

Meeting Summary

Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

April 14-15, 2005

Courtyard Marriott-Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species met for one and a half days in plenary and committee sessions April 14-15, 2005. The following summary highlights the prominent issues voiced during the meeting sessions.

1) Great Lakes Panel Business

Organizational Strategy and Operational Guidance: Preliminary Draft

Staff will incorporate comments on the guidance document from discussion at the Great Lakes Panel meeting and comments offered by the Panel executive committee during a review period this summer. The revised version (second draft) of the *Organizational Strategy and Operational Guidance* will be circulated for review before the fall meeting. A final draft of the Panel's *Organizational Strategy and Operational Guidance* document is planned to be discussed at the fall Panel meeting and will be finalized upon approval by the Great Lakes Panel and the national ANS Task Force.

Panel Committees

- ***Information and Education (I/E) Committee***, Emily Finnell
 - **I/E Priorities Document:** The committee discussed the document, *AIS Information and Education Priorities for the Great Lakes*, currently on Great Lakes ANS website at: www.glc.org/ans/panel.html#committees. Panel members are invited to review the document and submit comments to Marcia Woodburn (woodburn@glc.org). A final draft of the I/E priorities document will be developed based on Panel comments and priorities identified in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, AIS Action Plan and supporting vector reports. The final draft of the document will be submitted to the Panel for review and comment and presented at the fall Panel meeting for discussion. The document will be finalized upon approval of the Great Lakes Panel which is expected at fall meeting.
 - **ANS Update:** The need was identified for guidelines regarding authorship and editorial review of the *ANS Update* feature article. Recommendations on these guidelines will be developed by committee that will be incorporated as part of the Panel's *Organizational Strategy and Operational Guidance*.
 - **AIS Brochure:** A detailed outline of the AIS brochure was discussed during the I/E committee meeting and presented to the Great Lakes Panel during plenary session. Panel members are invited to participate on a Project Advisory Committee (PAT) to guide continued work on the brochure (i.e., title, content and format). Those members interested in serving on the PAT should contact Marcia Woodburn (woodburn@glc.org) who will be leading a conference call on the brochure late summer. Project staff will disseminate a memo to the Panel membership for further details.

- **Research Coordination Committee**, Phil Moy, Committee Chair
 - Priorities Species List: Panel Members are urged to convey their thoughts on the Priorities Species list to the Committee chair, Phil Moy (pmoy@uwc.edu).
 - Research Priorities Document: Great Lakes Commission staff will coordinate conference calls with Committee members to further review and update the Research Priorities Document and Priority Invasive Species List.

- **Policy and Legislation Committee**, Helen Brohl, Committee Chair
 - **Recommendations/Action Items**
 - Panel staff will submit communication to the ANSTF legal counsel requesting guidance on how the FACA rules apply to operation of the Great Lakes Panel.
 - Guiding principals will then be developed by committee, based on these FACA guidelines.
 - An outreach proposal will be created by committee to educate and inform appropriate constituency regarding Great Lakes Panel policy on AIS prevention and control.
 - A recommendation will be submitted to the Panel and Task Force to rename the Policy and Legislation Committee to the “Policy Coordination Committee”.
 - Additional funding sources will be pursued for operation of the Panel.
 - The need was identified to define Panel procedures for delegating responsibility for priority issues to Panel committees. It was recommended that when the Panel agrees to address an issue, it should be directed to the relevant committee. Responsibility for providing recommendations on the issue should be assigned to the committee within a certain period of time. The ability of the committee to handle the issue will depend upon member engagement and staff support capabilities.

2) National ANS Task Force, Kari Duncan

- Reporting: A brief accomplishment report is requested from the Panel for the development of a Great Lakes Panel Annual Report for submission to Congress.
- ANS Task Force Webpage: Feedback from the Great Lakes Panel staff and members is requested regarding the content, appearance and accessibility of the ANSTF webpage redesign. Also requested are recommendations on how the web page can best serve the Panel.

3) National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, Jonathon Champion

Panel members are urged to:

- Send endorsements/letters of support to NAISA’s sponsors.
- Solicit additional cosponsors from both sides of the aisle around the country.
- Support Senators Chaffee and Clinton in scheduling a NAISA hearing in EPW subcommittee as soon as possible.

- Strongly support NAISA’s approach to regulating ballast water in efforts to dissuade Congress from adopting an approach similar to the IMO Convention.
- Point to NAISA as a reference point in discussing other invasive species legislation with sponsors and committees.

4) U.S. Coast Guard Presentation, Regan Blomshield

An invitation was extended to all Panel members to attend a No-Ballast-On-Board public meeting scheduled for May 9, 2005 in Cleveland, OH and the Great Lakes Waterways Management Form meeting, held in Cleveland on June 21st and 22nd

5) Organisms in Trade, Tim Eder

To support efforts of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), AIS Strategy Team, the Great Lakes Panel was encouraged to review and strengthen the model guidance document, *Legislation, Regulation and Policy for the Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species* with particular consideration for “organisms in trade.” The GLRC Organism in Trade drafting team has identified the need to develop a screening process that would employ the listing of species in efforts to move toward a precautionary versus a reactive approach. The drafting team believes that the model guidance document could help promote some of recommendations presented in the report of the Organism in Trade vector team under the GLRC regarding priority species and rational for the listing process.

