

NAISMA's Priorities

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Director of Government Relations





**Our mission is to empower the management
of invasive species in North America.**

www.naisma.org



What We Do

- **International Standards**
 - Mapping Data
 - Certified Weed-Free Products
- **Government Relations**
 - Strategic Partnerships
 - Advocacy and Information
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- **Education and Outreach**
 - PlayCleanGo
- **Professional Development**
 - Webinars and Virtual Summits
 - Certification Programs
 - Annual Conference



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.
PlayCleanGo.org



Government Relations Program

- **Strategic Partnerships**

- National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS.net)
- Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife (ournatureusa.com)
- Aquatic Invasive Species Commission
- Invasive Species Advisory Committee

- **Legislative Committee**

- SOPs for elevating legislation, policy, or advocacy opportunities to committee for review
- Committee can then recommend action to the Board of Directors for approval

- **Advocacy and Information**

- Letters or Public Comment Submissions
- Position Papers with Policy Websites and Advocacy Opportunities
- Congressional and/or Federal Agency Contacts
- Congressional Briefings

<https://naisma.org/naisma-resources/government-relations/>
<https://www.nisaw.org/policy/>

Policy Focus Areas

Key Issues:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Protect the West from ZQM
 - Connecticut River Hydrilla
 - Invasive Carp Mgmt
 - Aquatic Plant Mgmt
 - Funding for ANSTF and Panels
 - [NISAW.com](#) → [Policy](#) → [ANS](#) → [Take Action](#)
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Forest Health
- Noxious Weeds

Legislation:

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act
- STAMP Out Invasive Species Act
- America's Outdoor Recreation Act
- Lacey Act Amendments of 2023

- Farm Bill
- Infrastructure Law
- Water Resources Development Act

- Currently tracking 19 active bills in 118th Congress



Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Take a moment to fill out this form and send a letter to your Representative and Senators to help stop the spread of AIS

Send an email to your officials

Prefix <input type="text"/>	First Name <input type="text"/>	Last Name <input type="text"/>
Address <input type="text"/>	Zip Code <input type="text"/>	Email <input type="text"/>
Phone number <input type="text"/>		

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Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- Reintroduced into the 118th Congress on March 30th by Senator Heinrich (D-NM)
 - S.1149
 - Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
- NISAW policy page and advocacy opportunity is updated and promoted.
 - [NISAW.com](#) → [Policy](#) → [Biodiversity](#) → [Take Action](#)
- NAISMA has sent letters of support to House and Senate Committees.
- NAISMA has signed onto the Alliance's group support letter.

\$85M-\$1.2B over three years to states:
...may be used to manage, control, and prevent invasive species, disease, and other risks to species of greatest conservation need.

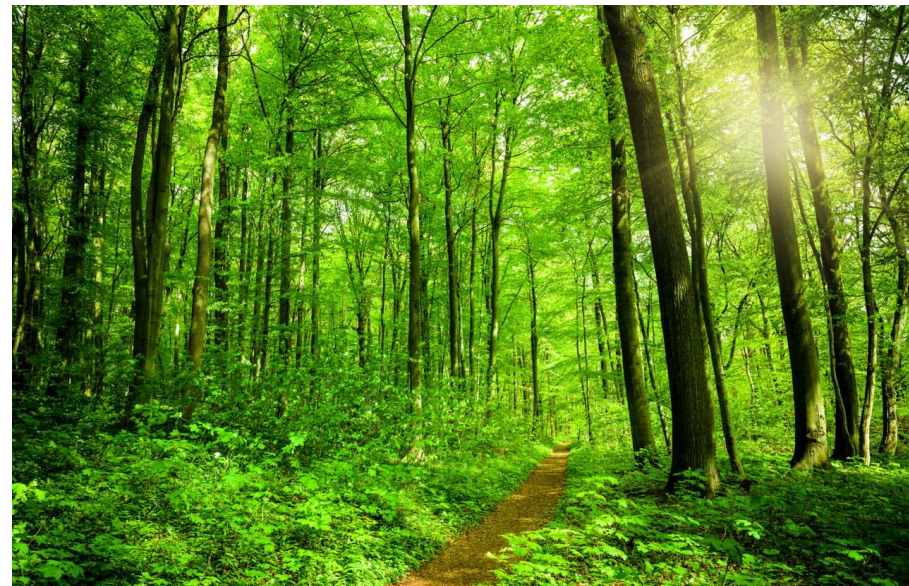
\$97,500,000 for tribes:
...to manage, control, and prevent invasive species as well as diseases and other risks to wildlife.





Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act

- Reintroduced into the 118th Congress by Senator Welch (D-VT) on April 20, 2023, and Representative Balint (D-VT) on May 10, 2023.
 - Senate (S.1238) and House (HR. 1389)
 - Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
 - House Ag Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotech
- NISAW policy page and advocacy opportunity is updated and promoted.
- [NISAW.com](#) → [Policy](#) → [Biodiversity](#) → [Take Action](#)
- NAISMA signed onto ESA's past letter of support.
- NAISMA has expressed direct support.





STAMP Out Invasive Species Act

- Reintroduced into the 118th Congress by Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Ed Case (D-HI).
 - H.R. 210
 - House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotech
 - House Natural Resources Subcommittee Water, Wildlife, Fisheries
 - House Oversight and Accountability
- NAISMA Board voted to support on May 30th per legislative committee recommendation.
- Establishes a stamp in the USPS of which proceeds will be split equally between USDA and USDOJ for the purpose of combating invasive species.
 - *Combating Invasive Species Semipostal Stamp*
- Stamp must be established within 12 months and made available for two years.
- NISAW policy page and advocacy opportunity will be created.
- NAISMA formalized support with sponsors.



America's Outdoor Recreation Act

- NAISMA has taken 'no position' on this bill.
- Reintroduced into the 118th Congress. S.873.
- Section 404 on page 152 is ANS
 - DOI, USDA, Reclamation States, Tribes, Local Govs
 - Secretaries may inspect entering or leaving federal lands and waters
 - Form partnerships and provide technical assistance
 - Provide grant funding 75/25
 - Consult with the ANSTF
 - Share data
 - *Minimize disruptions to boating and recreation*
- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 5/17



Pg. 155 - Partnerships

LIMITATION.—The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to Federal land and water for vessels under this subsection in the absence of an inspector.



Lacey Act Amendments of 2023

- Bill is currently undergoing NAISMA review for recommendation to the Board.
- Reintroduced into the 118th Congress. S. 1614
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
- NAISMA supported the bill in the 117th





Farm Bill and WRDA

- **Farm Bill**
 - Reauthorized every five years since 1933.
 - NAISMA continues to track this.
 - NISAW policy page and advocacy opportunity are created and being promoted.
 - Senate is currently taking ideas and proposals for 2023 Farm Bill.
 - Email FarmBill2023@ag.senate.gov
 - www.agriculture.senate.gov/farmbill
- **Water Resources Development Act - Passed in 117th Congress**
 - Reauthorized every ~two years since 1986.
 - Recently passed as part of omnibus appropriations and authorizations act (PL 117-263).
 - Watch the NISAW 2023 Webinar on WRDA.
 - Included in AIS Position and Advocacy Opportunity.
 - *Committee would like to develop a separate position paper on this before next bill is drafted.*
 - Future Goals:
 - Continued and/or increased appropriations
 - Reducing the 50/50 match requirement
 - Streamlining letter report process
 - Supporting the expanded geographic range



Upcoming New Position Papers

- Per the **NAISMA Strategic Plan**, we are beginning to develop new position papers, with corresponding policy websites and advocacy opportunities.
 - The **biodiversity** paper will be developed by a subcommittee of the **legislative committee** first in order to be available for NISAW 2024.
 - The **classical weed biological control** paper will be developed by the **biocontrol committee**, with review from the legislative committee, and is intended to be prepared in time for NISAW 2025.
 - The **underserved communities** paper will be developed by the **IDEA** committee. It will be completed by the end of 2025 per the strategic plan and for NISAW 2026.

***National Blue
Ribbon AIS
Commission:
Process,
Participation, and
Final Report***



Purpose

Leading scientists, conservationists, anglers, boaters, business leaders, and policy experts have convened to assess the persistent threat of AIS and identify more effective solutions. The AIS Commission will invite input from and dialogue with key stakeholders, Federal and State decision makers, Tribal representatives, and other leading experts. The purpose of this collaborative process is to assess the current threat from AIS and gaps in public policy and funding to develop recommendations for how AIS can be addressed more effectively at the Federal, State, Tribal, and regional levels.



