

**Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
Organisms in Trade Ad Hoc Committee
Draft Charge: November 4, 2019**

I. Background

Significant concern exists over the risks posed by the trade of live organisms as a vector for aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduction and spread in the Great Lakes. Pathways for organisms in trade (OIT) include the live bait industry, pet and aquarium trade, horticulture and water garden businesses, classroom releases, and live seafood markets, among others. OIT may be introduced for beneficial uses, but over time, some imported plant and animal species have established wild populations and caused harmful impacts. A 2018 review of Great Lakes regional AIS priorities highlighted OIT as a priority pathway for which the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (GLP) could contribute to greater coordination of regional efforts. During the November 2018 GLP meeting, break-out sessions were held to identify specific actions and recommendations to increase coordination across several areas of AIS management, including OIT. Priority actions identified through this exercise align with common regional priorities of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 6, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers AIS Task Force, and the U.S. EPA's Lakewide Action and Management Plans and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III. At the May 2019 GLP meeting, members decided to establish an Ad Hoc Organisms in Trade Committee to advance this work.

II. Charge

The GLP provides a venue to bring key agencies, groups, and experts together to advance work to prevent AIS introduction and release via the OIT pathway in the Great Lakes region. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate regional OIT initiatives with partners and advance near-term actions to address the OIT pathway. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet periodically via conference call and in-person under the auspices of the GLP. Key activities of the committee will include:

- identifying opportunities for OIT industry participation with the GLP
- identifying needs, objectives and next steps for an OIT-focused symposium or webinar series, hosted by the GLP and building on past Great Lake BIOTIC Symposia
- recommending additional species for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Least Wanted list
- identifying resource needs and gaps to inform development of a toolkit for Habitattitude Surrender rehome pet events (led by Sea Grant)
- coordinating with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Law Enforcement Committee to identify opportunities to increase awareness of AIS among enforcement personnel and support action on AIS violations
- prioritizing trade pathways and identifying gaps in knowledge about species in trade, and submitting recommendations around those priorities and gaps to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)
- providing input on OIT related initiatives led by the ANSTF under implementation of the ANSTF Strategic Plan

III. Proposed Membership

GLP Member Agencies:

- Chelsey Blanke, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
- Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant/DNR/Extension
- Lindsay Chadderton, The Nature Conservancy
- Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant
- Sophie Monfette, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- John Navarro, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
- Jill Wingfield, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- TBD, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Additional suggestions:

- Law Enforcement representatives:
 - Brenda Koenig, OMNRF Provincial Enforcement Specialist
 - Susan Jewell – or TBD, USFWS Regulatory/Enforcement
- Stephanie Showalter-Otts, National Sea Grant Law Center
- Jeanne Scherer, Univ. of WI Extension
- Kellie Sherman, Canadian Council on Invasive Species
- Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Vice President, AmericanHort
- Scott Hardin, PIJAC (USA)
- TBD, PIJAC Canada
- TBD, State Nursery and Landscape Association

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.