

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject: Governor's Invasive Species Council	Number: 2004-1 As Amended
Date: September 18, 2006	By Direction of:  Edward G. Rendell, Governor

WHEREAS, nonnative invasive species are a national problem that pose significant environmental and economic threats to the Commonwealth's natural resources and resource-based industries, and may be detrimental to public health and safety; and

- WHEREAS, nonnative invasive species pose a significant threat to biodiversity which is essential for the Commonwealth's economic, environmental, and social well-being; and

- WHEREAS, preventing new introductions of nonnative invasive species and limiting the spread of established populations into uninfested areas is both environmentally responsible and economically beneficial; and

WHEREAS, federal *Executive Order 13112* acknowledges that nonnative invasive species fail to recognize jurisdictional boundaries, thus creating a need for enhanced coordination between local, state, regional, and federal entities; and

WHEREAS, the *National Invasive Species Act of 1996* provides federal funding to states that voluntarily implement a federally approved aquatic invasive species management plan; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Governor and the Commonwealth would benefit from the advice and counsel of an official representative body of natural resource managers, policymakers, and researchers engaged in abating the introduction and spread of nonnative invasive species in Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby establish the **Governor's Invasive Species Council** (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as hereinafter set forth.

1. Purpose. The Council shall:

- **a.** advise the Governor on and direct the development and implementation of a state nonnative invasive species management plan.

b. provide guidance on prevention, control, and rapid response initiatives.

c. facilitate coordination among federal, regional, state, and local efforts.

2. Responsibilities. The Council shall:

- a. develop and implement a comprehensive nonnative invasive species management plan for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and revise the plan at regular five year intervals or as needed.

- b. provide guidance on prevention and control of nonnative invasive species and rapid response to new infestations. The council shall utilize scientific methods and procedures to assist in developing such guidance. In addition, the Council may consider the potential for wide-spread harm to public health, an ecological system or the economic benefit derived from a non-native species to determine whether such needs control measures.

- c. facilitate coordination among federal, regional, state, and local initiatives and organizations engaged in the management of nonnative invasive species.

d. convene at least quarterly and at the call of the chair of the Council.

e. adopt rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this order.

3. Composition of the Council.

a. The Secretary of Agriculture will serve as Chairperson of the Council. The membership will include agency heads of this Commonwealth or their designees responsible for the conservation of agricultural and natural resources and the protection of public health, each of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, including the:

(1) Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(2) Secretary of Environmental Protection.

(3) Secretary of Health.

(4) Secretary of Transportation.

(5) Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission.

(6) Executive Director of the Game Commission.

- b. In addition, the Council will have up to 10 members of the public representing agriculture and natural resource organizations and educational institutions conducting nonnative invasive species research and outreach. The members of the public will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. A member of the public appointed to the Council under this subsection may have a designee act on the member's behalf, if the member first provides the Chairperson a copy of the member's written designation authorizing the designee to so act.

4. Terms of Membership. The 10 members of the public representing agriculture and natural resources organizations and educational institutions will be appointed for terms of two years and will continue to serve thereafter until their successors have been appointed. The Governor will fill vacancies that may occur and may remove any member from the Council at his discretion.

5. Compensation. Members of the Council will receive no additional compensation for their service as Council members. Non-government members will be reimbursed for travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

6. Cooperation by State Agencies. All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall cooperate with and provide assistance and support as needed by the Council to carry out its functions effectively.

7. Reports. In addition to the recommendations described above, the Council shall submit to the Governor a biennial report on the Council's activities.

8. Effective Date. This *Executive Order* shall take effect immediately.

9. Termination Date. This *Executive Order* shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.