

## Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Community of Practice (AISCoP)

### About

The ANSTF Communication and Education Committee-led Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Community of Practice (AISCoP, ace-op) is a network for Task Force members, regional panel members and observers, and other organizations whose work involves aquatic invasive species (AIS) outreach. A community of practice is a group of people who “share a concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.” Together, we can learn from one another, network, and explore and create innovative outreach programs, communication strategies, and resources on AIS.

Our work in outreach and education touches on every level of AIS management including early detection, monitoring, and volunteering. AIS affect almost every ecosystem in the U.S. To have the greatest potential impacts, content and collaborations for this group are widespread and multi-disciplinary. As the AISCoP grows, the goals and purpose of the group will evolve to meet needs of participants.

### We will be:

- A community that provides an ongoing, safe, and friendly environment to learn and grow professionally
- A resource for AIS professionals so that they can help communities explore management practices.
- An inclusive environment that provides equitable opportunities for diverse participants and partners to advance AIS management and inform decision-making on the national stage

### We will do this by:

- Supporting AIS outreach professionals by cross-training professional on models, methods and tools.
- Learning about the work of others, particularly NOAA, Sea Grant, Extension and others, including what they are doing in AIS outreach, citizen science or management
- Exploring the intersection of various scientific disciplines including natural resources and social science to improve AIS communications, outreach and education
- Developing new skills and tools to use in outreach programs, research, or volunteer management
- Hosting regular meetings to develop periodic professional development workshops, webinars, and conferences for members and their partners.

### We hope that AISCoP will:

- Provide support to enable ANSTF’s AISCoP to develop collaborations with other ISCoP networks, both terrestrial and aquatic
- Identify and find potential solutions for challenges in AIS outreach
- Provide guidance on AIS outreach issues impacting local, state, and federal policies and regulations.

## **Audiences**

Primary: Task Force members, regional panels, its members, observers, state AISCoP and ISCoPs who work with or engage others about AIS, and invasive species awareness events like NISAW or Play.Clean.Go awareness week

Potential Partners include: State AISCoP, ISCoPs, NOAA Community Science, Community Science Community of Practice, Land Grant, SciStarter, Citizen Science Association

## **Outputs**

- Number of meetings hosted with a target of quarterly web meetings and fall in-person meetings adjacent to conferences or ANSTF meetings
- Participation metrics including the number of members and meeting attendees
- Number of outreach products produced
- Annual evaluation of AISCoP members

## **ANSTF AISCoP Leaders:**

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