



GREAT LAKES  
ST. LAWRENCE  
GOVERNORS  
& PREMIERS

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UNITED FOR GROWTH

# Combating Aquatic Invasive Species in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin

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Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species  
October 2021



# Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers

More than 30 years of collaboration among  
the region's chief executives:

Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota New York  
Ohio Ontario Pennsylvania Québec Wisconsin

Growing the region's \$6 trillion economy and  
protecting the world's greatest freshwater  
system.

**Tony Evers, Chair,** Wisconsin Governor  
**Mike DeWine Vice Chair,** Ohio Governor



## “Least wanted” list

- State and Provincial experts name 16 high-risk AIS
- Nearly 60 separate actions taken since 2013
- 4 species listed under US Lacey Act in 2015:
  - Yabby
  - Stone Moroko
  - Zander
  - Wels Catfish
- Five new AIS added in 2018



GREAT LAKES  
**LEAST WANTED**  
 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



**\$7 BILLION FISHERY  
 NEEDS PROTECTING**

STATES AND PROVINCES WORKING TOGETHER  
 50+ NEW RESTRICTIONS  
 REGIONAL AGREEMENT TO HELP  
 CATCH OFFENDERS

Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bighead carp</li> <li>• Silver carp</li> <li>• Grass carp</li> <li>• Black carp</li> <li>• Northern snakehead</li> <li>• Stone moroko</li> <li>• Zander</li> <li>• Wels catfish</li> <li>• Tench</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killer shrimp</li> <li>• Yabby (crayfish)</li> <li>• Golden mussel</li> <li>• Marmorkreb</li> <li>• New Zealand Mud Snail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrilla</li> <li>• Brazilian elodea</li> <li>• Water soldier</li> <li>• European water chestnut</li> <li>• Parrot feather</li> <li>• European Frogbit</li> <li>• Yellow Floating Heart</li> </ul>



# Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA)

- Signed by all ten Governors and Premiers
- The MAA is designed to:
  - Prevent the introduction and spread of AIS
  - Foster mutual aid among the States and Provinces
  - Encourage further cooperative actions by the States and Provinces





## The Project: Outcome-Based Financing for AIS: Phragmites

- Collaboration of partners interested in applying new financing tools to “wicked” AIS challenges
- Of three possible AIS, focused on feasibility assessment for invasive plant, common reed, *Phragmites australis*
- Iterative Process: quantify costs and benefits of *Phragmites* management program, identify partners and potential payors and propose financial structure



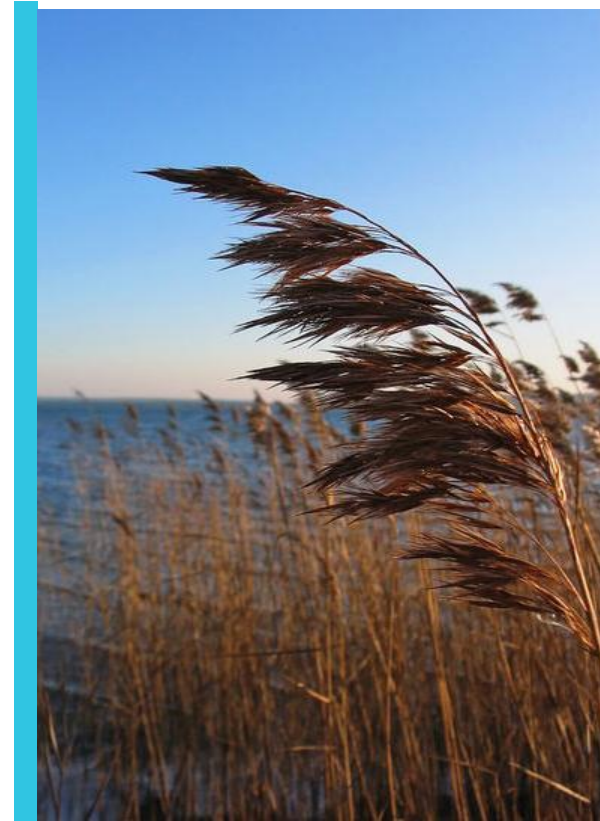
Janice Gilbert, Invasive Phragmites Control Centre



**Invasive Species Centre**

## Next Steps

- **Outcome-based financing approach is scalable and transferable to other areas and species**
- **Has potential to address significant AIS challenge**
- **Phragmites - Refine financial analysis**
- **Discuss with wide range of potential partners**
- **Looking for partners and your thoughts!**





