

Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

May 3-4, 2016
Traverse City, Michigan

Meeting Summary

Approved November 2, 2016

Additional meeting information including a final agenda and presentations are available on the Great Lakes Panel website (<http://glc.org/projects/invasive/panel/glp-meetings/>).

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Call to Order

John Navarro, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Great Lakes Panel (GLP) Chair

- John Navarro called the meeting to order.
- Navarro welcomed panel members and thanked the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) for joining the meeting.
- GLP members and observers introduced themselves and a quorum was confirmed.
- Navarro reviewed the agenda and there were no changes.

GLP Business

John Navarro, Ohio DNR, Outgoing GLP Chair

Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin DNR, Incoming GLP Chair

Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission (GLC), GLP Coordinator

Old Business:

- GLP Nominating Committee and elections report:
 - Erika Jensen provided an elections report that outlined changes to GLP leadership and at large members. The election results were as follow:
 - Panel Chair
 - Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin DNR
 - Panel Vice-Chair (Chair Elect)
 - Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 - Chair, Policy Committee
 - Francine MacDonald, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 - Chair, Information and Education Committee
 - Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant
 - Chair, Research Coordination Committee
 - Lindsay Chadderton, The Nature Conservancy
 - At-Large Members
 - Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant
 - Pat Conzemius, Wildlife Forever
 - Jensen and Wakeman thanked Navarro for his service to the panel and presented him with a gift.
 - Both Navarro and Wakeman thanked the panel members.
- October 2015 meeting summary:
 - Wakeman presented the October 2015 meeting summary for GLP approval.
 - Doug Jensen offered revisions to the summary.
 - The GLP approved the summary with the changes.

- Report on action items:
 - E. Jensen provided a report on the action items from the October 2015 meeting

New Business:

- Committee Recommendations:
 - Sarah LeSage presented a recommendation from the Policy Coordination Committee to establish an ad-hoc committee to address the need for improved risk assessment coordination. The GLP approved the recommendation unanimously.
- Wakeman and E. Jensen presented a draft proposal for a two year GLP work plan that would focus on the use of ad hoc committees to address GLP priorities, including grass carp, risk assessment and invasive aquatic plants.
- E. Jensen presented possible dates for the fall 2016 meeting to be held in Ann Arbor, Mich.

ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will update and post the final October 2015 meeting summary to the GLP website
- The executive committee will establish an ad-hoc committee to develop a proposal that describes opportunities to improve coordination on risk assessment
- Staff will organize a conference call for input and decision on the proposed GLP work plan approach.
- Staff will plan the fall GLP meeting in Ann Arbor, MI, (tentative meeting dates: weeks of October 31 or November 28, 2016).

State/Province Round Table: Invasive Species Councils

Moderator: Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant

Jensen introduced the session and highlighted that this was an opportunity for panel members to learn from each other's work at the state level.

Indiana

Eric Fischer, Indiana DNR

- Indiana prioritizes detection and prevention of a growing list of terrestrial and aquatic species.
- The invasive species council includes 12 members and meets two or three times per year in a format similar to GLP meetings.
- The council developed the Indiana portal for EDDMapS to record plant sightings, with a focus on terrestrial species. Education and outreach are an essential part of the council.
- The council is legislatively mandated but currently unfunded. It will be included in the state's budget in 2016 and the council is waiting to get support for an executive director.

Michigan

Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- The invasive species council was created in 2012 with a predetermined end date in 2015 and membership was prescribed in state law and appointees were named by the governor.
- The council met monthly from spring 2012 through summer 2013 and developed recommendations for the governor, senate majority leader, speaker of the house, and relevant committees.
- The council's greatest success was to list prohibited and restricted species that became codified in state law.
- The council was not funded. However, since the council made their recommendations, \$5 million has been allocated for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (IS) management from the state general funds.

Minnesota

Marte Kitson, Minnesota Sea Grant and Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) Co-Chair

- The MISAC was established 2001. It is not funded and does not have legislative authority or responsibility.
- The council integrates activities across the state, promotes communication, increases awareness, and produces a high quality shared calendar.
- The council is made up of 40 members including state, local and tribal organizations, industry representatives, and landscape and agriculture organizations.
- MISAC was the genesis for the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) which has now grown to over 600 participants.

New York

Catherine McGlynn, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

- An invasive species task force was recommended in 2003 by state leadership and was established in 2008 with membership exclusively from state agency staff.
- The goal of the invasive species task force is to assess IS impacts, identify what is being done, provide input on spending priorities, organize conferences, provide non-regulatory suggestions, support partnerships for regional invasive species management (PRISMs), recommend regulations, encourage voluntary conduct among industry, and inform research priorities.
- The invasive species task force is funded from the state environmental protection fund (a percentage of property taxes) that also provides \$5.5 million to control efforts and \$2.2 million for boat stewardship.

