Great Lakes Panel Member Updates
Spring 2026 – Fall 2026

Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

U.S. Federal

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
No update provided.

Contact: Amy McGovern, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 612-713-5109, amy_mcgovern@fws.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA GLERL conducted multiple studies in Lake Michigan focused on invasive quagga mussels.
(1) Developing underwater vehicle technology for invasive mussel control and monitoring. We conducted our third and final round of trials to use a tracked underwater vehicle to displace and damage quagga mussels in soft sediments at 45m depth.
(2) Assessing quagga mussel body condition and reproductive status. This long-term, seasonal monitoring program has identified depth-specific reproductive trends that provide insight into dreissenid mussel distributions. We conducted a new study focused on size at initiation of puberty for quagga mussels from multiple depths in Lake Michigan.
(3) Tracking quagga mussel growth in a long-term field experiment. Results from the first four years indicate inter-annual variation in addition to the expected depth differences in growth.

NOAA GLERL continued to build its investigations of pink salmon throughout the Great Lakes. A paper by Langan et al. 2026 (see below) provides a comprehensive review of what is known about the invasion history and ecology of this species and characterizing current population trends to the degree possible with available data. Additional pilot work continues to investigate pink salmon genetic and biological samples with the goal of improving understanding of the productivity of Great Lakes populations.

GLERL also has a grass carp project funded under the FY25 Invasive Carp Action Plan. The objective is to investigate habitat conditions that influence grass carp movements when they enter Lake Erie to inform monitoring and control efforts.

Recent Publications

Dataset: The Lake Michigan 2025 Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative quagga mussel length-weight dataset is now archived with NCEI.
Elgin and Glyshaw 2026: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/archive/accession/0314902

Langan, JA, PJ Alsip, HU Abdelhady, CR Bronte, CA Goldsworthy, MS Kornis, KB Oke, EB Thorstad, BA Turschak. 2026. The Forgotten Pink Salmon in the Laurentian Great Lakes: An Unexpected Invasion With Insights for Three Oceans. Fish and Fisheries 27(4): 813–830. https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.70084

Contact: Ashley Elgin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 616-414-1059, ashley.elgin@noaa.gov

National Park Service
No update provided.

Contact: Brenda Lafrancois, National Park Service, 715-682-0631, brenda_moraska_lafrancois@nps.gov

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Verbal update provided.

Contact: Mike Greer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District, 716-879-4229, michael.j.greer@usace.army.mil

U.S. Coast Guard
No update provided.

Contact: Kirk Beckmann | 9th CG District | (216) 902-6050 | kirk.j.beckmann2@uscg.mil

U.S. Forest Service
No update provided.

Contact: Vacant

U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS
No update provided.

Contact: Vacant

U.S. Department of State
No update provided.

Contact: Nadia Sbeih, U.S. Department of State, 202-647-3228, SbeihND@state.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
No update provided.

Contact: Matt Pawlowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office, 312-886-7834, pawlowski.matthew@epa.gov

U.S. Geological Survey
No update provided.

Contact: Mattew Neilson, U.S. Geological Survey Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database program, 352-264-3519, mneilson@usgs.gov

State/Provincial
Illinois
No update provided.

Contact: Brian Schoenung, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 217-558-4581, brian.schoenung@illinois.gov

Indiana

Contact: Aubree Szczepanski, Indiana DNR, 317-233-0755, ASzczepanski@dnr.IN.gov

Michigan
Verbal update provided.

