

## **Regional Panel Recommendation Submission Form**

- To be completed by the Regional Panel -

**Regional Panel(s):** Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species;  
Northeast Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

**Date Submitted:** 5/25/2021

**Recommendation to the ANS Task Force:** *State the recommended action including the following information, as appropriate.*

**What:** Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species recommends full Congressional Appropriation funding for the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program (GLLCISP).

**Who:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**How:** Full funding recommendation is consistent with authorization for GLLCISP under VIDA (\$50,000,000) as part of the FY2022 U.S. EPA budget request.

**Timeline:** Recommend immediate action for FY22 U.S. Congressional Appropriations as part the regular budget package to the U.S. EPA.

**Background Information:** *In applicable, state key facts and pertinent information that has led up to the recommendation.*

Under the 2018 Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), a Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program (GLLCISP) was established under the administration of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). This program focuses on a collaborative approach to the prevention, early detection, and response to aquatic nuisance species within the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Systems and is authorized for up to \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023. Despite this authorization, funding has not yet been appropriated to U.S. EPA to carry out the activities of GLLCISP. Given the collaborative nature of the program, there is an enthusiastic desire among the Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies, Sea Grant Programs, and commercial interests represented on the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (GLP) to engage with U.S. EPA on relevant activities through GLLCISP. However, without a funding appropriation, benefits specified in the Act cannot be realized. This funding recommendation is consistent with guidance from the prior 2019 GLLCISP Report to Congress and with pending authorized legislation. As the regional leader on aquatic nuisance species, the Great Lakes Panel on ANS and its members are ready to help develop, support and implement GLLCISP for the protection of the region's environment, recreation, and economies, and for communities that depend on the long-term health of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. This recommendation is consistent with Great Lakes Panel's priorities and the ANS Task Force's Strategic Plan.

**Link to ANS Task Force Strategic Plan:** *State the goal(s) or objective(s) in the ANS Task Force Strategic Plan that would be supported by the recommendation.*

**Relevant ANS Task Force Strategic Plan goals:** Coordination; Prevention; Early Detection and Rapid Response

**Relevant ANS Task Force Strategic Plan objectives:**

1. Coordination – Strengthen the capacity for ANS management at State and regional levels
2. Prevention – Identify priority pathways and species of concern
3. Prevention – Encourage implementation of measures to manage high priority pathways and species

- 4. EDRR – Facilitate monitoring efforts to detect and respond to new sightings of ANS
- 5. EDRR – Facilitate the development of capacities to respond rapidly to invasions

**List of Attached Documents or Images (optional):**

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**Final Task Force Resulting Action:**

**Action:** *Describe action to be taken and timeline for completion. If the recommended approach from the regional panel is not being implemented, include justification for modification.*

U.S. EPA confirmed that there was not a line item in the FY 22 President’s Budget request for the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program.

Representatives from the USEPA provided an update on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program at the November 2021 meeting. Although VIDA authorized the appropriation of \$50 million annually to fund the GLLCISP, funding has still yet to be appropriated. However existing activities underway in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain basins support, to some extent, the stated purposes of the GLLCISP. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) annual planning and budgeting process also provides a forum to review activities and emerging ANS issues. These efforts have allowed states from both basins to strengthen control and prevention efforts and begin to address existing gaps.

**No Action:** *Include justification if no action will be taken.*