Ohio

John Navarro, Ohio DNR

- There is no statutory authority or funding for the invasive species council and the current council is a reformulation of a group that had been active until 1997.
- There are a variety of volunteer members and the council is looking to include more state agency participants.
- Work to date included revising the state management plan, developing a rapid response plan, and assessing priority funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).
- The council is now focusing on developing a risk assessment policy to screen organisms in trade and is would like to include risk assessment in revised state code.

Ontario

Francine MacDonald, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

- Ontario doesn't have a formal IS council but instead collaborates with a number of key groups.
- There is a 25-year partnership between the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and MNRF to deliver programming on aquatic invasive species (AIS).
- There are other groups in Ontario, such as the Ontario Invasive Plant Council and Invasive Species Center, that do IS related work. There is an informal working group that coordinates the work of all relevant groups.

Pennsylvania

Jim Grazio, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

- The invasive species council was formed to advise the governor, coordinate activities, and develop management plans for aquatic and terrestrial species.
- The council is comprised of seven state agencies and 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Neither the state agencies nor the council have a designated IS coordinator.
- The council doesn't receive funding but three or four state agencies have donated funding.

Wisconsin

Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin DNR

- The chair of the invasive species council is appointed by the governor and membership includes many different state agencies, the University of Wisconsin and industry.
- The council primarily makes recommendations to the Wisconsin DNR regarding a system to classify invasive species, determining criteria for state priorities, and recommending action to be taken with classification.
- The council receives \$4.5 million annually and \$4 million is distributed to partners. The council is involved in the process to issue partner grants through four subcommittees.
- DNR presents issues for the council to consider and serves as the driving body for the council.

Discussion

- The councils and GLP members primarily interact through the development of state AIS management plans.
- The councils primarily interact with each other on an ad-hoc basis or through the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.
- Most councils are not interested in pursuing non-profit status and none have current webpages available except MISAC.

Other Business

Public Comment

- The floor was opened for public comments; none were received.

Announcements

- The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) database is being updated with plant information, including fact sheets and maps, following a lapse in and restoration of funding. Regional panel members are being asked for updated information on plant distribution.
- Bill Rapai announced the publication of his new book, "Lake Invaders: Invasive Species and the Battle for the Great Lakes." Rapai thanked the GLP for providing their information, time and support.
- GLP members are invited to the Aquatic Invaders Summit in St. Cloud, Minnesota, in October 2016 and the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in October 2016.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS) will be updated and NOAA would like the GLP to serve as the advisory board for the process. NOAA would provide 10 minute updates at GLP meetings that would include the opportunity to provide input and possible engagement with subcommittees.

ACTION ITEMS

- GLP members with updated information for the USGS NAS database should contact Pam Fuller at pfuller@usgs.gov.
- Staff will get more information and members will consider a request from NOAA to serve as an advisory board for GLANSIS updates at the fall meeting.

Adjourn GLP Meeting

- The GLP business meeting was formally adjourned. GLP members continued meeting with the ANSTF the following day.

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Welcome

David Hoskins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), Assistant Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation; Jennifer Lukens, NOAA, Director, Office of Policy; Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin DNR and GLP Chair; Tom Shomin, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

- David Hoskins welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced Susan Pasko as the new executive secretary of the ANSTF. Additionally, Hoskins thanks the GLP for hosting the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the rest of the week.
- Jennifer Lukens thanked the GLP and the task force members for participating in the meeting and introduced the GLP Chair, Bob Wakeman.
- Tom Shomin of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians also welcomed the group.

Introductions

- ANSTF members and observers introduced themselves.

Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

- The ANSTF agenda was adopted and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Support for AIS Activities in the Great Lakes Region

Introductory Remarks

John Navarro, Ohio DNR

- Navarro introduced the GLRI and emphasized that state agencies initially had trouble absorbing an influx of new funding but that the funding has ultimately allowed good work to be done.

GLRI Overview

Jamie Schardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- There are over 180 non-native species in the Great Lakes and since 2010 the GLRI has funded over 300 projects to prevent and control invasive species.
- EPA receives the funding for GLRI and distributes that funding through competitive awards and interagency agreements to other agencies with existing programs and authorities.
- The GLRI is funded annually through Congressional appropriation which can be uncertain and thus limits any permanent increases in staffing or programmatic capacity.
- Overall 30% of IS funding goes to asian carp, 30% goes to prevention and detection, 25% goes to on the ground work and water control programs and 15% goes to control technologies and species specific collaborations.
- Current challenges of the program are linking detection and response and ultimately eradication. The program is also expanding the role of collaboratives.

