

### fact sheet

“The concept of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP) is visionary in its scope. The transfer of invasive species to the Pacific region and within the region is real, ongoing, and an increasing problem that must be addressed.”

— from the REGIONAL BIOSECURITY PLAN FOR MICRONESIA AND HAWAII

#### THE NEED

Invasive species<sup>1</sup> are the single greatest long-term threat to Pacific Island economies, environments, cultures, and livelihoods. Invasive species can be readily transported around the world on military and civilian conveyances, equipment, and personnel. Thus, the relocation of U.S. military forces from Okinawa (Japan) to Guam, and simultaneous expansion of military training operations in Micronesia has raised considerable concern.<sup>2</sup> Recognizing the need to minimize the risks of biological invasion, the Department of the Navy (DON) invested \$3.8 million in the development of a Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii (RBP, 2015).<sup>3</sup> The RBP provides strategic guidance and sets forth the priority actions necessary to strengthen biosecurity in Micronesia and Hawaii. The document was developed with input from a wide range of technical experts.

#### THE SCOPE

Biosecurity is the management of the risks to animal, plant, human, and environmental health posed by pests and diseases. The RBP provides biosecurity recommendations for the state of Hawaii; the U.S. territories of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam; the U.S. affiliate islands of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau; and the U.S. government (as it relates to departmental jurisdictions within the region).

#### THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the RBP is to: a) evaluate terrestrial, marine, and freshwater invasive species risk and b) provide a regionally-vetted biosecurity plan that will guide implementation efforts across the region. RBP guidance calls for the establishment of a coordinated and consistent strategy across multiple jurisdictions. The RBP is intended to remain a living document that the relevant jurisdictions implement within the context of their own priorities, needs, and capacities. The RBP recommends that the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) update the U.S. section of the implementation strategy every 3 years. The next RBP update is scheduled for March 2018.

#### FEDERAL GUIDANCE

The RBP consists of four volumes, including an executive summary and general recommendations (vol. I), as well as the freshwater (vol. II), marine (vol. III), and terrestrial (vol. IV) risk assessments. There are more than 400 recommendations directed at federal departments, agencies, or programs. These recommendations do not create any right, obligation, or legal responsibility on the part of any of these jurisdictions to fund or execute the RBP. A summary of the RBP recommendations to federal departments and agencies follows. It is important to note that while presented by federal department, the recommendations envision coordination among multiple agencies at all levels of government and are intended to be accomplished through existing mandates as resources permit.



1 Invasive species<sup>1</sup> means, with regard to a particular ecosystem, a non-native organism whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human, animal, or plant health. Executive Order 13751 of December 8, 2016

2 U.S. Department of the Navy. 2015. Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii, Vol 1. Eds. University of Guam and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

3 <http://bit.ly/2kHilQO>



## National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Departments and Agencies

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Ensure long term support for biosecurity efforts within the region
- Ensure that the RBP remains relevant by updating recommendation components on a regular basis
- Establish and enforce ballast water standards
- Improve awareness of biosecurity and invasive species
- Improve ballast water standards and compliance
- Improve biosecurity elements in regards to garbage
- Improve biosecurity elements on Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB)
- Improve biosecurity for the movement of vehicles and equipment
- Improve border biosecurity
- Improve communication, facilitation, and joint biosecurity activities with civilian counterparts
- Improve communications and ability to address biosecurity concerns between U.S. DOD and civilian government agencies
- Improve early detection and rapid response capacity
- Improve invasive species management for facilities
- Improve hull fouling standards and compliance
- Improve pre-departure and pre-arrival biosecurity
- Improve regulation and compliance of wood packaging material (WPM)
- Improve specifics in regards to biosecurity and the proposed build-up in the Mariana islands
- Improve statewide biosecurity and coordination
- Increase biosecurity surveillance measures and interception at both military and commercial airports and harbors
- Support improvement to biosecurity elements of partnering militaries
- Support improving biosecurity for DOD activities
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts

“The RBP for Micronesia and Hawaii is a significant accomplishment in our fight against invasive species, and we look forward to working with our partners in the Pacific to ensure the protection of sensitive island environments. The RBP arms us with the tools necessary to succeed in this endeavor.”

