

November 19, 2014

**ANNEX 6**  
**RAPID RESPONSE**  
**TASK TEAM UPDATE**

# Annex 6 Rapid Response Task Team

- The Annex 6 Subcommittee created the Rapid Response Task Team to undertake binational efforts that will increase the capabilities for invasive species response among the key stakeholders.
  - Planning
  - Training
  - Exercise

# Annex 6 Binational Response Exercise

- Tabletop Exercise May 21-22, 2014
- Discussion-based exercise involving an Aquatic Invasive Species within a shared waterway between the U.S. and Canada
- State, Provincial, and Federal partners from U.S. and Canada
  - USFWS
  - USEPA
  - USGS
  - Canada DFO
  - OMNR
  - Michigan DNR
  - Ohio DNR
  - Michigan DEQ
  - GLFC
  - International Joint Commission
  - Other Basin Partners

# Annex 6 Binational Response Exercise

## Purpose:

- To establish a foundational knowledge of current binational Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) efforts and advance inter-agency collaboration

## Scenario:

- Asian Carp discovered in the Detroit River between U.S. and Canada near Detroit and Windsor



# Annex 6 Binational Response Exercise

## Objectives:

- Gain a common understanding of the Binational Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Rapid Response Pilot Plan for the Lake Huron/Erie Corridor as a viable tool or strategic framework for response.
- Engage and deliver information to all necessary stakeholders (public and private) to aid decision making. Ensure operations among agencies responding to AIS will proceed with integrated communication and resources
- Demonstrate National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant command, control, and coordination structures among responding entities.

# Highlights

- ⦿ IJC Binational Response Plan as a model for Framework implementation
  - The exercise served as a forum for discussing development of a binational AIS response framework and refinement of the Pilot Binational AIS Rapid Response Plan.
- ⦿ Discussed the use of USFWS Rapid Risk Assessment to aid in response decisions
- ⦿ Discussed the integration of communications and resources through the use of the Incident Command System to provide a standard platform for response among all response agencies.

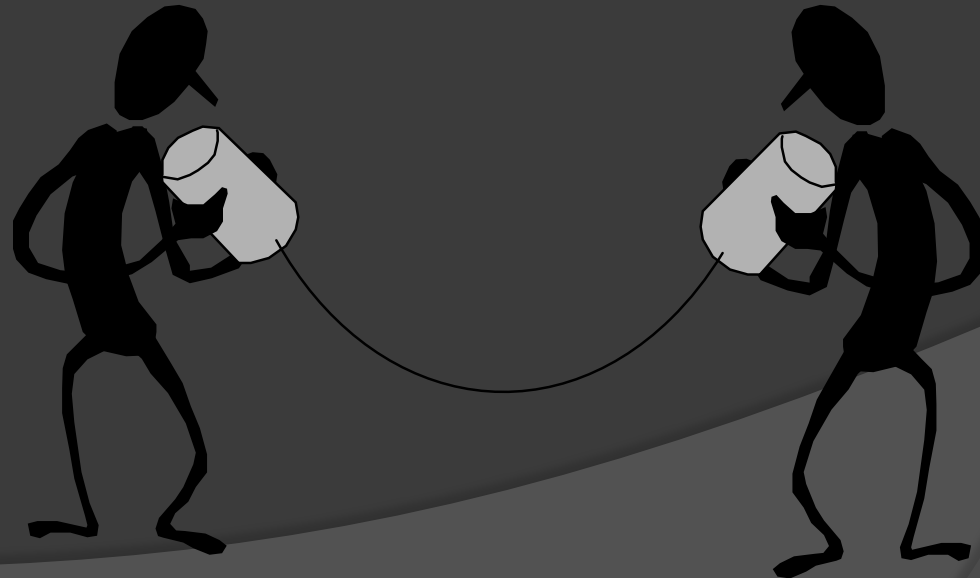
# Findings

- Participating agencies recognize that working together will strengthen the ability to effectively reduce the threat of AIS and to undertake response actions against them.
- Next steps and further collaborative efforts are necessary

# Areas for Improvement

## Communications:

- ⦿ Agencies do not currently have formal protocols in place to share information regarding AIS incidents or to request their assistance.





# Areas for Improvement

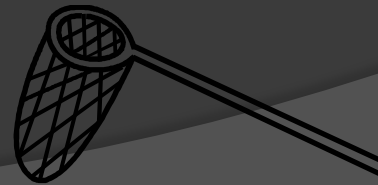
## Incident Command System (ICS):

- A standardized system is needed for response so that all agencies that participate can work together under the same system efficiently and seamlessly
- In order to provide assistance, U.S. Federal agencies are required to utilize ICS
- Not all agency partners needed for response have training and experience utilizing ICS

# Areas for Improvement

## Resource Sharing:

- Limited resources available to each agency for AIS work. Need to pool and share resources for success.
- Agencies do not currently have a system in place to formally request or share resources for response.
- Difficult to share resources across the border.



# So Now What?

- ① Development of a Binational Response Framework
  - Integrate existing response plans around the basin for a unified AIS response strategy
- ① Continued Exercise and Training
  - Communications Tabletop Exercise
  - Other Basin response exercises
  - ICS training for basin partners: U.S. and Canada
- ① Development of a communications network and protocols



# Additional Next Steps

- ① Development of a resource repository so agencies are aware of what is out there and can request it directly from owner agency.
- ① Refinement and additional signatories to the Mutual Aid Agreement to expedite collaborative efforts for Rapid Response