5) Bilateral Actions between the U.S. and Canada on AIS, Jeff Fisher

Members are encouraged to contact Jeff Fisher (fisherjp@state.gov) for specific concerns regarding the priority settings of the State Department and Canadian agencies. When the State Department and Canadian agencies reconvene in May they will initially be focusing on AIS issues other than ballast water.

6) Habitattitude™, Doug Jensen

The Great Lakes Panel is encouraged to sign on as a partner for the *Habitattitude™* campaign (www.habitattitude.net) and provide a link to the campaign on the Panel web site. Panel members, in representing respective agencies, are also encouraged to do join the campaign to:

- promote existing campaign materials to aquarists and water gardeners and to help broaden partnerships;
- integrate the campaign into outreach materials;
- heighten awareness of releases in the context of AIS issues and natural resource protection;
- consider helping to staff booths at trade and consumer shows;
- provide presentations to society and associations meeting on a local level.

7) Great Lakes Commission Projects: Collaboration on State ANS Management Plans, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder

Great Lakes Commission staff will be taking steps to finalize a MOA with project partners from Sea Grant programs in each state to provide an administrative basis for project partnerships. Workshop planning efforts will continue with participating states. The conduct of state-specific workshops is expected to begin in the fall of 2005 as states express their interest. Outcomes of each workshop will be documented and provide the foundation for a culminating project regional summit planned for the fall of 2006.

8) Administrative Items

- Panel Meeting Presentations: Great Lakes Commission staff will post all PowerPoint presentations to the Panel Great Lakes ANS website along with contact information. PowerPoint presentations posted online will be converted into a PDF format to help ensure that they are protected from unauthorized use.
- Meeting Summary: Action items and minutes summarizing the Panel meeting will be developed by staff and disseminated via email to Panel members and posted online.
- The dates and location for the fall meeting of the Great Lakes Panel will be arranged by staff with input from the Panel Executive Committee.

9) Session on Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC): Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Vector Drafting Team Reports

Progress reports from the GLRC-AIS vector drafting teams were provided during plenary session at the Panel meeting. These vector-based reports (including aquaculture, canals and waterways, maritime commerce, organisms in trade, and recreational activities) provide the basis for the GLRC AIS Action Plan.

The following questions were offered as guidance on the discussion of the GLRC AIS initiative during break out sessions of the Panel Committees:

- What aspects of the GLRC AIS initiative are relevant to the work of the Great Lakes Panel, given the Panel's role in advising the national ANS Task Force?
- How should the GLRC-AIS Action Plan be applied to work of the Great Lakes Panel and/or the ANS Task Force particularly regarding the identified priorities.
- What role might be most beneficial for the members of the Great Lakes Panel to play on the GLRC-AIS initiative?
- Discuss general impressions on the GLRC initiative.

Based on committee discussions, the following action items were recommended on the GLRC-AIS initiative:

Information and Education Committee (Emily Finnell, Committee Chair)

- Great Lakes Panel and individual members should be fully knowledgeable on GLRC AIS Action Plan, including the vector-based reports upon which the action plan is based.
- Panel endorsement of GLRC-AIS Action Plan should be sent to national ANS Task Force.

- Information, education and outreach elements in GLRC AIS Action Plan and supporting vector reports need to be identified and integrated into the Panel's I/E priorities document.
- Opportunities should be identified for cross-pollination and reinforcement between work of Great Lakes Panel and GLRC-AIS initiative.
- The Panel should be utilized as a forum to facilitate, as appropriate, advancement of the GLRC-AIS initiative, such as convening/coordinating stakeholders and related implementation efforts.
- It was suggested to identify five priority I/E activities common to both the GLRC-AIS Action Plan and the Great Lakes Panel and incorporate these as part of the committee work plan.

Research Coordination Committee (Phil Moy, Committee Chair)

- Develop Panel position statement after review of the GLRC AIS Action Plan document.
- Play a role in integrating the Canadian perspective in the GLRC through work with the IJC.
- Provide feedback in a two-step process:
 - 1) Input on the vector reports to respective drafting teams.
 - 2) Recommendations on the GLRC-AIS Action Plan to the ANS Task Force.
- Panel should be acknowledged for the constructive infrastructure support based on institutional history) provided to the AIS vector drafting teams.
- The GLRC AIS Action Plan document should be assessed as to whether it adequately reflects the intent of the drafting teams.
- The drafting teams should list the Great Lakes Panel as a lead where appropriate and include funding for the Panel.
- The Great Lakes Panel may have a role in formal and informal coordination of state activities within the basin.
- Possibly include development of RFP's and review /coordination of proposals.

Policy and Legislation Committee (Helen Brohl, Committee Chair)

- Request clarification from the ANS Task Force regarding their role and that of the Panel regarding the GLRC-AIS initiative. Use this communication to the Task Force as an opportunity:
 - to recommend that the Panel be a regional coordinating agency for this initiative;
 - to take ownership of many of the GLRC-AIS related recommendations through Panel membership participation;
 - to reinforce that the Panel is a bi-national entity that can assist in facilitating engagement of Canadian partners on the GLRC initiative.
- Panel should review the GLRC-AIS vector drafting team reports to determine priorities that should be "adopted" by the Great Lakes Panel particularly with an eye towards establishing a relationship with GLRC-AIS initiative on a bi-national level.