

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Information/Education Committee Meeting  
November 20, 2023  
12:00 – 1:30 PM ET

**Attendees**

Doug Jensen, *Committee Chair, MN DNR*  
Tim Campbell, *Committee Chair Vice Chair, WI Sea Grant*  
Rochelle Sturtevant, *NOAA GLANSIS*  
Brook Schryer, *OFAH*  
Kevin Walters, *MI EGLE*  
Eric Fischer, *IN DNR*  
Katie O'Reilly, *IL-IN Sea Grant*  
Zach Burnside, *Wildlife Forever*  
Mike Langendorf, *Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority*  
Elizabeth Tanner, *WI DNR*  
Tory Gabriel, *OH Sea Grant*  
Sara Stahlman, *PA Sea Grant*  
Dave Reid, *Great Lakes Seaway*

*Staff*

Theresa Gruninger, *GLC*  
Ceci Weibert, *GLC*  
Nichole Angell, *GLC*  
Sam Tank, *GLC*

**Action items:**

- (Tim Campbell): Email Susan to ask if the Language of AIS Position Statement can be added to the ANSTF Outreach agenda
- (Doug) Update Grass Carp outreach assessment from “Fair” to “Good”
  - Send assessment and action items to ExComm along with note on positive influence on War on Carp rebranding by Wildlife Forever
- (Theresa and Tim): Send out link, instruction, and review tracking spreadsheet to the I/E Committee regarding reviewing the APM fact sheets
  - Reviews should be complete by Dec 15
- (Theresa): Send out new schedule poll for and next I/E Committee meeting in early Feb (after ANSTF meeting); invite IL-IN Sea Grant “Nab the Invader” staff to speak/update on project
- I/E members: Let Tim Campbell or El Lower know if you would like to attend the Language of Naming Convention Workshop

Facilitate regional review of OH Sea Grant’s grass carp fact sheet

**Meeting start-up**

- Jensen led a round of introductions and reviewed the agenda
  - No changes to the agenda were made

## I/E Committee project updates

- Jensen provided an update on the Language Position Statement
  - Statement has been sent to the ANS Task Force. Next ANSTF meeting is Jan 24-25, the Language of AIS Position Statement will be discussed then, and we'll get a written response shortly thereafter
- A Language Naming Convention Workshop? will be held during National Invasive Species Awareness week (Feb 27-28)
  - El Lower is the lead on the project
  - An announcement of the workshop has been sent to all GLP members
  - On Tuesday, there will be an online portion that will consist of a set of presentations on AIS and language
  - On Wednesday, there will be an in-person working session in Washington D.C. to work towards an ultimate goal of an inclusive set of guidelines for communication. Also, part of the workshop will be to help create a research development document focusing on areas to steer future research:
    - If folks are interested in attending in-person, reach out to Tim Campbell (tim.campbell@wisc.edu) or El Lower ([ellower@umich.edu](mailto:ellower@umich.edu))
    - Anyone can attend the virtual session, feel free to send the invite to your networks once registration is available
- Jensen noted that a paper will be available March-April that provides information gathered from the U of MN Extension's Invasive Species Community of Practice; if folks want the list of species that were addressed before publication, contact Doug
- Wildlife Forever rebranded their campaign from the previous name of "War on Carp"
  - Burnside noted that after there were many organizations provided feedback on the old campaign name. They might lose a bit of campaign traction in certain states with the name change but are happy to have the backing of AIS organizations
- Jensen reviewed the assessment of the Grass Carp Outreach Index
  - 20 outreach products were identified
  - Most products were geared towards anglers
    - Members agree that possibly messaging for all audiences seems to be lacking
    - Pond owners is an important audience only having one resource seems lacking
      - The one resource is the OH Sea Grant's [pond owner fact sheet](#)
      - Gabriel noted that states are welcome to make their own version of this fact sheet to be used as a template
        - IL/IN is interested in adopting this fact sheet
        - Other states note that this could be a possibility but would need more thought
        - Discussion on states adopting the fact sheet is to be an agenda item at our next I/E meeting in early February
  - There are good examples of grass carp outreach, that said, if people would want areas to improve, we could help guide them.
  - Based on our Great Carp Index findings, the policy statement is supported
  - Conclusion, grass carp outreach in the region should be ranked as "Good"
  - Does the I/E committee want to take any action?
    - Option #3: "Moderately increase promotion of existing tools by GLP and its members basin wide" was voted on and agreed to be the next step
    - What this may look like can be discussed at our next I/E Committee meeting

### Interjurisdictional projects and I/E

- The Interjurisdictional Aquatic Plant Management project has created a handful of [factsheets](#) as part of the project's outputs
  - Six factsheets focused on management and six on specific AIS species
  - There is an opportunity for I/E members to review the factsheets for accuracy and content. Folks are welcome to provide comments directly on the factsheets
  - The audience of the factsheets are lake organization members and folks interested in AIS but maybe don't have a lot of knowledge on the topic
  - **Provide feedback directly on the factsheet before 12/15**
    - Theresa will send out the link to the folder
- The GL AIS Landing Blitz can share more information on the GroundTruth program they used for advertising if folks want to learn more
  - Weibert is working with the Ex/Comm to host a webinar with an update of the new IJ projects in 2024, which will include Phase 2 of the GL AIS Landing Blitz
    - Come ready to here anymore about the project and provide feedback on outreach ideas at the webinar