—DON SCHREGARDUS, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment), April 2015

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Better support management and control of the brown tree snake
- Develop jurisdiction specific invasive species education and awareness programs that are adequately funded and otherwise supported
- Improve early detection and rapid response capacity
- Improve efforts to restore native ecosystems and species
- Improve funding and funding support for biosecurity within the region
- Improve importation protocols
- Improve local and federal coordination of biosecurity elements
- Improve post-border biosecurity
- Improve regional communication on invasive species and biosecurity issues and support of jurisdictional and regional efforts
- Improve regional coordination regarding biosecurity and invasive species
- Improve statewide biosecurity and coordination
- Improve territorial invasive species/biosecurity coordination
- Increase management and control of established invasive species
- Reduce risk associated with live traded species
- Support efforts to increase marine and aquatic biosecurity efforts in the region



- Support increased federal assistance with biosecurity
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts
- Support the establishment and enforcement of biofouling standards

“The approach used to develop the RBP explicitly considers multiple vectors and environments (marine, freshwater, and terrestrial systems) together, using an appropriate spatial scale at which invasions operate.”

— *from the* REGIONAL BIOSECURITY PLAN FOR MICRONESIA AND HAWAII

#### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)**

- Improve agriculture biosecurity and food security
- Improve biosecurity for the movement of vehicles/equipment
- Improve border and pre-border security
- Improve capacity building and maintenance within biosecurity agencies
- Improve early detection and rapid response capacity
- Improve funding and funding support for biosecurity within the region
- Improve importation protocols
- Improve laws and regulations
- Improve local and federal coordination of biosecurity elements
- Improve mail biosecurity including mail and private couriers
- Improve post-border security
- Improve regional and state coordination regarding biosecurity and invasive species
- Improve regulation and compliance of wood packaging material (WPM)
- Improve support of management and control of the brown tree snake
- Increase biosecurity surveillance measures and interception at both military and commercial airports and harbors including all entry points and screening check points
- Increase efforts to eradicate targeted species
- Increase export potential
- Increase management and control of established invasive species
- Reduce risk associated with live-traded species
- Support improvements in regards to regulated garbage
- Support improving biosecurity for DOD activities
- Support increased federal assistance with biosecurity
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts
- Support the establishment of a regional invasive species coordination office

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (NOAA) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Support improved ballast water standards and enforcement
- Support the establishment and enforcement of biofouling standards
- Improve regional communication on invasive species and biosecurity issues and support of jurisdictional and regional efforts
- Support efforts to increase marine and aquatic biosecurity efforts in the region
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts

#### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Improve intra-state biosecurity and foreign arrivals at ports other than the main air and sea ports
- Improve statewide biosecurity and coordination

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Develop capacity to deal with grounded and/or abandoned vessels
- Establish and enforce ballast water standards and support U.S. affiliated islands with establishing and enforcing ballast water standards

- Support increased federal assistance with biosecurity
- Improve biosecurity elements at the Guam International Airport
- Improve hull fouling standards and compliance
- Increase biosecurity surveillance measures and interception at both military and commercial airports and harbors including all entry points and screening check points
- Support improved ballast water and biofouling standards and enforcement
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)**

- Complete support capability analysis to determine and quantify the DOD's ability to afford or provide support to severe outbreak scenarios

#### **U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)**

- Address climate change linkages to invasive pests on U.S. affiliated islands

“People, infrastructure, and ecological systems are at great risk. We need a unified defense – a unified approach to minimizing the spread and impact of invasive species in the Pacific.”

—JAMIE K. REASER, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council

#### **NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (NISC)**

- Ensure that the RBP remains relevant by updating recommendation components on a regular basis
- Improve regional communication on invasive species and biosecurity issues and support of jurisdictional and regional efforts
- Support regional agreements to limit the movement of known harmful species
- Support regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts
- Support the establishment of a regional invasive species coordination office

