



NJ Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

An Introduction and Overview of Efforts to Develop a Management
Plan for New Jersey

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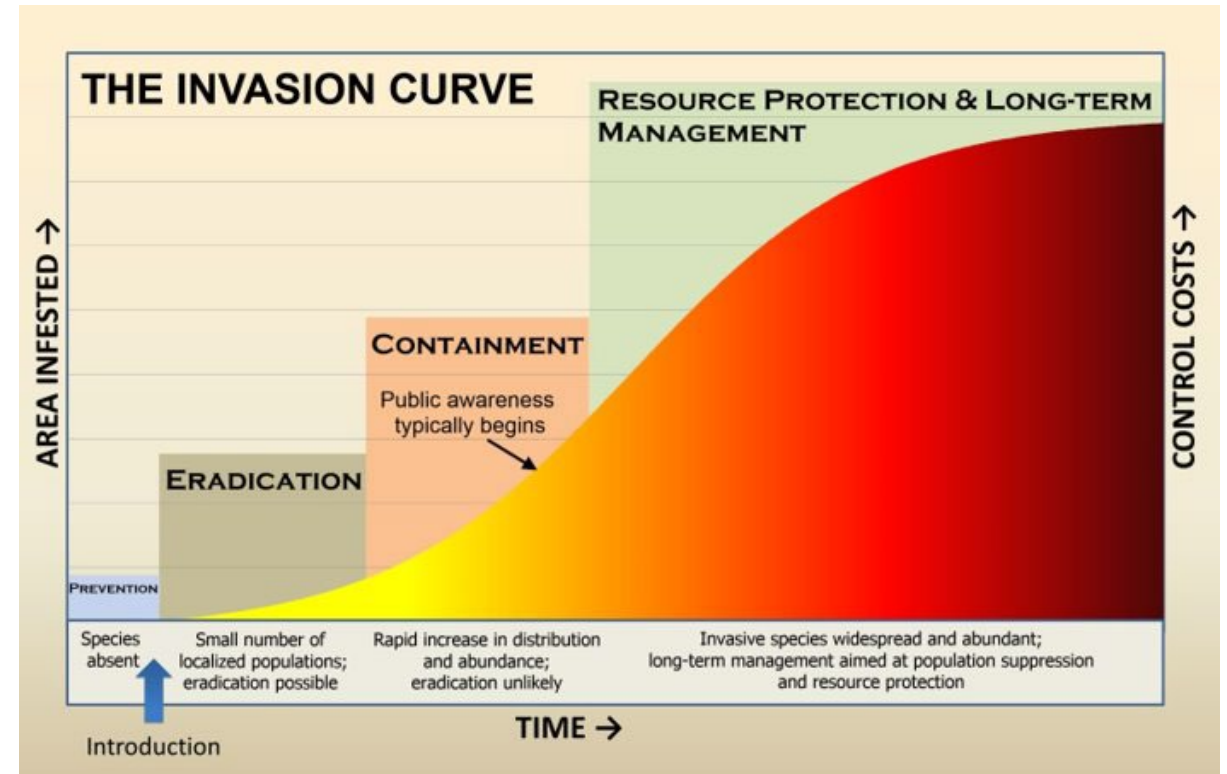
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Definition:



An aquatic invasive species is a freshwater or marine organism that has spread or been introduced beyond its native range and is either causing harm or has the potential to cause harm (USFWS).

Plants or animals (such as fishes, crabs, mussels, or frogs) that depend on water for a least one stage of its life.



In US, there are more than 250 non-native aquatic species and about 450 in North America.

