

# **Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Issues Background and Historical Perspective**

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## **History of the Corps' ANS Research**

- Role of ERDC-EL
- 30+ years of aquatic plant research
- 1991 – Given task of zebra mussel control
- Present – Broad, general ANS role



## **Aquatic Plant Control Research Program**

- **Freshwater emphasis**
- **Biological, chemical, & mechanical control**
- **Plant physiological ecology**
- **Habitat restoration**
- **Research (ERDC) & Operations (Jacksonville District)**



## **Zebra Mussel Research Program**

- **1988 Great Lakes meetings**
- **1991 Environmentally sound control strategies for public facilities**
- **1991- 93 - Facilities working groups**
- **1991- 98 - International meetings with Ontario Hydro**
- **1998 – Incorporated into ANS program**

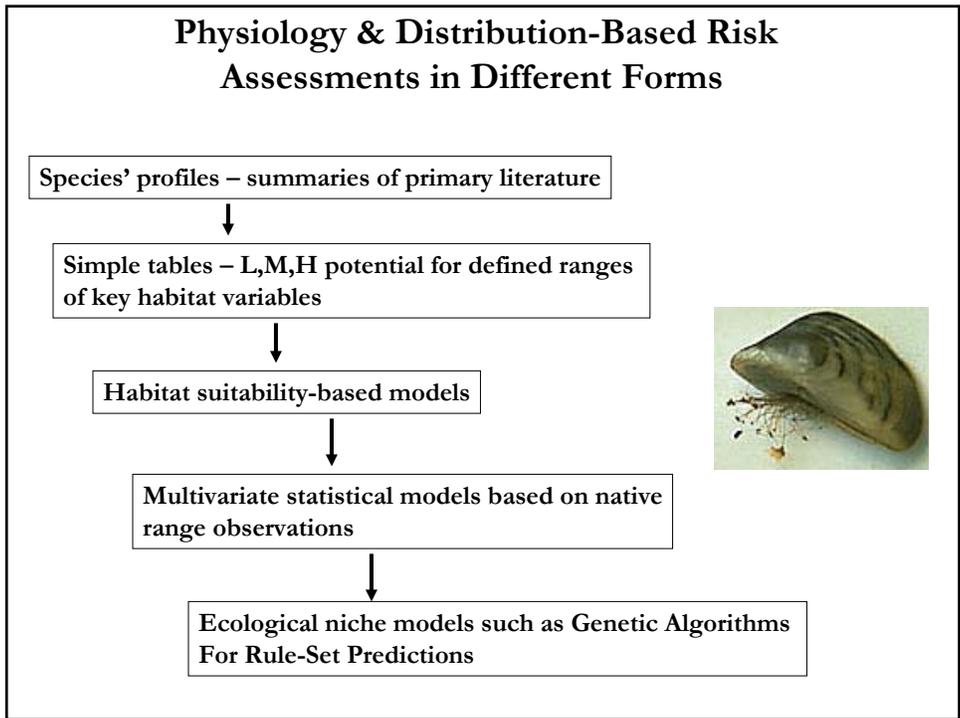


## The Working Group Concept




**Facility operators**  
**Biologists, ecologists**  
**Experts on control methods**  
**Public affairs & information transfer**



## **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force**

- **Funded by 1991 legislation**
- **Clinton's 1998 Executive Order encouraged broad ANS interests**
- **Corps research was not strongly connected to Task Force strategies**
- **Corps' prominence in this field diminished**



## **Considerations for this Workshop**

- **Successful templates**
  - Western Regional Panel
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian initiative
  - Successful western ANS actions
- **Methods to better define Corps' role**
  - Invasive Species Leadership Team
  - USACE case studies: Opportunities to apply 'r & D'