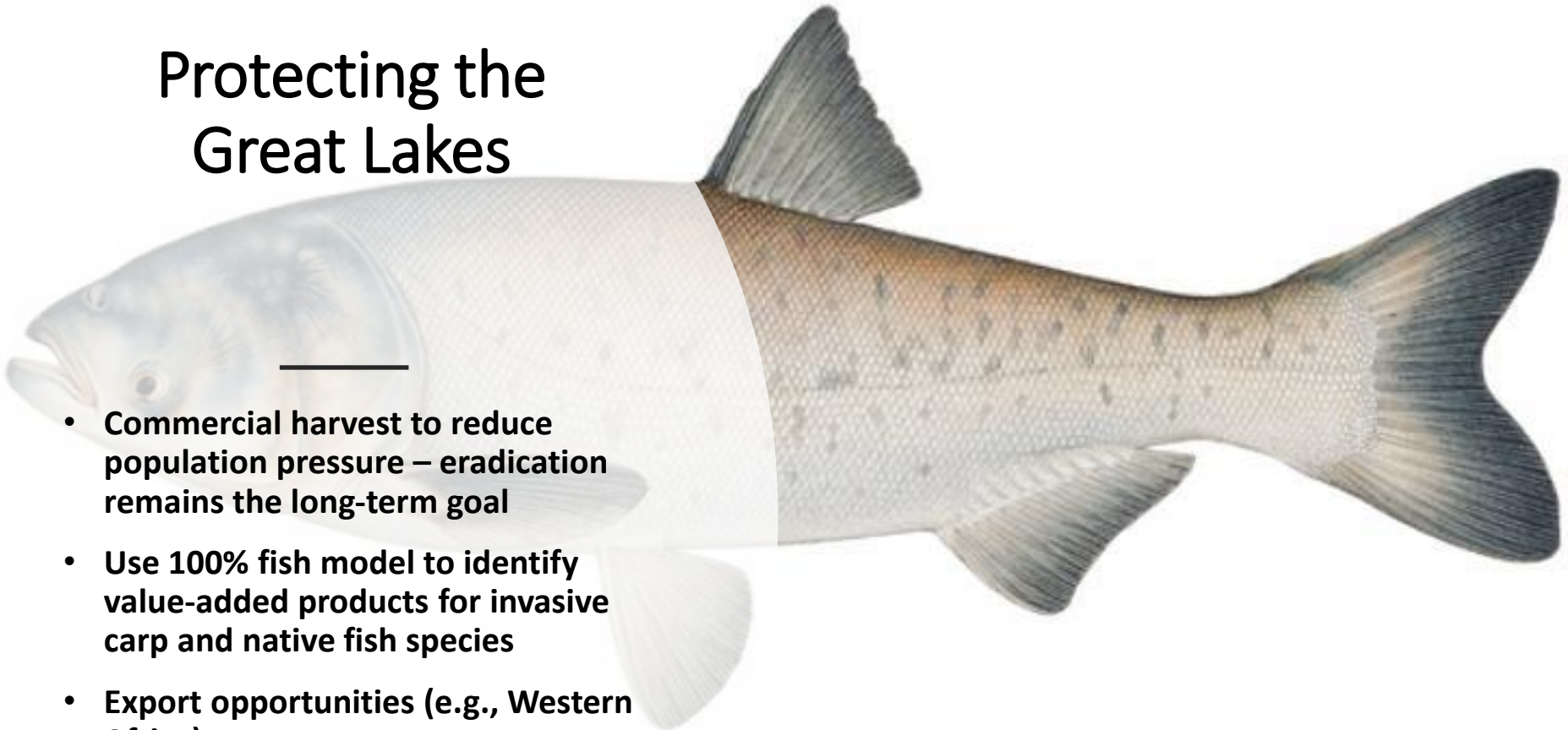
100 %  
fish

Icelanders are pioneers in utilizing all parts of whitefish through innovation and industry clustering





# Protecting the Great Lakes



- **Commercial harvest to reduce population pressure – eradication remains the long-term goal**
- **Use 100% fish model to identify value-added products for invasive carp and native fish species**
- **Export opportunities (e.g., Western Africa)**
- **Circular economy for fishery**

An aerial photograph of the Great Lakes region in North America, showing the five large lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the surrounding land. The water is a deep blue, and the land is a mix of green and brown. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## Next steps and ongoing work

- Continue to develop outcomes-based financing model
- Work with IOC and regional partners to support fishery
- Further action on “least wanted” list
- Regional response exercises