Examples from NJ:



5551944

Current AIS Management Efforts

Examples:

- Lake management activities
- Tracking and surveys (e.g., physical sampling, eDNA collection)
- Targeted eradication (e.g., silty pond mussel)

Issue/Problem:

- Limited regulation (NJ Fish code lists "potentially dangerous species" that should not be released and reported if encountered)
- Limited coordination or support (NJ has a strategic management plan for IS, but has not fully implemented it)
- Limited funding (at present, only federal grants – e.g., DFW, State Parks, Forestry)
- No dedicated staff
- No statewide database, mapping, or reporting requirements



The AIS (or ANS) Management Plan



- Coordinate statewide AIS or ANS management efforts, priorities, and needs
- Guide monitoring and response efforts statewide
- Evaluate opportunities for AIS prevention
- Establish & maintain funding sources for spread prevention, control, eradication
- An approved plan allows for states to apply for federal funding for implementation



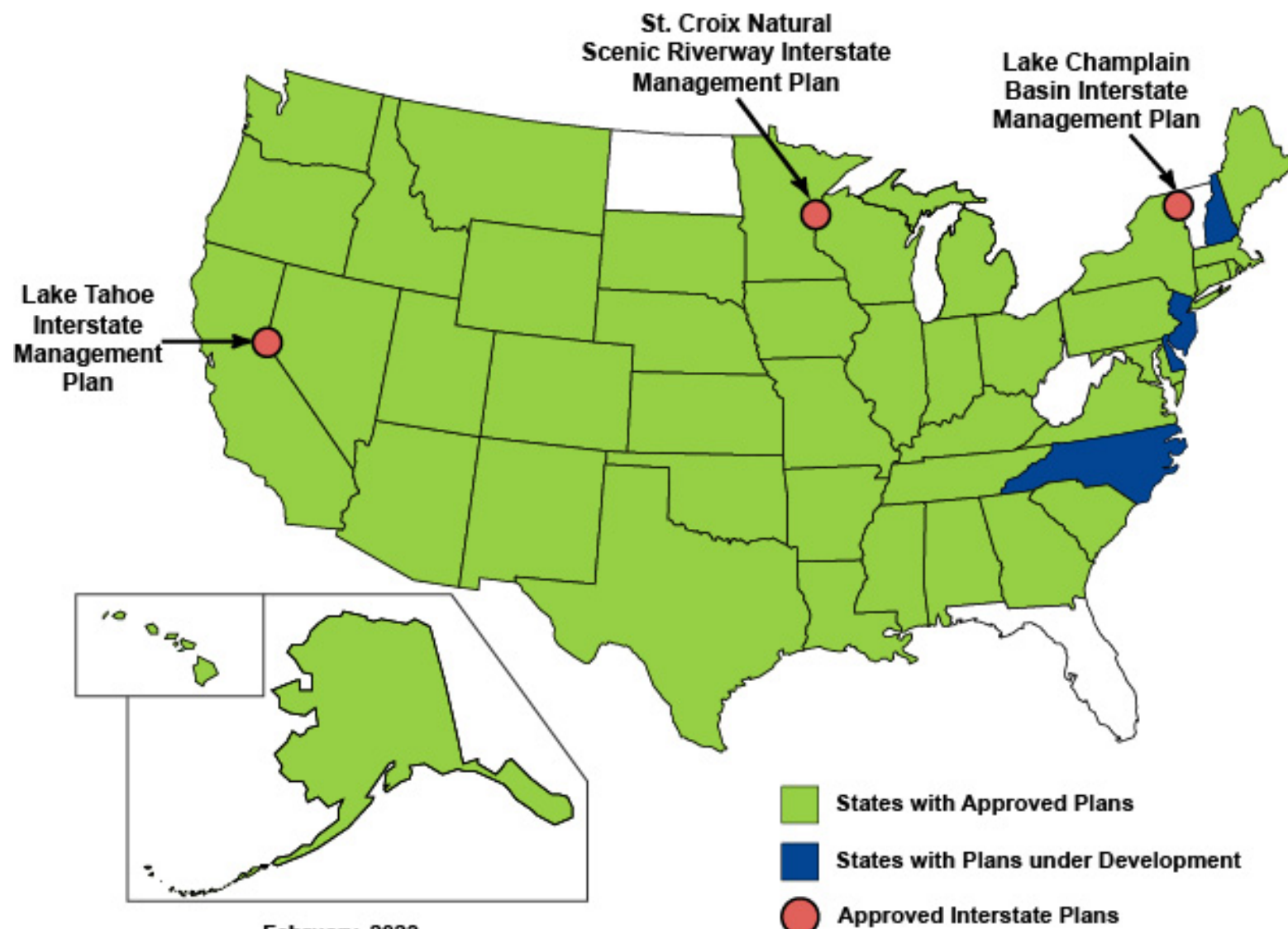
Federal Authority & Guidance (ANSTF)

- Established by Congress with the passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the National Invasive Species Act in 1996.
 - Composed of 13 Federal and 13 ex-officio members
 - Works with partners to protect the waters of the United States by creating a coordinated, unified network that raises awareness and takes action to prevent and manage aquatic nuisance species.
- Co-chaired by USFWS and NOAA.
- Provides guidance and technical support to develop state or interstate AIS management plans.