Implementing Michigan's AIS Program

Sarah LeSage, Michigan DEQ

- When funding was first provided by the GLRI in 2010, the state of Michigan created an AIS core team including the DEQ, DNR, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), Department of Agriculture, and Department of Transportation to update the state management plan.
- Increased engagement of staff in law enforcement and agriculture, initially supported by GLRI funding, resulted in ramped up enforcement of inspections and prohibited and restricted species.
- The core team also worked on an early detection and response plan that was finalized in 2013 and is the first policy of its kind across departments. In the time since, there have been a few instances of operationalizing the plan.
- GLRI provided the springboard to show collaborative efforts and eventually secure state funding; the state now provides \$5 million from the general fund for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

Implementing Indiana's AIS Program

Eric Fischer, Indiana DNR

- The original Indiana state management plan was approved in 2003 and resulted in establishing a state AIS coordinator, but it required \$4.5 million to implement all the goals outlined in the plan.
- GLRI funding allowed Indiana to increase support for state and program level activities, educational efforts, planning, attendance at regional panel meetings, and work with federal and state partners.
- The new funding bridged the gap between state funding and being able to fully eradicate new infestations.
- Funding has been used for control of species such as hydrilla, parrot feather, Brazilian elodea and construction of a physical barrier for Asian carp prevention.

An Interstate Plan for AIS Prevention, Early Detection and Response

Sarah LeSage, Michigan DEQ & Lindsay Chadderton, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

- The interstate plan is a state and federal collaboration to guide future AIS surveillance across the Laurentian Great Lakes.
- Funded by GLRI through the USFWS, the plan is led by MDEQ and contracted to TNC.
- The plan is supported by the Great Lakes states and leadership is provided by a core team with input from a technical advisory committee.
- The draft plan is comprised of five parts including a species watch list, site selection, sampling design, information management, and planning.
- The plan takes a taxonomic community approach rather than a species specific approach.
- The next steps are to look at site vulnerability and suitability, update the species watch list, weight the pathways by cumulative risk versus species richness, and determine different techniques and needs for unique invaders and pathways.
- The plan is currently in draft form and will be peer reviewed and published.

USFWS Basin Surveillance

Stephen Hensler, USFWS

- The USFWS has four Fish and Wildlife Conservation offices in the Great Lakes basin and they are working together to develop early detection surveillance plans for AIS.
- The planning efforts started with the GLRI 2010 Action Plan and focused on developing a program to track new AIS in the Great Lakes in addition to developing early detection and rapid response capabilities.
- The offices have created a list of priority vectors and species and are sampling in all of the Great Lakes using the EPA framework and choosing sites based on depth distribution.
- An adaptive management framework is being implemented for early detection to implement recommendations that optimize sampling efficiency and reaches a target of identifying 95% of species.
- Citizen science may be helpful to reach this goal in the future but correct identification is critical.

Advancing AIS Control using an Integrated Pest Management Approach

Terrance Hubert, USGS

- USGS is applying IPM approach to current AIS research...
- Developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) decision support system requires consideration of many factors including the ecosystem, society, economics and control technology and requires proper tools and planning efforts.
- Life history is the foundation of IPM; for example, understanding factors such as spawning habitat, egg drift habitat and adult migration habitat of Asian carp is essential to find vulnerabilities.
- Having many control options is also important for IPM; for Asian carp, USGS is testing pulse-pressure, sound, repurposed carbon dioxide, biological control, chemical controls and considering toxicants.
- Overall, IPM relies on the ability to use a variety of control options to exploit the life cycle of an AIS.

Regional Harmonization Frameworks and Successes

Tammy Newcomb, Michigan DNR

- There are additional regional collaboration efforts underway to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in the Great Lakes coordinated under the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers AIS Task Force.
- In 2013 the “Least Wanted” list was created to determine priority species that warrant action. The species are a proxy for pathways and protect against further invasions.
- The mutual aid agreement is a commitment to regional coordination and was signed by all 10 governors and premiers for implementation in 2015.
- There have been two exercises to implement the mutual aid agreement: Eurasian ruffe eDNA was found in Calumet Harbor and grass carp were found in Lake Erie.
- There is also a harmonization pilot collaboration of Michigan, Ohio and Ontario focusing on risk assessment that will coordinate regulation to achieve specific outcomes.

Closing Remarks, Questions and Discussion

John Navarro, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

- Navarro emphasized the importance of the GLRI in the region, demonstrating how federal funding can leverage additional investments and how critical it was to maintain the projects that were presented.
- Tim Eder, GLC, commented that it’s important to take a step back and recognize that the Great Lakes system has been devastated by the impacts of invasive species. The region depends on the lakes as valuable resources and these efforts could not be sustained without the GLRI. Invasive species is top priority for the region everyone should convey to their administrators that this work and progress is important.

Field Trip Overview & Instructions

Erika Jensen, GLP Coordinator

- E. Jensen gave an overview of the afternoon field trip that showcased the local impacts of GLRI funding at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and The Nature Conservancy’s Zetterberg Preserve.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned for the day. The ANSTF meeting continued the following day (refer to www.anstaskforce.gov for more information and a summary of the entire ANSTF meeting).