Budget Narrative

RAPID RESPONSE FUND COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION

- Compose and publish quarterly Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Serve as a point of contact for potential applicants
- Conduct an intake review of all incoming proposals to ensure eligibility
- Manage negotiations on the budget or scope of work
- Establish and coordinate the quarterly Review Teams
- Communicate all recommendations to the ANSTF
- Notify all applicants of funding decisions
- Serve as Project Officer of awarded projects through their duration of the grant
- Review and approve all interim and final reports
- Compile and categorize all project reports to help inform future Rapid Response efforts

RAPID RESPONSE FUND REVIEW TEAM

- Each Review Team will have a minimum of four people, consisting of:
 - The Rapid Response Fund Coordinator
 - ANSTF member (rotational basis)
 - Regional panel member (local expertise)
 - Subject Matter Expert (species or treatment expertise)



MERIT CRITERIA

Potential Impact of the Invasion: 15%

- Impact
- Probability of Spread
- Placement on Watchlist

Proposed Approach: 25%

- Validity of methods
- Confidence in accomplishment management goal

Preparedness: 15%

- Ability to secure staff, equipment, permits

Experience and Qualifications: 15%

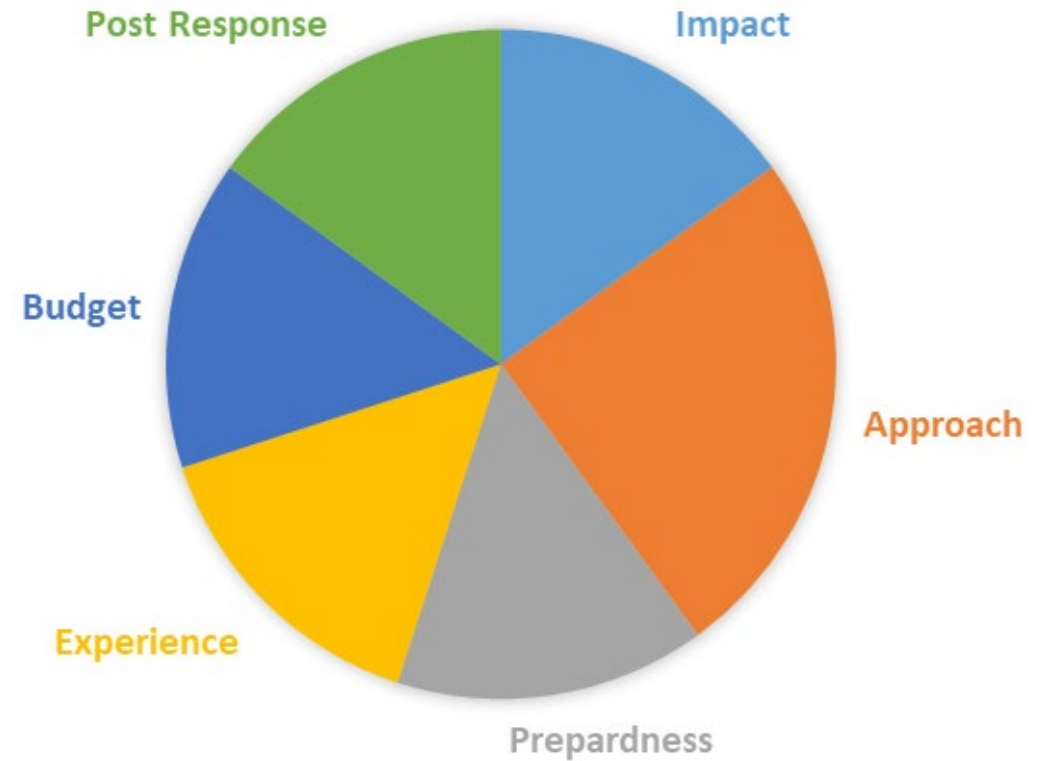
- Prior experience, ability of conduct proposed actions

Budget: 15%

- Cost effectiveness, Connection to broader management

Post Response Commitment: 15%

- Ability to prevent re-invasion



AWARD REPORTING

Report on progress to the USFWS every **six** months

Final report due no later than **120 days** after the award period ends.

- Overview of scenario
- Timeline of actions taken
- Roles of entities involved in response
- Barriers or challenges experienced and contingency actions taken
- Summary of key issues and lessons learned
- Outcome of Rapid Response
- Description of any post-response actions

Final reports to be organized into an accessible clearinghouse to inform future efforts.

UNUSED FUNDS

- Carried over to next FY (Preferred)
- Alternatively, may be use unspent resources to support Rapid Response activities (equipment, chemicals, research needs)

METRICS

- Under Discussion
- There is value in assessing and tracking performance of the response efforts supported by the Fund
- Looking for input / existing metrics

NEXT STEPS

- Draft framework presented to the ANSTF on January 12, 2023
- Sent to Members and Panels for 6 week comment Period
- Workgroup will reconvene to discussion comments and refine process as needed



THANK YOU!

SUSAN PASKO
ANS TASK FORCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
57725 LEESBURG PIKE FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041
PHONE: 703-358-2466
EMAIL: SUSAN_PASKO@FWS.GOV

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE

The only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species.

ESTABLISHED by Congress with the passage of NANPCA in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the NISA in 1996.

MISSION: Develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent the introduction and dispersal of ANS; to monitor, control and study such species; and to disseminate related information.

STRUCTURE: Composed of 13 Federal, 13 ex-officio members, 6 Regional Panels, several Sub-committees

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Structure