Status of State ANS Management Plans

(45 Approved Plans - 42 State, and 3 Interstate)



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Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

NJ AISMP – Process & Outline

Developed by a **Core Team** comprised of DEP, NJWSA, and Little Bear Environmental Consulting

Did **not** start from scratch

Utilized styles of various states plans – **what meets NJ's needs?**

NJ-specific AIS list (using data from DEP, neighboring states, federal resources, and other partners)

5 Main Objectives (including AIS pathway mitigation, species ranking, Case studies)

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/news/> (Posted 12/08/2023)





NJ AISMP Goals

- Identify **technical, enforcement, and financial assistance** required to reduce the environmental, public health, and safety risks associated with AIS.
- **Focus on** how the State can identify **new and emerging threats** and focus limited resources on appropriate projects/areas.
- **Provide a framework to be used by the NJDEP** as the lead agency in cooperation with a series of working groups and collaborative organizations.
- **Propose action items** with assigned priority rankings (critical, high, moderate, low).





Objectives

1. Oversight & Coordination
2. Prevention
3. Surveillance & Early Detection
4. Response & Restoration
5. Long-term Control & Evaluation

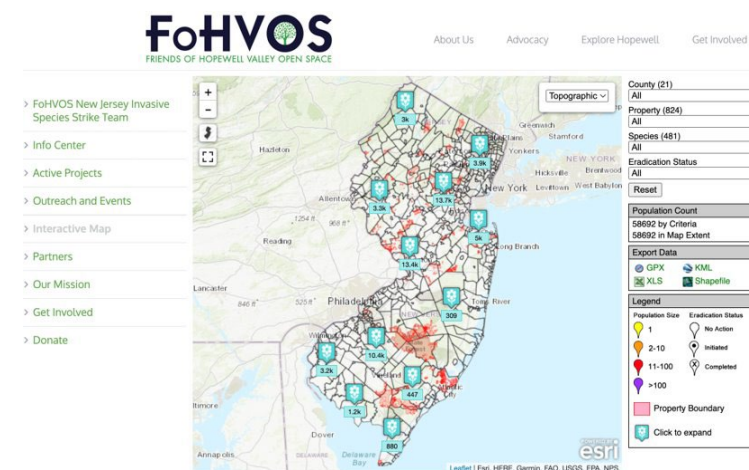


Taxa	Count
Fishes	39
Mollusks	27
Reptiles	1
Invertebrates	54
Pathogens	3
Birds	1
Plants	50
Algae	8
Mammals	1
Total (NJ)*	184

★Current count.

AIS List – Data Compilation

- NJDEP
- FoHIVOS – NJISST
- EDDMapS
- USGS NAS Database
- Neighboring States (NY, PA, DE)



Top Priorities



Create AIS Coordinator Position within NJDEP.



Establish Statewide AIS database manager position within NJDEP.



Establish iMapInvasives as the state-wide standard for AIS reporting and database in New Jersey.



Establish funding pathway for long-term implementation.



Partner with neighboring states and other entities to coordinate cross-jurisdictional goals.



Establish specialized working groups (e.g., Prioritization WG, Ed & Outreach WG, etc.).

