**Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species**

**Risk Assessment Ad Hoc Committee**

**Draft Charge and Membership**

**June 20, 2016**

1. **Background**

Species risk assessments are currently conducted by a variety of federal agencies, state and provincial agencies, and universities to identify aquatic invasive species (AIS) threats to the Great Lakes. Most often, jurisdictions with regulatory authority conduct species risk assessments independently, each with a different method. The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (GLP) Policy Coordination Committee Priorities, December 2013, document includes actions regarding risk assessments. During the April 2015 GLP meeting, the policy and research coordination committees identified risk assessment as one of three priority issues for the GLP to address. Similar activities related to risk assessment coordination are also identified as a priority by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 6 and the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (CGLSLGP) AIS Task Force.

The GLP provides a venue to bring key agencies, groups, and experts together to work on risk assessment coordination. During the May 2016 GLP meeting, members decided to establish an Ad Hoc Risk Assessment Committee to advance this work.

1. **Charge**

The purpose of the committee is to improve regional species and pathway risk assessment coordination and to develop a scope of work for the development of a risk assessment clearinghouse.

The Ad Hoc Committee will meet periodically via conference call and in-person under the auspices of the GLP. Initially, the committee and its members will perform scoping work to develop a risk assessment clearinghouse by identifying:

* the end users for risk assessments
* the type of information that should be shared and sensitivity level of the information
* options for mechanisms to share risk assessments and results (platform)
* priority species/pathways for risk assessment
* funding sources and organizations or individuals able to conduct the work

Following this initial work, the committee will recommend next steps for implementation to the full GLP.

1. **Proposed Membership**

Chair: Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Francine MacDonald, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Lindsay Chadderton, The Nature Conservancy

Felix Martinez, NOAA

Rochelle Sturtevant, Great Lakes Sea Grant Network/NOAA

Mike Hoff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gavin Christie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Becky Cudmore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pat Charlebois, IL-IN Sea Grant

**Appendix. Great Lakes Panel Operational Guidance on Ad Hoc Committees**

*Excerpt from the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Guidance for Operations*

## Ad Hoc Committees

The Panel may, from time to time, establish ad hoc committees to address specific issues that emerge or assume tasks not covered by the standing committees. Ad hoc committees are established for a specific purpose (e.g., ballast water management policy, funding strategies for Panel operations, nomination of Panel officers) and for a specific period of time. Once the purpose for which the committee was formed has been accomplished, the committee will be disbanded. Ad hoc committees can be instituted by consensus of the Panel. Ad hoc committee membership will be recommended by the Panel and approved by the Panel Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee, and may include non-Panel members with specific expertise who are willing and able to serve. Invitations to serve will be made in writing by the Panel administrator. All other provisions pertaining to standing committees are applicable to ad hoc committees.