

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Meeting

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Internet as a Pathway for AIS

What We Know

- Organisms in trade
 - Intentional and unintentional releases of live organisms that are bought and sold for use in aquariums, nurseries, water gardens, classrooms, aquaculture, as live bait, etc.
- Internet facilitates trade
- WWW is vast and changing
- Species of concern to Great Lakes region are being sold

What We Don't Know

- Who...
 - Is selling species we're concerned about?
- What...
 - Species are available for sale?
- Where...
 - Websites
 - Physical location
- How...
 - Many?
 - Are regulations/potential invasiveness communicated?







Project Objectives

- Develop and demonstrate software to assess the availability of invasive species via Internet sales
- Provide information and management tools
- Present information on the Internet marketplace, including risks and options for management

Funding: FY12 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative EPA grant





First Steps

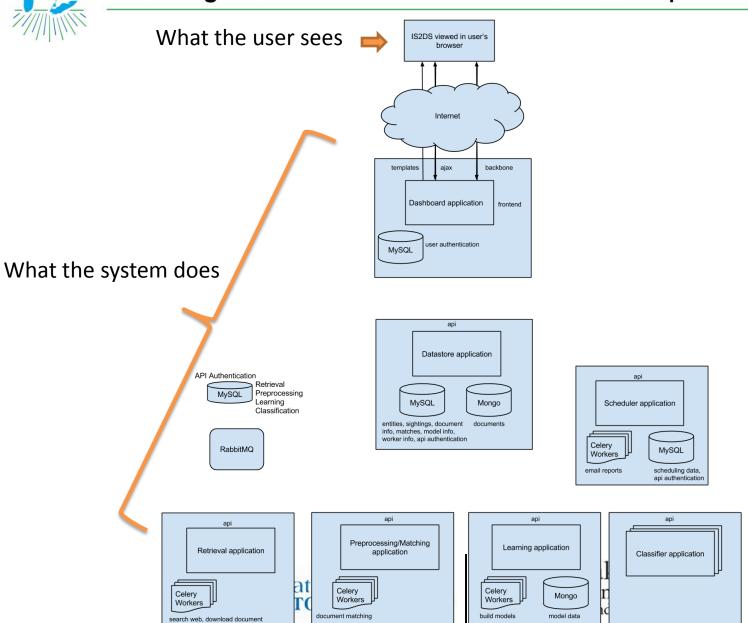
- Hired RightBrain Networks
- Compiled a list of 167 species of concern