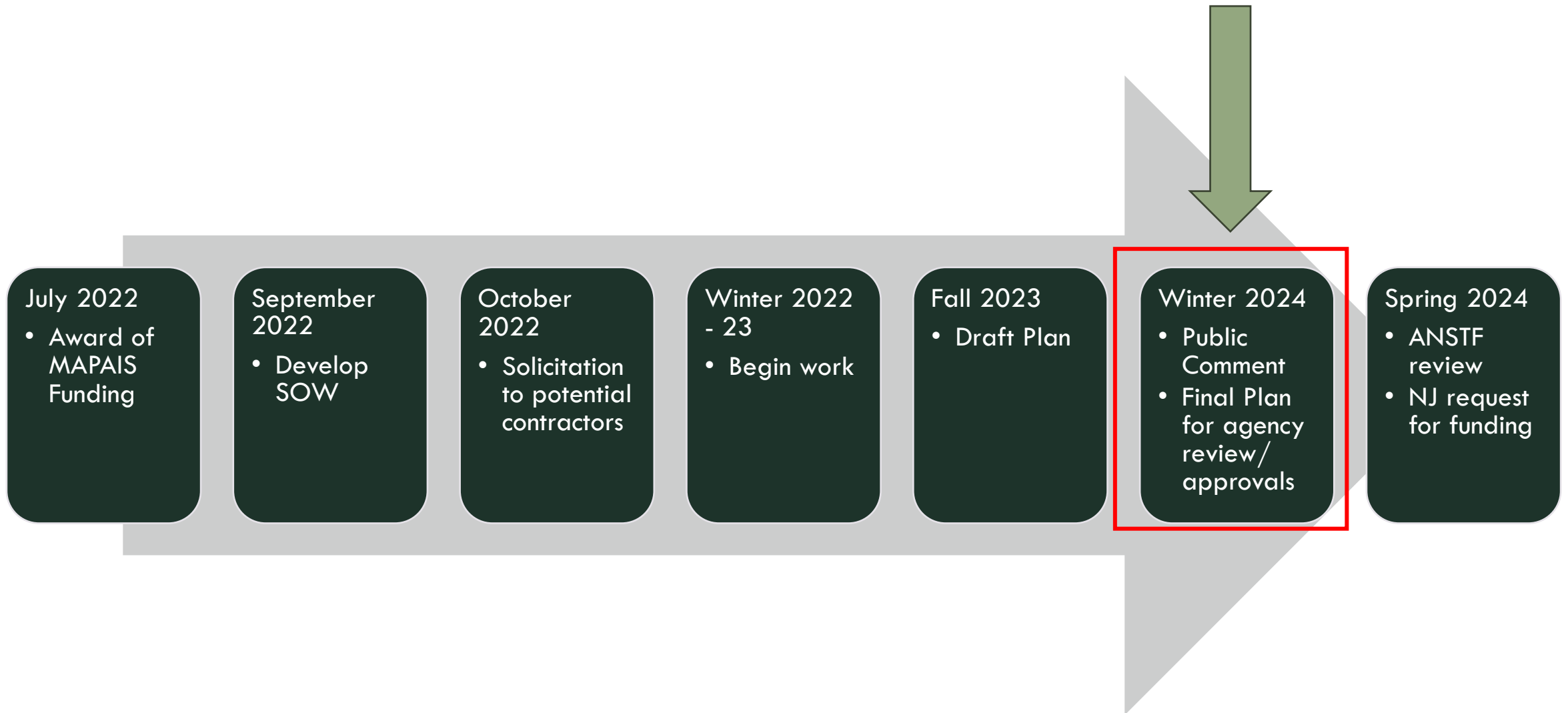


Create and provide a reporting platform statewide for the public.

NJ AISMP Working Group Member Organizations

NJDEP - Div. of Science & Research	NJDEP - Fish & Wildlife	NJ Water Supply Authority	NJDEP – State Park Service	NJDEP – Natural Heritage Program	NJDEP – Div. of Water Monitoring & Standards
NJ Department of Agriculture	NJ Pinelands Commission	NJ Sea Grant Consortium	Rutgers University	Montclair State University	Stockton University
Rowan University	Jacques Cousteau NERR	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space / NJISST	NJ Conservation Foundation	NJ Coalition of Lake Associations
	Lake Hopatcong Foundation	Musconetcong Watershed Association	Raritan Headwaters Association	Trout Unlimited	

New Jersey AISMP Timeline





Thank You!

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For more on AIS, please visit: [NJFW](#) | [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)