

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
Policy Coordination Committee Guidelines
October 2007

Mission Statement

The Policy Coordination Committee of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species promotes consistent and effective policy intended to influence governmental decisions to prevent and control aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Great Lakes region. The Committee is responsible for identifying policy priorities in areas such as legislation, management, and regulatory and budgetary needs to ensure that the Great Lakes provisions of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-646) are pursued to the maximum extent possible, as well as other strategies to advance AIS prevention and control. The Committee develops policy for consideration by the Panel to ultimately provide guidance to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (Task Force), states, provinces, tribes and other entities (e.g., International Joint Commission, federal decision making bodies) responsible for coordinating AIS program activities in the Great Lakes region.

Goals and Objectives

Responsibilities to the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species: The Policy Coordination Committee will identify AIS policy needs, and develop priority recommendations accordingly, to be considered by the Panel for endorsement.

Consistency among Panel Committees: The Policy Coordination Committee will coordinate with the other committees of the Great Lakes Panel to support consistency of work among the committees.

Regional Coordination: The Policy Coordination Committee will support the Panel in assisting the Task Force, as well as state, provincial, tribal, federal agencies and other pertinent entities, in coordinating AIS program activities in the Great Lakes region, including but not limited to—

- i. promoting and maintaining implementation of AIS management plans and to the extent possible, advancing coordination of the plans on a regional level;
- ii. securing adequate funding for Panel AIS activities;
- iii. developing and promoting model approaches and plans;
- iv. promote input to the U.S. federal regulatory rule-making process;
- v. promote enhanced provincial and Canadian federal action;
- vi. supporting the advancement of recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration as related to AIS prevention and control; and
- vii. other needs related to regional policy coordination.

Products of the Policy Coordination Committee: The Policy Coordination Committee will develop the following products to meet the needs of the Great Lakes region, including but not limited to—

- i. a document describing the priority needs of the region to be addressed by the Committee;
- ii. an annual committee work plan; and
- iii. policy statements for consideration by the Panel and dissemination to pertinent entities.

Communication with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force: The Panel chair will convey findings, products and other recommendations regarding AIS prevention and control to the ANS Task Force.