Contact: Ceci Weibert, Michigan DEQ, 517-243-4735, weibertC1@michigan.gov

Minnesota

- Invasive carp: The design for an Underwater Acoustic Deterrent System (uADS) at the lock of Lock and Dam 5 on the Mississippi River is underway. The uADS is selective for invasive carp and can reduce their upstream movement while allowing native fish to pass. Monitoring for the Lock and Dam 5 Deterrent Project in development continued in 2026. 198 native fish including lake sturgeon, paddlefish, bigmouth buffalo, white bass and redhorse species were acoustically tagged and released to learn more about how fish pass through Lock and Dam 5. This data will help the DNR monitor the effects of the invasive carp deterrent system once installed and adaptively manage the project to minimize impacts to native species.
- Starry Trek: The DNR partnered with MAISRC, University of Minnesota Extension, and county and local partners on an annual statewide search for new populations of starry stonewort, called "Starry Trek." In 2026, 173 volunteers searched 230 Minnesota water bodies, including 266 public water accesses. No new starry stonewort populations were found in during Starry Trek 2026.
- Invasive Aquatic Plant Management: Invasive Species Program staff issued 500 permits to manage invasive aquatic plants, and the DNR Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Grant Program funded 57 grants, totaling $1,060,000.
- Nonnative Phragmites: The DNR continued to work with partners throughout the state to implement a coordinated response to nonnative *Phragmites* (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) in Minnesota. Available survey and monitoring data show that about one third of the known patches in the state have been eradicated. The project's funding is expanding to seek state state funding in addition to federal grants, ensuring we can continue the high-priority work of containing and suppressing this invasive species.
- Signal crayfish: Since the initial capture of 10 signal crayfish (*Pacifasticus leniusculus*) by a commercial minnow harvester in October 2023 in Lake Winona, Douglas County, MN, no additional signal crayfish have been captured during collaborative delineation trapping efforts with the DNR, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and Douglas County. Analyses conducted by MAISRC on environmental DNA (eDNA) samples showed weak signal crayfish eDNA detections in 2024. Signal crayfish eDNA was not detected in any of the 2025 samples.

Contact: Kelly Pennington, Minnesota DNR, 651-259-5131, kelly.pennington@state.mn.us

New York
Verbal update provided.

Contact: Catherine McGlynn, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 518-408-0436, catherine.mcglynn@dec.ny.gov

Ohio

- Continued following the Lake Erie Grass Carp Adaptive Response Strategy 2024-2028 with the deployment of multiple Grass Carp Strike Teams through the University of Toledo and USFWS dedicated to the eradication of Grass Carp from the western basin of Lake Erie. Over 1,300 adult Grass Carp have been removed to date. We continue to track tagged Grass Carp with the GLATOS system and real-time receivers, and we are working through the University of Toledo to determine Grass Carp catchability and population size. Partners also include Michigan DNR, GLFC, USFWS, and USGS.
- Continue closure efforts for the two medium risk Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study connections in Ohio at the Ohio Erie Canal and Little Killbuck Creek 1) The USACE completed the closure of the Ohio Erie Canal connection in March 2020 and ODNR is maintaining the deterrents; 2) Phase 1 construction for the Little Killbuck Creek closure was completed in October 2025 and we are working Phase II.
- Ohio DNR continues the surveillance of Ohio's bait supply chain to determine if AIS, including Bighead and Silver Carp, are being transported through the bait trade. To date, no high-risk AIS has been detected. We are also working with the pet trade to ensure that invasive crayfish are not being sold.
- Continue to work with Cleveland MetroParks on invasive plant EDRR in the Lake Erie watershed. Partnering with ODNR Parks and USACE on control efforts on Hydrilla just outside the Lake Erie basin at Pymatuning Lake and Mosquito Creek Lake.
- In partnership with Ohio Sea Grant, The Ohio State University, and Cleveland Metroparks, completed the second addition of the Ohio Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species: https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ohiodnr.gov/documents/wildlife/fish-management/OSU_AIS_FieldGuide_Web.pdf
- Participated in the following groups: Great Lakes Panel, Ohio Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, Grass Carp Advisory Committee, and Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee.

Contact: John Navarro, Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife, 614-265-6346, john.navarro@dnr.state.oh.us

Ontario
No update provided.

Contact: Francine MacDonald, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, 705-755-5136, Francine.macdonald@ontario.ca

Pennsylvania
No update provided.

Contact: Jim Grazio, Pennsylvania DEP, 814-217-9636, jagrazio@pa.gov

Québec
No update provided.

Contact: Annick Drouin, Québec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, 418-654-6984 annick.drouin@mffp.gouv.qc.ca

Wisconsin
Verbal update provided.

Contact: Amy Kretlow, Wisconsin DNR, 920-838-2597, Amy.Kretlow@Wisconsin.gov

Regional/Binational

International Joint Commission
No update provided.

Contact: Anna Boegehold, International Joint Commission, Anna.Boegehold@ijc.org

Great Lakes Fishery Commission
No update provided.

