

National Invasive Species Act of 1996

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Coast Guard

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 4701 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990”, on November 29, 1990, as amended by the “National Invasive Species Act of 1996”, on October 26, 1996 (Public Law No. 104-332).

Summary:

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as amended by the [National Invasive Species Act of 1996 \(Act\)](#), was enacted to prevent and control infestations of the coastal inland waters of the United States by the zebra mussel and other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species. The Act was also enacted to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program and for other purposes.

The Act defines “nonindigenous species” as “any species or other viable biological material that enters an ecosystem beyond its historic range, including any such organisms transferred from one country into another.” “Aquatic nuisance species” is defined as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

The Act calls for a National Ballast Water Control Program, which will study ballast water exchange and its impact on the diversity and abundance of native species. The Act also establishes a Task Force to develop and implement a program to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species in U.S. waters.

Additionally, the Governor of each state may, after notice and opportunity for public comment, prepare and submit to the Task Force a comprehensive management plan for aquatic nuisance species (particularly the zebra mussel). The Governor can also submit to the Assistant Secretary of the Army a public facility management plan to help reduce infestations of zebra mussels.

Source: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/links/control.aspx>

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