Vision and Key Principles



- Federal policies to address AIS should be clear, cross-cutting, and comprehensive.
- Federal funding to address AIS should be strategic and targeted, providing States, Tribes and Federal agencies with effective tools to combat AIS at a regional and watershed level.
- Laws, regulations, and policies that address AIS should maintain access to responsible boaters, anglers, and other users of our waterways.
- Interstate and regional collaboration, communication and planning is critical to slowing the spread and mitigating the impacts of AIS.
- The recruitment and education of recreational anglers to target invasive species should be prioritized in State and Federal plans and funding opportunities.

Steering Committee Members

- **Alanna Keating**, BoatUS
- **Chris Macaluso**, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- **Chris Edmonston**, BoatUS
- **Christy Plumer**, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- **Clay Crabtree**, National Marine Manufacturers Association
- **Gene Gilliland**, B.A.S.S.
- **George Cooper**, Forbes-Tate
- **Heather Hennessey**, Yamaha
- **Jake Drees**, Yeti
- **Jennifer Silberman**, Yeti
- **Martin Peters**, Yamaha
- **Mike Leonard**, American Sportfishing Association
- **Tanner Johnson**, VNF Solutions



AIS Commission Members

- **Alanna Keating**, BoatUS Foundation
- **Ben Mohr**, Alaska conservationist
- **Elizabeth Brown**, NAISMA
- **Clay Crabtree**, National Marine Manufacturing Association
- **Chris Edmonston**, BoatUS
- **Chris Macaluso**, TRCP
- **Christy Plumer**, TRCP
- **Dennis Zabaglo**, Tahoe Regional Planning
- **Drue Winters**, American Fisheries Society
- **Gene Gilliland**, B.A.S.S.
- **George Cooper**, Forbes-Tate
- **Heather Hennessey**, Yamaha
- **Ish Monroe**, Pro Angler
- **Jake Dree**, Yeti
- **Jason Christie**, Pro Angler
- **Jennifer Silberman**, Yeti
- **John Arway**, Retired State Director (PA)
- **John O'Keefe**, Yamaha
- **Kerry Wixted**, Assn. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- **Marc Gaden**, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- **Mark Menendez**, Pro Angler
- **Martin Peters**, Yamaha
- **Mathew Van Daele**, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- **Mike Leonard**, American Sportfishing Association
- **Nick Wiley**, Ducks Unlimited
- **Stephen Phillips**, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- **Steve Moyer**, Trout Unlimited

AIS Steering Committee
Initiative Sponsors and Partners



AIS Commission

Leading scientists, boaters, anglers, conservationists, business leaders, and policy experts



Working Sessions to Receive Expert Testimony



Science



Anglers and
Boaters



Federal Law and Policy



State, Tribal and Regional
Collaboration

Final AIS Report



RECOMMENDATIONS

Structure

Timeline

Winter 2021 and Spring 2022 - Planning the Blue Ribbon AIS Commission
 Summer and Fall 2022 - Hosting Listening Sessions with Experts and Commission Meetings
 Winter 2022 - Drafting the Report and Recommendations

Congressional Briefing	Pro Anglers and Boaters	Science and Academia	State, Regional, and Tribal	Federal Law and Policy
National Invasive Species Awareness Week March 4, 2022	ICAST July 21, 2022	Virtual July 25, 2022	Kenai Classic Roundtable August 17, 2022 SOBA August 31, 2022	Washington, DC October 4, 2022

November 2022 - ANS Task Force Presentation
 January 2023 - NAISMA Monthly Webinar
 February 2023 - Final Report Published
 March 2023 - NISAW

