



*Common Themes from
Great Lakes SMP Workshops in
Building a Framework for
Regional ANS Management*

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Advancing the SMP Process

- Workshop as catalyst for advancing SMP at various stages of the process
 - Development (Minnesota, Pennsylvania)
 - Implementation of strategies (Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana)
 - Revision / updating (Ohio)
- Priorities and contexts for SMP development/implementation varied between states (one size didn't fit all)



Advancing the SMP Process

- Workshops have provided a framework for further SMP related activities
 - Ohio rapid response advisory group (*in development*)
 - Indiana invasive plant work group (*in development*)
 - Michigan public meetings on species listing
 - Pennsylvania follow-up meetings to complete SMP
 - Minnesota follow-up meetings
 - Wisconsin DNR AIS grant-writing workshop

Involving Stakeholders

- Workshops were structured to educate and involve stakeholders in the process
 - Stakeholder education, awareness
 - Informational presentations to increase understanding of AIS issues
 - Dissemination of educational materials
 - Advertising resources
 - Laying groundwork for regulations
 - Stakeholder input and “buy-in”
 - Break-out sessions to gather input
 - Discussion of issues towards consensus and prioritization of issues



Strengthening Relationships

Valuable project outcome:

- **Establish/strengthen partnerships between state agency, Sea Grant and regional entity**
- **MOU between the 3 sponsoring organizations**
 - Clarified roles, designated responsibilities, provided a mechanism for pass through of funds
 - Facilitated dialogue between sponsoring organizations
 - Lays the groundwork for future SMP work

Sharing Resources

- Involvement of 3 organizations to share the workload
 - Staff, funding, materials, time, ideas
- Drawing on the resources and expertise of the organizations
- Collaborative team-effort



Future Directions

- Addressing gaps and unmet needs:
 - Vector-based analysis
 - Identify high risk vectors and associated priority species using consensus based criteria
 - Evaluation of SMPs:
 - How to measure progress?
 - Adaptive management to increase SMP effectiveness
 - Building on relationships between states towards regional ANS management planning



Needs

- Encourage ANS Task Force to work with partners to obtain authorization for additional funding for regional ANS Panels
- Federal assistance (e.g., equipment, people) to implement state-led control/response strategies

