

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT DECADE IN ANS PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Sarah Whitney, Program Specialist, Great Lakes Commission

Over the past decade, significant effort has been devoted to combating the invasion of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in the Great Lakes and inland waters. These invasions, however, continue to threaten the ecological integrity and economic health of the region. Prevention and control of ANS remains a federal priority, evidenced by the pending reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA). As Congress and regional stakeholders begin to pursue the reauthorization process, the opportunity must be seized to strengthen the legislation to further advance ANS prevention and control efforts in the next decade.

The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species has developed a series of recommendations for consideration during the NISA legislative process. Based on findings from the symposium *Looking Forward, Looking Back: Assessing Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control* (Ann Arbor, Mich., May 2001), the recommendations represent a wide array of stakeholder interests. The workshop, sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Panel, examined the progress realized under NISA and identified unmet needs in the legislation. A concerted effort was made to recognize emerging issues that will drive future ANS prevention and control programs. A format of plenary and break-out sessions provided the opportunity to build consensus among participants during development of the recommendations. Symposium participants included representatives from U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, state and provincial agencies, regional organizations, user groups, tribal authorities, commercial interests, non-governmental organizations and the research community.

The Great Lakes Panel's recommendations are broken into five areas of focus as supported by the workshop: institutional framework and implementation; research and monitoring; ballast water and stan-

dards; information and education; and non-ballast prevention and control.

The institutional framework and implementation recommendations call for enhanced international cooperation on ANS prevention and control efforts. These recommendations also encourage the empowerment of regional state and local entities to implement NISA. The Panel also proposes that the legislation include measurable goals and objectives that can be evaluated.

Recommendations in the second category aim to elevate the importance given to ANS research and monitoring efforts. The Panel recommends that research focus on rapid response containment and eradication measures. Monitoring efforts also should be expanded to include the status of ballast of all ships entering U.S. waters. In addition, ecological surveys should be used as a long-term monitoring tool to determine the measurable effects of prevention and control efforts.

The Panel's ballast water and standards recommendations call for the establishment of a measurable and enforceable national ballast water standard. The Panel also recognizes the value of using incentives to encourage the shipping industry to adapt the technology/practices necessary to meet the standard. In addition, enhanced ballast management plans and ballast water exchange verification requirements should be developed and implemented. The intent of these recommendations is to move toward the long-term goal of zero ANS introductions from ballast water and sediment.

The information and education (I/E) recommendations focus on elevating and clarifying the role of I/E programs that support ANS prevention and control efforts, as well as implementing specific methods for evaluating the effectiveness of I/E efforts under NISA. The recommendations also call for designating a lead agency to coordinate I/E efforts, and increasing outreach efforts to state and tribal authorities on

the importance of ANS management plans to effectively advance ANS prevention and control.

The non-ballast prevention and control recommendations call for funding for states to develop, as well as implement, ANS management plans. The recommendations recognize the need for heightened awareness of the role that commercial and recreational activities hold in ANS introduction and spread. The creation of a national rapid response protocol, which would serve as guidance for state/federal agencies in response to a new ANS introduction, is also identified as a priority. In addition, the recommendations also identify the need for innovative approaches for controlling ANS introduction and spread, such as continued operation and improvement of the electronic dispersal barrier in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

As the NISA reauthorization process progresses, the Great Lakes Panel will work to incorporate these recommendations into draft legislation. As was the case with the 1996 NISA reauthorization, there will be a concerted effort to work closely with members of Congress to pass the reauthorizing legislation and strengthen efforts targeting invasive species problems in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region and elsewhere. **Contact:** Sarah Whitney, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, swhitney@glc.org.

Great Lakes Panel Update

The Great Lakes Panel held its fall meeting Nov. 29-30, 2001, in Ann Arbor, Mich. At the meeting, six newly elected at-large members of the Panel were introduced: Allegra Cangelosi, Northeast-Midwest Institute; Helen Brohl, U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association; Beth MacKay, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Rich Mueller, Northeast Technical Services; Robert Baldwin, Michigan Aquaculture Association; and Richard Weidenhamer, Michigan Wholesale Bait Association.

The Panel discussed a variety of current policy initiatives, including recommendations for strengthening the National Invasive Species Act; the Panel's position on field tests of ballast water treatment technology; and coordination among the regional ANS panels. Also discussed was a new Great Lakes Commission project on the development of a model rapid response plan for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region. This plan is to be developed with the guidance of the Great Lakes Panel to provide the region with increased ability to anticipate and respond to ANS invasions. The plan also will facilitate the timely implementation of measures to maximize the probability of eradication or control. **Contact:** Katherine Glassner-Shwyder, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, shwyder@glc.org.

Washington Watch

Congress continues to move forward appropriations conference reports, with ANS allocations made in a variety of bills. The Commerce, Justice and State appropriations bill, Section 1104, funded the NISA/Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Project at \$2.25 million. Section 1202 ANS grants received \$800,000 to fund the ANS Task Force as well as prevention, monitoring, control and research of invasive species. Sea Grant ANS research received \$3 million, an increase of \$200,000 from the previous year. In the Energy and Water appropriations bill, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Plant Control Research Program was level funded at \$4 million. The Forest Service International Program, which develops biocontrol agents and mitigation strategies, received \$5.236 million. **Contact:** Joy Mulinex, Senate Great Lakes Task Force, Northeast-Midwest Institute, 202-224-1211, Joy_Mulinex@levin.senate.gov.

