

AN ACTION PLAN FOR AIS



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Great Lakes Panel
November 16, 2005

G.L. REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- **May 18, 2004: Executive Order**
- **December, 2004: Kick-off meeting**
- **January – May, 2005**
 - Conference calls
 - Meetings
 - Drafting teams
- **Summer, 2005: Public meetings**
- **September, 2005: Public comments**
- **October 14, 2005: Final report**
- **December 12, 2005: Chicago Meeting**



ALS Strategy Team Co-Chairs

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

THE DRAFTING TEAMS

- Aquaculture
Ted Batterson, MSU
- Maritime Commerce
Allegra Cangelosi, Northeast-Midwest and Dave Reid, GLERL
- Canals and waterways
Phil Moy, WI Sea Grant
- Organisms in trade
Kari Duncan, FWS and Tim Eder, NWF
- Recreational activities
John Schwartz, Sea Grant and Carol Swinehart, Sea Grant

2 MAIN GOALS

- 1. Prevent all new introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes.**
- 2. Stop the spread of AIS within the basin, extirpate harmful AIS, or if impossible, then control to levels that ensure sustainable ecosystems and the social, economic and cultural uses they support.**

ELEMENTS OF THE AIS ACTION PLAN

- **Prevention!!**
- Support for provisions of NAISA
- Research to get the job done
- List of recommended actions
- Near-term actions identified

RECOMMENDATION #1

Maritime Commerce

The AIS Strategy Team recommends eliminating ship-mediated introductions and spread of AIS in the Great Lakes, through the immediate promulgation of environmentally protective standards for ballast water, and the implementation of effective ship-board treatments and management measures.

- Immediately address NOBOB (2005 shipping season)
- Immediate application of ship-board ballast treatments for ocean-going vessels
- Review of best management practices for lakers
- Improved reporting of ballasting activities
- Immediate expansion of research for alternatives to ship board; application of technologies of ship-board treatments are inadequate

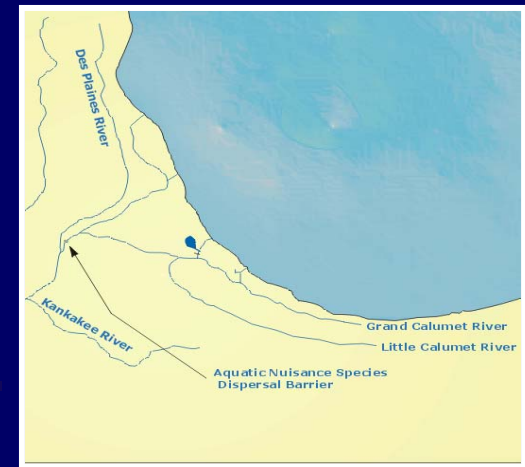


RECOMMENDATION #2

Canals and Waterways

The AIS Strategy Team recommends that Federal, state, and/or local governments must enact measures that ensure the region's canals and waterways are not a vector for AIS, including full federal funding of the Chicago San-Ship Canal barrier and the sea lamprey control program.

- Completion of barrier system in Chicago, including investigating hydrological separation
- Examine options for Champlain section of New York State Canal System
- Close or modify un-used canals
- Prohibit new cross-drainage connections
- Full funding for sea lamprey control



RECOMMENDATION #3

Organisms in Trade

The AIS Strategy Team recommends that federal and state governments take immediate steps to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS through the trade and potential release of live organisms.

- **Develop list of species of concern; immediate state moratorium on trade, transportation of those species**
- **Establish and implement a federal screening process for proposed importations**
- **More resources to implement the Lacey Act**
- **Increased law enforcement**
- **Development of risk models for organisms in aquaculture**



RECOMMENDATION #4

Control, RR, Mgmt., Coordination

The AIS Strategy Team recommends establishing a Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Integrated Management Program to implement rapid response, control, and management programs and assess the effectiveness of those programs.

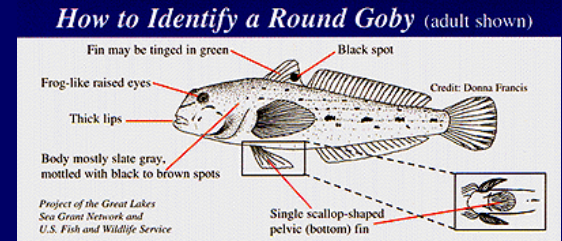
- Develop and Implement State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans through the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.
- Develop codes of best practices and encourage economic incentives (bonds, insurance).
- Establish a rapid response revolving fund and a Great Lakes Federal Rapid Response Team.
- Fund and implement enhanced monitoring.
- Concerted research effort to develop new controls.
- Coordinated data reporting and sharing.
- Better coordination and accountability.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Education and Outreach

The AIS Strategy Team recommends Federal, state and tribal agencies, academic institutions and other organizations receive adequate support to conduct and evaluate cost-effective AIS vector-specific outreach and education programs. These programs should focus on behavior change and responsibility of resource users.

- Funding to educate boaters and anglers.
- Continuation of AIS-focused Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training.
- Education for all facets of maritime industry.
- Establish organisms in trade educational campaign.



General Characteristics

- No other native fish in the Great Lakes has the single pelvic fin
- Young are solid slate gray
- Usually 3-6 inches (7.6 - 15.2 cm) long; may be up to 10 inches (25.4 cm)



PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Majority of comments supported the draft**
 - Support for provisions of NAISA
 - Implement it now
- **Many useful technical comments**
- **A few critical comments**
 - Mainly not supporting specific legislation
- **Conference call**
- **Rochester meeting**

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS

- **Support provisions of NAISA**
- **Canals**
 - Complete barrier construction (CSSC)
 - Fund barrier operations (CSSC)
 - Hydrologic separation
- **Maritime Commerce**
 - Immediately manage NOBOB vessels
 - Funds for USCG enforcement
 - Begin development of environmentally protective standards

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS

- **Organisms in Trade**
 - Panel: develop list of species of concern
 - State moratorium
 - Develop federal screening process
- **Integrated Pest Management**
 - Sea lamprey control
 - Authorize an IPM program
 - Enhance early detection
 - Establish Great Lakes rapid response team
 - Competitive grants for new control technologies
 - Funding for state/interstate ANS plans
 - Expand Great Lakes education

ADDITIONAL ISSUE: NEED TO COORDINATE WITH CANADA

- **Brought to attention of Executive Committee**
- **Harmonize regulations**
- **Develop shared objectives**
- **Coordinate law enforcement**



Complete submission online at
www.aisstrategyteam.org