### Brainstorm future I/E project

- Sam Tank provided an overview on a presentation from the Erie County School District that uses "meaningful watershed curriculum" to provide access to schools who may not have resources or access to get to a water feature. So, they bring the content into the schools directly
  - It was interesting to see what they were doing in Erie, and this may be something we want to see in other regions of the Great Lakes
  - Weibert noted that at the eDNA working lunch, there was discussion on the value of teaching about eDNA in the classroom
  - It was noted that curriculum will need to be made to meet state standards. All states standards differ, so that would need to be kept in mind so teachers can justify using that material in their lessons
  - IISG is planning to hire an AIS Education Specialist in the future (in 6 months) to lead the Nab the Aquatic Invader website redesign, so they would be interested in continuing this discussion
    - Invite IL-IN Sea Grant to next meeting as appropriate for an update
    - GLANSIS was working with gathering education material and are hiring a new staff member to work on this project

### Member updates

- OH Sea Grant is revising their field guild of AIS for Ohio
- OFAH is working to develop bait fish guides. This will be done March 2024 and will coordinate with the OIT ad hoc committee to see if they can share materials
  - Working on eradicating marbled crayfish in Ontario
  - Updating their Quick Reference Guide
  - All guides are available on <https://www.invadingspecies.com/>
  - Signal crayfish will be added to the OFAH website
- MN DNR new detection of signal crayfish. Nine male crayfish have been collected so far but no small or immature specimen. Just one female, so far there is no proof of reproduction  
Update provided via chat (also provided for fall meeting last week):

- Ballast water: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) general permit for ballast water discharges covers approximately 250 vessels. The general permit requires development of a ballast water and sediment management plan, and in some cases a compatibility review of available ballast water treatment technologies to meet the IMO standards. The MPCA has been actively involved in reviewing/commenting on US EPA's proposed National Standards of Performance for incidental discharges from vessels, including ballast water, as required under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). MPCA staff has also been engaged with the U.S. Coast Guard as they begin developing regulations for implementation of the yet-to-be finalized National Standards of Performance.
- Early Detection: The Minnesota DNR partnered with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), the University of Minnesota Extension and many counties and local partners on an annual statewide search for new populations of starry stonewort, called "Starry Trek." In 2023, 187 volunteers searched 215 Minnesota waterbodies. No new starry stonewort infestations were found during the 2023 Starry Trek.
- Nonnative Phragmites: The Minnesota DNR continues to work with cooperators to implement a coordinated response to nonnative Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) in Minnesota. In 2023, DNR contractors visited 420 nonnative Phragmites sites in 38 counties. At 95 of the sites, no treatment was done because no nonnative Phragmites was found at the site, largely due to previous years' effective treatment. Most of the treated sites were very small. Of the 292 sites where treatment occurred, 210 of them were less than one tenth of an acre.
- Invasive Carp: The Minnesota DNR continues to build partnerships with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wisconsin DNR, NPS, and Wild Rivers Conservancy with carp capture method testing in 2023. Additional upcoming projects include using attractant stations to concentrate invasive carp for capture, identifying watershed breaches that can be blocked to prevent invasive carp movement, and modeling invasive carp reproduction in the Upper Mississippi River to identify priority locations for management. The DNR is completing a structured decision-making process with invasive carp experts and stakeholders to inform the update of the Invasive Carp Action Plan. The Minnesota DNR continues to: monitor for all life stages of invasive carp using a variety of fisheries gears; tag and track invasive carp; contract with commercial fishers to capture invasive carp; and develop new techniques to remove invasive carp in our low-density population.
- PA Sea Grant received funding from the Mid-Atlantic Panel to develop field guide of the Mid-Atlantic species:
  - They have created a [new pet re-homing document](#). Available on their newly updated website!
  - New infestations of New Zealand mud snails in PA tributaries. They are working on conducting a lot of outreach with anglers and working on increasing signage
- Wildlife Forever has been applying for several grants to take what they did with the "Protect the West" website and make it a national website where boaters can find AIS regulations and find cleaning resources
  - They are continuing their work with Mike Hoff on the EcoSTAR project
- WI DNR is developing a pet store monitoring and outreach protocol
  - They have also started to reach out to teacher regarding biological supplies and are hosting a presentation at an upcoming teaching conference

Meeting wrap-up and adjourn

- Proposed to meet in early Feb after the ANS Task Force meeting
- Tim will email Susan to ask if the Position Statement be added to the Outreach Agenda
- Send Grass Carp outreach assessment to Ex/Comm, with assessment changed from “fair” to “good”