

# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

- The Great Lakes Interagency Task Force Executive Order 13340, was signed by President Bush on May 18, 2004. It declared the establishment of two major efforts: A “Great Lakes Interagency Task Force”, and the promotion of a “Regional Collaboration of National Significance” for the Great Lakes.

# Great Lakes Strategy

- On December 3, 2004, the Conveners signed the “Great Lakes Declaration” and “Framework” documents affirming the commitment to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration process and the development of a comprehensive strategy to further protect and restore the Great Lakes.

# Goals

- Three goals of GLRC
  - Develop a Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy building on existing collaborative efforts already in place.
  - Serve as a forum to address near term regional issues.
  - Create an oversight forum to coordinate and enhance implementation of the Strategy.

# Structure

- 8 teams
  - Non-point source
  - Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Reduction
  - Invasive Species
  - Habitat/Species
  - Area of Concern Restoration/Sediments
  - Indicators and Information
  - Sustainable Development
  - Coastal Health

# The AIS Strategy Team:

1. Addresses the Governors' Priority: "Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species."
2. Covers issues relating to: ballast water management, National Invasive Species Act present and future implementation, carp barriers and exploration of other potential barriers, rapid response protocols and strategies, prevention and mitigation procedures, outreach and education, and applied research.

# Strategy Team Co-Chairs

- Chris Goddard, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Ken DeBeaussaert, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
- Gerry Jackson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Vector Drafting Teams

- **Aquaculture**
- Drafting team leader: Ted Batterson, Michigan State University
- **Maritime Commerce**
- Drafting team leaders: Allegra Cangelosi, Northeast-Midwest Institute; David Reid, NOAA—GLERL
- **Canals and waterways**
- Drafting team leader: Phil Moy, Wisconsin Sea Grant
- **Organisms in trade** (e.g., food, aquarium, water gardens, bait)
- Drafting team leaders: Tim Eder, National Wildlife Federation; Kari Duncan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Recreational activities** (e.g., boating, fishing, and other activities)
- Drafting team leader: John Schwartz, Michigan Sea Grant

# Strategy Team Timetable

- February-March: Drafting Teams write up 5 page documents on each of the vectors
- April-May: Documents integrated into 5 page master by AIS Strategy Team
- June: All 8 Strategy Team documents collated into master draft Great Lakes Strategy
- July: Master draft released for public comment

# Key Upcoming Dates

- Summit I on July 7-8, 2005, in Duluth, Minnesota. (Draft Strategy released for public comment)
- The public comment period ends on August 31, 2005
- Summit II on December 12, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois. (Final Strategy released)

# Further Information

- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration:
- [www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration](http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration)
  
- Aquatic Invasive Species Strategy Team:
- [www.aisstrategyteam.org](http://www.aisstrategyteam.org)
  
- Roger Eberhardt
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