Around the Basin

MICHIGAN: Two projects focusing on exotic species were recently awarded grants through the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund. One project will identify reproductive pheromones to which round goby are attracted. This research will be useful in long-term efforts to determine which pheromones might be used as a control tool to keep gobies out of critical spawning grounds of native fish. The other grant provides funding for a ballast water demonstration project that will determine the efficacy of hypochlorite and copper ion as a ballast water treatment. Testing onboard Fednav's ship *Federal Yukon* began in November when the ship returned to Great Lakes' ports. **Contact:** Emily Finnell, MI DEQ, 517-241-7927, finnelle@state.mi.us.

MINNESOTA: Sea Grant, working with state natural resource agencies and the bait industry, developed state-specific posters for bait shops to alert clerks and anglers

about measures for preventing the spread of ANS through bait fish. Sea Grant was awarded funding for three outreach projects to: 1) update ANS WATCH ID cards for ruffe, round goby, spiny/fishhook waterfleas, purple loosestrife and European frog-bit; 2) educate teachers, students and citizens about ANS through an initiative involving newspapers, workshops and essay contests across the Great Lakes; and 3) enhance ANS-HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) training materials and hold six national workshops designed to prevent the spread of ANS via wild harvest fish, stocking and hatchery operations. The DNR is working on a reprint of *A Field Guide to Aquatic Exotic Plants and Animals* brochure and is looking for partners and revision suggestions. **Contact:** Doug Jensen, 218-726-8712, djensen1@d.umn.edu.

NEW YORK: DEC has been involved with the establishment of the Northeast Regional Panel on ANS. The panel will address both freshwater and marine ANS issues, and will include representatives from U.S. and Canadian federal agencies, regional organizations, user groups and commercial interests. State and provincial representation will be provided from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. Several organizational meetings have been held to determine roles and responsibilities, plan the organizational structure of the panel and identify potential participants. The Gulf of Maine Council volunteered to serve as the host agency. The Panel was recognized by the federal ANS Task Force in July 2001, and the first official meeting was held Nov. 26-27, 2001, in Portsmouth, N.H. **Contact:** Timothy Sinnott, NY DEC, 518-402-8970, txsinnott@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

ONTARIO: More than 150 people from across Canada, the United States and other countries attended a *National Workshop on Invasive Alien Species*, held in Ottawa on Nov. 5-7, 2001. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a framework for a Canadian national invasive alien species management plan. A draft of the plan should be completed by September 2002. The workshop format highlighted U.S. and Canadian speakers, including Kathe Glasner-Shwyder, who discussed the accomplishments of the Great Lakes Panel. Working sessions were conducted to identify issues, principles and recommended approaches. **Contact:** Alan Dextrase, 705-755-1950, alan.dextrase@mnr.gov.on.ca.

WISCONSIN: A 20-member task force is preparing to submit its final report to the governor in January detailing the resources needed to implement an invasive species program in Wisconsin. Round gobies were discovered in southern Green Bay earlier this summer. UW-Sea Grant has received funding to produce additional *Attack Packs*, proven to be very popular with school programs. Funding also will support a nationally televised fishing and hunting program to inform anglers about

ANS impacts and how to prevent their spread. The annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention, scheduled to be held in Green Bay on March 7-9, 2002, will feature four sessions on issues related to invasive aquatic species. **Contact:** Ron Martin, WI DNR, 608-266-9270, martir@dnr.state.wi.us.

National ANS Task Force

The national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will hold its spring 2002 meeting in Alexandria, Va., on Feb. 28 and March 1, following the 11th International Conference. The ANS Task Force, with support from the regional ANS panels, will hold a special session during the conference regarding consensus-building for regional policy on ANS prevention and control efforts.

The Task Force meeting will address several important issues, including the reauthorization of NISA; the strategic planning process of the Task Force; the *Caulerpa Taxifolia* Prevention Plan; the Management Plan for the Chinese Mitten Crab; and State/Interstate ANS management plans. All conference participants are encouraged to attend the Task Force meeting. **Contact:** Sharon Gross, US FWS, 703-358-2308, sharon.gross@fws.gov, www.anstaskforce.gov.

Upcoming Events

- *International Aquatic Invasive Species Conference*, Alexandria, Va., Feb. 26-28, 2002. **Contact:** Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs, Conference Administrator, 800-868-8776, profedge@renc.igs.net, www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org.
- *Invasive Species Screening Workshop*, Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 8-9, 2002. www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/ans/answorkshop.htm.

On the Bookshelf

- *Zebra mussels: Questions and Answers for Inland Lake Managers*. **Contact:** Robin Goettel, 217-333-9448, goettel@uiuc.edu.
- *Invasive Aquatic Plants: What Every Plant Enthusiast Needs to Know*. **Contact:** Robin Goettel, 217-333-9448, goettel@uiuc.edu.
- *Don't Dump Bait!* **Contact:** Robin Goettel, 217-333-9448, goettel@uiuc.edu.
- *ESCAPE Compendium Lesson Plans*. 2001. \$58 each plus shipping. **Contact:** Valerie Eichman, IL-IN Sea Grant, 217-333-8055, eichman@uiuc.edu, www.iisgcp.org and click on *ESCAPE* suitcase.
- *Community Stewardship Projects on Exotic Aquatic Species*. 2001. **Contact:** Valerie Eichman, IL-IN Sea Grant, 217-333-8055, eichman@uiuc.edu.