

**Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
Spring Meeting: June 25-26, 2009
Grand Island, New York**

Action/Decision Items & Recommendations

Great Lakes Panel (GLP) Members and Executive Committee (ExCom)

- **Action Item for ExCom and Staff:** A distribution strategy for the GLP Committee Priorities Documents, targeting potential funders and project developers, will be developed and implemented this summer under the leadership of the I/E Committee. *(It is particularly important that the priorities documents are made available to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as guidance to support efforts under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).* The finalized priority documents will be disseminated as per the approved distribution strategy in August.
- **Action Item for Panel Members and Staff:** Member updates should be submitted to the GLP wiki (<http://wiki.glin.net/display/ANS/Great+Lakes+Panel+on+Aquatic+Nuisance+Species+Wiki>) if this has not yet been done. Any problems/questions should be referred to Erika Jensen (ejensen@glc.org).
- **Action Item for ExCom and Committee Members:** Continue development of GLP Committee work plans to integrating a tiered approach by identifying existing needs and associated cost estimates. It should also be determined the extent to which priorities can be covered under the current GLP budget of \$50,000 and which need additional funding. The overall intent is to use the work plan as the basis for a GLP strategic plan that is action oriented.
- **Action Item for Staff:** Obtain a status report on the Western Regional Panel's Quagga Zebra Mussel Action Plan and determine if the opportunity exists for GLP members to provide input.
- **Action Item:** Conduct Panel vote (electronically) to obtain endorsement of the National Guidelines to Prevent Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (guidelines available at http://groups.ucanr.org/Ballast_Outreach/files/52757.pdf).
- **Action Item:** To advance efforts to prevent further ANS introduction through ballast water discharge, recommend to the ANS Task Force that a unified federal ballast water regulatory program must be implemented to harmonize state inspection, enforcement, treatment technology standards involving the states, U.S. EPA and U.S. Coast Guard (*refer to recommendation under the Policy Coordination Committee for next steps to further advance this recommendation*).
- **Action Item for ExCom:** Continue work with GLP staff and Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Executive Director in exploring options for alternative and/or supplemental GLP funding (based on GLP survey results).
- **Action Item for GLP ExCom and Staff:** Instituting remote participation of GLP members into GLP meetings:
 - Develop an amendment to the GLP Guidance for Operations document that allows remote participation of Panel members/alternates to count towards quorum and outlines associated requirements (e.g., level of meeting participation necessary to be considered part of the quorum; requirements pertaining to roll call; etc.).

- Develop general guidelines (or "etiquette") for running/participating in a meeting with audio/web conferencing to make it effective (e.g., identifying oneself before speaking; signing in before the start of the meeting or during a break; keeping phones on mute, etc.).
- **Action Item:** The Panel will continue discussions regarding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and potential funding for projects conducted by the Panel or member agencies/entities represented on the Panel.
- **Action Item for ExCom and Staff:** Plan the fall 2009 GLP meeting in Ann Arbor for Dec. 10-11, 2009. The agenda will developed by the ExCom with input from the GLP membership.

Information/Education Committee

- **Action Item for Committee Members:** Work on making the GLP wiki more user-friendly and integrate the committee priorities as part of the membership updates.
- **Action Item for Committee Chair:** Release the priorities documents of the Information/Education Committee and Research Coordination Committee this summer in accordance with the Panel Priorities Documents Distribution Strategy to prepare partners to align funding with GLP priorities. To specifically guide efforts under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the priorities documents will be submitted directly to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the GLRI comment period.
- **Action Item for Staff and GLP State Representatives:** Conduct a formal survey on the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* booklet for the purpose of developing a more formal marketing plan.
- **Action Item for Staff:** Post the National Guidelines to Prevent Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (pending Panel approval) on the GLP website and provide as insert to the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* booklet as appropriate.
- **Action Item for Staff:** Review and update, if necessary, a briefing paper developed by Jen Nalbome on the status of regulation, legislation and litigation related to ballast water standards.

Research Coordination Committee

- **Action Item for the Research Coordination Committee:** Complete work on a GLP policy position statement addressing professional responsibilities/ethics in reporting new AIS discoveries.
- **Action Item for the Research Coordination Committee:** Complete the update of the priorities document and forward to the Information/Education Committee for dissemination to funding agencies and project developers in accordance with the Panel Priorities Documents Distribution Strategy (see above).
- **Decision Item:** The prohibited/regulated species list is to be forwarded to the Policy Coordination Committee under a formal memo communicating the need for regulatory consistency among the Great Lakes states.
- **Action Item:** Explore opportunities to conduct a ballast treatment technology workshop and/or a ballast treatment standard workshop to provide a forum for technical experts to discuss technology, treatment tests, and related findings.

Policy Coordination Committee

- **Action Item for Committee Members and Staff:** Continue work on the Policy Coordination Committee Priorities Document by building upon recommendations under the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (draft and finalize by fall GLP meeting).
- **Action Item for Committee and Staff:** Finalize the Committee work plan, identifying lead individuals, estimates of funding requirements, and time-frame for project activities. The work plan will also identify what can be accomplished with existing funding and where there is a need for additional funding.
- **Decision Item:** Recommend to the ANS Task Force elements needed for federal legislation to address organisms in trade focusing on a pre-import screening process.
- **Action Item:** Recommend to the ANS Task Force that in the renegotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, inclusion of a provision on prevention and control of aquatic invasive species is urgently needed (recusal of federal agencies, if necessary).
- **Action Item for Staff and Committee Members:** Create an organizational schematic (confer with Jennifer Day, NOAA) that would provide a visual representation of member agencies, organizations and entities participating on the GLP. The schematic should include roles and responsibilities of GLP members, the Panel's relationship to the ANS Task Force and federal agency responsibilities on the ANS issue.
- **Action Item for Committee:** Begin work in conjunction with the other GLP committees on a regional ballast water policy statement to the ANS Task Force to address the following issues, among others:
 - identify the roles and responsibilities of all parties that should be engaged in a unified ballast water program to promote regional consistency
 - define principles/standards on a federal (e.g., ballast water exchange regulation for the Great Lakes and state (e.g., state ballast water treatment requirements under the Clean Water Act 401 Certification) basis.
 - explore feasibility for more uniform standards
 - demonstrate the value of regional consistency for ballast water regulatory programs.
- **Action Item:** Work with GLP members to develop project ideas that will advance an integrated/coordinated regional framework for rapid response in the Great Lakes region.