Contact: Greg McClinchey, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, 226-980-9193, greg@glfc.org

Great Lakes Commission
No update provided.

Contact: Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, ejensen@glc.org

Canadian Federal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
No update provided.

Contact: Becky Cudmore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 905-336-4474, becky.cudmore@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Transport Canada
No update provided.

Contact: Vacant

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

United States
No update provided.

Contact: Vacant

Canada
No update provided.

Contact: Vacant

Environmental/User Groups

The Nature Conservancy
Verbal update provided.

Contact: Lindsay Chadderton, The Nature Conservancy, 574-631-4992, lchadderton@tnc.org

National Wildlife Federation
No update provided.

Contact: Marc Smith, National Wildlife Federation, 734-887-7116, msmith@nwf.org

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
No update provided.

Contact: Brook Schryer, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, 705-748-6324 ext. 227, brook_schryer@ofah.org

Tribal Authorities

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
No update provided.

Contact: Miles Falck, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, 715-682-2124, miles@glifwc.org

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
No update provided.

Contact: Mike Langendorf, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, 906-632-0043, mlangendorf@chippewaottawa.org

PRIVATE/COMMERCIAL

Lake Carriers' Association
No update provided.

Contact: Debra DiCianna, Lake Carriers' Association, 440-333-9994, dicianna@lcaships.com

University/Research

Great Lakes Sea Grant Network-Research and Extension
No update provided.

Contact: Rochelle Sturtevant, NOAA Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, 734-741-2287, Rochelle.Sturtevant@noaa.gov

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
No update provided.

Contact: Dan Larkin, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, 612-626-1412, djlarkin@umn.edu

Invasive Species Centre

- ICAIS 2026 – In August, the Invasive Species Centre hosted the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS) in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The conference welcomed 285 in-person and 26 virtual participants from 32 countries, with the strongest participation from the UK, United States, and Canada. Planning for ICAIS 2028 will begin shortly, and ISC welcomes opportunities to strengthen U.S. participation and partnerships for the next conference.
- Zooplankton Diagnostics Program – ISC continues to process water samples from across Ontario, analyzing zooplankton communities for the presence or absence of invasive mussel veligers to support early detection and monitoring efforts.
- Invasive Carp Canada – Through the Invasive Carp Canada program, ISC continues targeted outreach to boaters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts through ongoing collaborations with Fish'n Canada, Ontario OUT of DOORS, and Time on the Lake.
- Online Training Development – An Invasive Species 101 course is currently in development and will provide foundational information on invasive species pathways, impacts, prevention, and management. The Marbled Crayfish course is also being updated to include additional species.
- Watercraft Decontamination Standards – ISC is a member of the technical subcommittee supporting the development of the Canadian Standards Association's National Standard of Canada for watercraft inspection and decontamination. A draft standard was released for a 60-day public review period in August and will provide nationally consistent guidance to support aquatic invasive species prevention efforts across Canada.
- Water Soldier (Lake Simcoe) – ISC continues to coordinate monitoring, research, and pilot management activities through the Water Soldier Working Group. Planning for the 2027 field season is underway, with a focus on limiting spread and managing annual population growth.
- Hydrilla – ISC is working with partners including the Essex Region Conservation Authority, University of Waterloo's Waterloo Wetland Laboratory, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to control and eradicate the only known Canadian population of Hydrilla at Hillman Marsh.
- European Water Chestnut – ISC completed Year 5 of the European Water Chestnut rapid response program on the Welland River, achieving a reduction of more than 90% in the infestation. Continued monitoring and annual removal efforts will be undertaken in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Contact: Rebecca D'Orazio, Invasive Species Centre, rdorazio@invasivespeciescentre.ca

At-Large

Doug Jensen – Minnesota DNR
No update provided.

Contact: Doug Jensen, Minnesota DNR, 218-590-7164, doug.jensen@state.mn.us

Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
No update provided.

Contact: Anthony Fisher, Deputy Administrator, 202-366-0105, Anthony.Fisher@dot.gov

1854 Treaty Authority

Verbal update provided.

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Wisconsin Sea Grant
No update provided.

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Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
No update provided.

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