

Regional Panel Recommendation Submission Form

- To be completed by the Regional Panel -

Regional Panel(s): Mid-Atlantic

Date Submitted: June 16, 2021

Recommendation to the ANS Task Force: *State the recommended action including the following information, as appropriate.*

- **What:** What is the issue or challenge
- **Who:** *State which ANS Task Force members or committees should be responsible in responding to the recommendation.*
- **How:** *Describe the recommended approach to address the recommendation and desired outcome*
- **Timeline:** *Is the action time sensitive? If so, describe.*

The Mid-Atlantic Regional panel recommends that the Commonwealth of Virginia seek funding under the Nutria Control and Eradication Act of 2020 in order to control and eventually eradicate this invasive species in the Commonwealth, completing the eradication of nutria from the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Panel further recommends that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force as a whole - and its member agencies individually - vigorously support Virginia's fiscal request. This is a time sensitive request and it is imperative that Virginia receive funding in the near future to implement the Mid-Atlantic Nutria Management Plan.

Background Information: *In applicable, state key facts and pertinent information that has led up to the recommendation.*

The invasive rodent nutria has proven its capacity to destroy tidal wetlands, endangering wetland fish, wildlife, and ecosystem services and causing economic damage to fishing and tourism industries in under-resourced rural communities. It is established that nutria can be successfully eradicated in the Chesapeake Region, where the Eastern Shore population in Maryland has been completely removed. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Agriculture – Virginia Office of Wildlife Services have cooperated for years to develop and implement the Mid-Atlantic Nutria Management Plan, and are now poised to initiate this eradication, if funding is provided for this purpose.

Link to ANS Task Force Strategic Plan: *State the goal(s) or objective(s) in the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan that would be supported by the recommendation.*

Goal 4: Facilitate capabilities to contain and control established ANS and restore native species and ecosystems

List of Attached Documents or Images (optional):

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Relevant Federal Member Responses:

Federal Agency Member	Response (e.g., support or concerns)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
Bureau of Land Management	
Bureau of Reclamation	
Department of State	
Environmental Protection Agency	
National Park Service	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
U.S. Coast Guard	
U.S. Department of Agriculture	
U.S. Department of Transportation	
U.S. Forest Service	
U.S. Geological Survey	

Final Task Force Resulting Action:

Action: Describe action to be taken and timeline for completion. If the recommended approach from the regional panel is not being implemented, include justification for modification.

No Action: Include justification if no action will be taken.