AIS Commission Priorities

- 1. Update federal law and policy:** Amendments to federal law and policy should build on and modernize the existing framework for AIS to enhance prevention and spread.
- 2. Increase federal funding:** Funding to address AIS should be coordinated, strategic, and targeted across federal departments, agencies, and bureaus, in collaboration with states and tribal organizations, to provide effective tools to address AIS at the regional and watershed levels.
- 3. Enhanced collaboration:** Interstate, regional, federal-state, and tribal collaboration, communication, and planning is critical to AIS prevention, detection, management, and eradication.
- 4. Maintain access to the water:** Laws, regulations, and policies addressing AIS at the federal, state, regional, and tribal levels should maintain access for boaters, anglers, and other users of our waterways in a manner that seeks to balance the use of waterways with the ecological health and long-term sustainability of critical natural resources.
- 5. Public education and engagement:** Education of and outreach to the public, especially outdoor users like anglers, boaters, and hunters, and other conservationists, should be conducted to help reduce the persistent threats of AIS in federal, state, and tribal AIS programs and funding opportunities.



Priority #1 - New AIS legislation should build on and modernize the existing policy.

1.1 - Foundational laws governing invasive species must be reviewed and modernized to address the existing and emergent biological threats of AIS.

1.2 - As the primary bodies governing the coordination of interagency management, the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), the Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC) and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), respectively, must be strengthened to meet the challenges of AIS prevention and control.

1.3 - To strengthen ballast water management, all vessels that engage in ballast water discharge must adhere to U.S. law and consistent international standards.

Priority #2 - Strategic, Targeted, Funding for AIS Prevention and Management

2.1 - Federal funding should support proven management plans and alleviate capital constraints on state and tribal agencies.

2.2 - Federal funding should boost research and pioneer innovations in AIS prevention, detection, management, control, and eradication of AIS and their pathways.

2.3 - Federal funding should be targeted at prevention and EDRR, and to build capacity and flexibility for when AIS outbreaks are detected.

Priority #3 - Federal-State, Interstate, Tribal, Regional, International and Interagency Coordination

3.1 - Congress should direct appropriate agencies to clarify regulatory authority among state, tribal, federal, and interagency entities to identify regulatory gaps, redundancies, and weak links and to identify areas for collaboration and resource-leveraging.

3.2 - Congress should direct the appropriate agencies or the ANSTF to identify priority ecosystems that may be more vulnerable to invasion under changing environmental conditions.

3.3 - Congress should further fund and support the ongoing development of a shared, dynamic framework and toolkit for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).

3.4 - To maximize efficiency, federal agencies should work to enhance information sharing and data-driven solutions to aid in the development of AIS management processes, including prevention, control, and management and EDRR plans while monitoring is shared to ensure resources are leveraged.

Priority #4 - Laws, regulations, and policies addressing AIS should maintain access for boaters, anglers, and other users of our waterways in a manner that seeks to balance the use of waterways with the ecological health and long-term sustainability of critical natural resources.

4.1 - Federal, state, and tribal agencies should work to establish a more coordinated, expedient, and reciprocal process for watercraft inspection, decontamination, and enforcement.

4.2 - Federal policy should seek to incentivize the further development of AIS-resistant boating and recreational equipment.

Priority #5 - Education of and outreach to the public, especially outdoor users like anglers, boaters, and hunters, should be conducted to help reduce the persistent threats of AIS in federal, state, and tribal AIS programs and funding opportunities.

5.1 - Federal policy should seek to strengthen market-based incentives for AIS harvest, processing, use, and consumption.

5.2 - Natural resource managers should maintain and enhance successful public engagement strategies that support behavioral change and reach underserved or underrepresented audiences.

Upcoming Events

Save These Dates!



Special Project: Infrastructure Law Prevention Grant

- Install 102 PlayCleanGo Boot Brush Stations on DOI Properties
- Develop Model Legal Framework for Noxious Weed Programs
- Develop a Market Research Study for the Forage, Gravel, Mulch, Compost, and Soil Industries
- WFP Toolkit, Marketing Plan, and Online Database



Learn all about it on June 21st at 11am PT

<https://naisma.org/events>



Annual Conference

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Lincoln, NE - 2023

- 2023 Annual Conference
 - Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln, NE
 - October 16th-19th, 2023
- 2024 Annual Conference
 - Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula, MT

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 26 - March 3, 2024

- Planning for an in-person experience in Washington, D.C.
- Priority will be meeting with federal agencies and members of Congress.
- Undecided if NAISMA will offer a virtual webinar series.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- NISAW.org
- Facebook - @invasivespeciesweek



Thank you!

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