



Great Lakes Regional Collaboration – AIS Strategy Team

Aquaculture Drafting Team



Team Members

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- John Epifanio – IL DNR IL Nat. History Survey's Center for Aquatic Ecology & Conservation
- Jennifer Nalbone – Great Lakes United
- Jerrie Nichols – USGS's Great Lakes Science Center
- Neil Patterson, Jr. – Tuscora Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF)
- Ron Kinnunen – Michigan Sea Grant Extension
- Dave Smith – President of Freshwater Farms of Ohio
- Jamie Schardt (ex-officio) – USEPA's GLNPO



I. Problem Statement

Definition: Aquaculture is the husbandry of aquatic organisms and implies the purposeful intent to nurture or promote the growth and survival of the targeted organism



I. Problem Statement

Most likely pathways for AIS & disease from aquaculture:

- Cultivation & sale of baitfish
- Fish for stocking in open waters or for fee fishing and/or biological control
- Culture & sale of food fish & aquatic plants



II. Est. of Performance Based Goals with Prioritization

The overarching goal is to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species or diseases into the Great Lakes basin from the aquaculture sector. Thus the number one priority is prevention.



III. Identify Ongoing Efforts

- Private, commercial aquaculture – a variety of laws & regulations limiting what can or could be sold as well as some states requiring fish health inspections; lack of uniformity
- GLFC – 2002 Environmental Assessment Tool for Aquaculture (Brister & Kapuscinski)
- AIS-HACCP – hundreds to date have received training from the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network on this approach



V. Recommended Actions

#1

Development & implementation of formal and *a priori* risk assessment protocols prior to regulatory approval or licensing of propagation, release, or sale on non-native species.



V. Recommended Actions

#2

Development & implementation of formal and *a priori* decision models prior to regulatory approval or licensing of propagation, release, or sale on non-native species.



V. Recommended Actions

#3

Response to unauthorized release or escapement prior to regulatory approval or licensing of propagation, release, or sale on non-native species.



V. Recommended Actions

#4

Focus public and commercial aquaculture on native or naturalized species and gene pools prior to regulatory approval or licensing of propagation or release of on non-native species.



V. Recommended Actions

#5

Implement a bi-national & tribal accord aimed at reducing risks of introduced non-native invasive species from public and private aquaculture operations.



V. Recommended Actions

#6

Continue AIS-HACCP training within and outside of the Great Lakes region.



V. Recommended Actions

#7

Require the implementation of the formal *a priori* risk assessment protocols contained in Brister and Kapuscinski's 2002 "Environmental Assessment Tool for Aquaculture in the Great Lakes Basin Version 1.2" prior to regulatory approval of any open-water net pen operations in waters of the Great Lakes.



Questions????