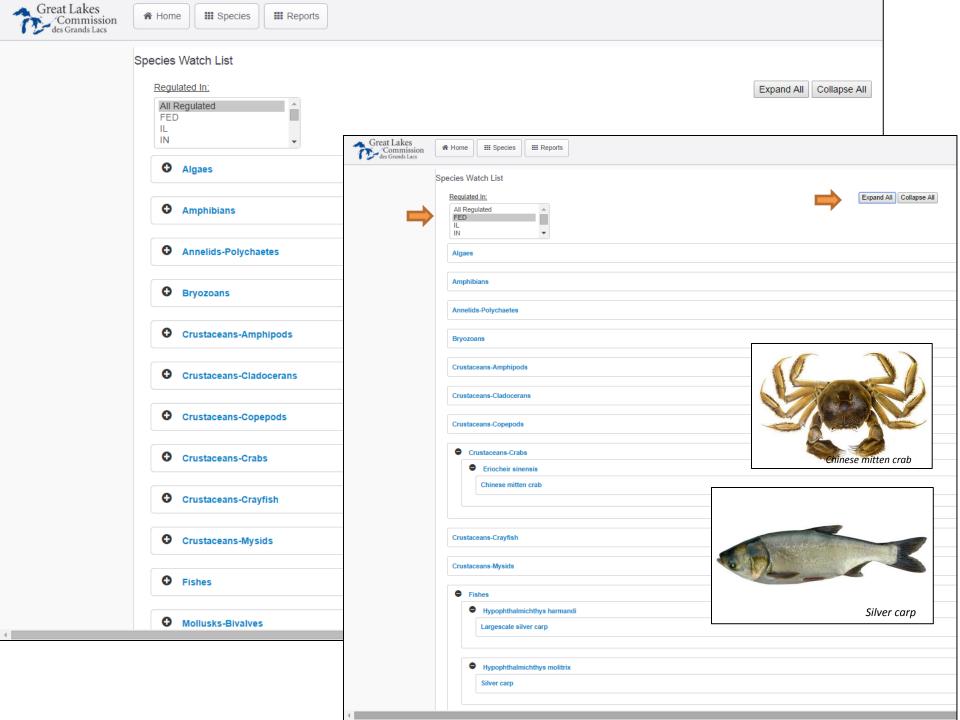
















■ Species

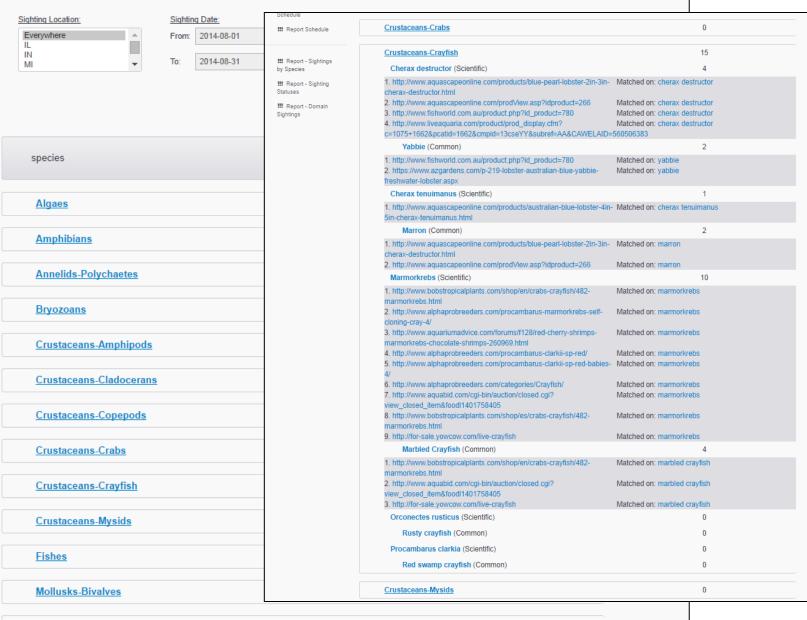


Mollusks-Gastropods

Plants

■ Reports

SPECIES REPORT



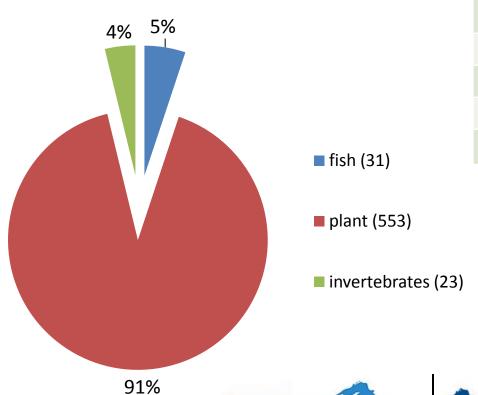
3

519



Preliminary Findings At-a-Glance

Distribution of sale pages by taxa (N = 607)



Number of species found	57 (of 166)
Plants	40
Fishes	11
Invertebrates	6
Number of sale pages	607

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Great Lakes Governors/Premiers "Least Wanted" AIS	Number of sale pages
Brazilian elodea (Egeria densa)	37
Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata)	4
Parrot feather (Myriophyllum aquaticum)	18
Water chestnut (Trapa natans)	4
Water soldier (Stratiotes aloides)	17
Grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella)	1
Yabby (Cherax destructor)	5

25 species most frequently found	Number of sale pages
Yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus)	48
Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus)	44
Fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana and C. aquatica)	40
Yellow floating heart (Nymphoides peltata)	39
Brazilian elodea (Egeria densa)	37
Water Lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)	27
Sacred lotus (Nelumbo nucifera)	26
Japanese celery (Oenanthe javanica)	25
Graceful cattail (Typha laxmannii)	21
Giant Reed (Arundo donax)	19
Ambulia (Limnophila sessiliflora)	19
Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)	18
Parrot feather (Myriophyllum aquaticum and M. brasiliensis)	18
Forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides)	17
Water soldier (Stratiotes aloides)	17
Indian swampweed (Hygrophila polysperma)	14
Curlyleaf pondweed (Potamogeton crispus)	13
Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes)	11
Chinese waterspinach (Ipomoea aquatica)	11
Marbled crayfish (Marmorkrebs)	10
Oriental weatherfish (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus)	9
Oxygen weed (Lagarosiphon major)	9
Common reed (Phragmites australis)	9
Bur reed (Sparganium erectum)	9
European frogbit (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)	7







Preliminary Observations

- Getting hits on species that are a threat to the region; confirming that Internet trade is a problem
 - Seems consistent w/ what is known about species common to trade pathway (e.g., popular water garden and aquarium plants)
- It is not clear yet which species are being sold within the region or can be shipped to the GL region
 - E.g., websites based in UK, Australia, etc.; may not ship to U.S. (**Next step in analysis)
- Good warning tool; useful as an indicator of what is in trade, inc. emerging species of concern





Next Steps

- Continue to develop findings
- Work with Federal, state and provincial partners to take action on confirmed findings
- Hold workshop to share findings and discuss management options and recommendations
- IS2DS "roll-out"
- Develop final report



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