

WORKSHOP SERIES PROVIDES A CATALYST FOR STATE ANS MANAGEMENT PLANS

By Erika Jensen, Program Specialist, Resource Management, Great Lakes Commission

A recently concluded series of workshops reflect the Great Lakes Commission's longstanding commitment to advance state management planning for the prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The six workshops, held in various Great Lakes states from 2005-07, were part of a project titled *A Collaborative Approach to Advance Implementation of State Management Plans for the Prevention and Control of Aquatic Nuisance Species in the Great Lakes Region*. Funding was provided by NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program.

The purpose of each workshop, tailored to state priorities, was to assist the host state in the development, implementation, evaluation, and/or revision of its ANS state management plan (SMP). Guidelines for such SMPs are set forth in the *Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990*, commonly known as NANPCA.

The SMP workshops featured the following themes: developing a comprehensive approach to management to address aquatic and terrestrial species, sharing of outreach materials related to ANS identification and impacts, designing regulations to restrict the movement of ANS, and incorporating state rapid response planning. Workshops were organized by the Commission in collaboration with state Sea Grant programs and state environment/natural resource agencies. A formal partnership agreement was formed between the Commission and each state Sea Grant office to facilitate the planning and conduct of each state workshop. An important outcome from this collaborative experience was increased communication and coordination on a state and regional level that has laid the groundwork for future work on ANS management.

Throughout the project, the Commission provided a valuable regional perspective and contributed its expertise in coordination and building partnerships. The value of partnerships was demonstrated in each of the workshops by the active involvement of state agencies and Sea Grant programs which provided the necessary authorities and expertise to carry management actions forward. Stakeholder involvement, including the commercial sector, also played a significant role during the workshops, energizing the SMP process. The state workshops served not only to educate stakeholders of the risks and impacts associated with ANS, but also to engage them, thus encouraging their investment in the outcomes of state management planning. Overall, the Commission found that despite differing priorities and contexts for ANS management among the states, project workshops provided a catalyst for advancing the SMP process.

The culmination of the workshop series was a one-day session featuring project outcomes as part of the May 2007 joint meeting of the national ANS Task Force and Great Lakes Panel. This session provided a forum for the states to exchange ideas and lessons learned from their workshops. It was also an opportunity for members of the ANS Task Force to receive a briefing on the status of SMP programs across the region and to actively engage with state representatives to develop recommendations for facilitating state ANS management planning at a regional and federal level. Discussions during this session generated strategies to help overcome certain obstacles experienced by the states, such as a limited availability of resources, the need for further coordination of management and policy across jurisdictional lines and a lack of public/political support for ANS management initiatives.

A significant recommendation that ensued from discussion at the ANS Task Force session was the need to frame the ANS issue in terms

of positive outcomes to stakeholders, thus highlighting the economic and ecological benefits which could result from SMP and related ANS prevention and control activities. It was also recommended that the states develop an evaluation process to identify successes and ensure funding is spent wisely. Given the limited availability of funding, a variety of creative strategies for funding SMP activities were shared. These ideas included using a consultant to develop a long-term funding strategy and financial management plan; applying to other federal grant programs; prioritizing activities for funding; leveraging private funding sources with the aid of the regional panels; and utilizing lobbying resources of the Sea Grant Network to advocate for increased appropriations.

Session participants also expressed a need for strong federal leadership to encourage an increase in the amount of funding provided for SMP work and to support enabling legislation that would facilitate a regulatory approach to management (e.g., a process for listing regulated ANS for use in screening). Also emphasized was the importance of state and federal cooperation and communication on regulatory issues. In addition to funding, participants indicated interest in receiving other types of federal assistance such as staff, equipment and technical support. The streamlining of permitting and regulatory processes related to response and control efforts was also identified as a priority. These types of activities would strengthen the ability of the states to prevent and control ANS within their jurisdictions.

Collaboration among the different organizations involved in this project was integral to its success in advancing ANS management activities in individual states. This project recognized and utilized the unique strengths of different organizations to leverage critical resources and expertise, thus creating a more robust and effective SMP process. Cooperation among the organizations has laid the foundation for future efforts to prevent and control ANS on a Great Lakes regional scale. The culminating session has also raised the profile of SMP issues on a federal level in an effort to increase communication between federal and state agencies. This project might serve as an instructive model for multijurisdictional collaboration between state, regional and federal agencies to make the best use of existing resources and increase the capacity of states to implement effective ANS prevention and control activities.

Full documentation of this project, including workshop agendas and summaries; presentations; recommendations; and an SMP briefing paper, can be found at <http://glc.org/ans/initiatives#advance>. **Contact:** Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, ejensen@glc.org.

Washington Watch

Two ballast water bills in Congress with the greatest potential are Sen. Inouye's (HI) Ballast Water Management Act (S. 1578) and Rep. Oberstar's (MN) U.S. Coast Guard authorization bill (H.R. 2830). Both bills amend current law to address the ballast water issue by establishing ballast water exchange requirements for all vessels and a national ballast water treatment standard that is 100 times higher than international IMO standards. The bills differ on the timeline for implementation, what happens if treatment is not available to meet the deadline, and state authority to pass additional regulations. The House bill was passed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and is currently awaiting action on the House Floor. In the Senate, jurisdictional issues between Committees have held

up action on the bill. The Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), passed into law on Nov. 9, 2007, includes language directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete the ANS dispersal barrier system on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal and operate and maintain the system at full federal cost. Both House and Senate appropriations bills contain funding for the project. **Contact:** Joy Mulinex, Great Lakes Task Force Director, 202-224-1211, joy_mulinex@levin.senate.gov.

Around the Basin:

ILLINOIS: Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG), in partnership with Wisconsin DNR, is creating a hydrilla/Brazilian elodea WATCH card to be ready for the spring 2008 boating season. IISG has increased their outreach on Asian carp to areas along the Chicago waterways at the front of the invasion. IDNR, along with the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, hosted an invasive plant identification workshop for fisheries biologist and other resource professionals. The city of Chicago passed an Invasive Species Ordinance listing 24 prohibited species; IISG was involved in the process as a member of their advisory group. **Contact:** Patrice Charlebois, IISG, 847-872-0140, charlebo@uiuc.edu.

INDIANA: Lake Manitou hydrilla eradication began in mid-May 2007 using the aquatic herbicide Sonar. During an intensive aquatic plant survey of Lake Manitou in August, hydrilla was not located. Access restrictions remain in place on the lake. A whole-lake Sonar treatment was again applied to Griffy Lake to eradicate Brazilian elodea. No Brazilian elodea was found in the lake during an intensive plant survey in August. Griffy Lake access restrictions were lifted given minimal threat that Brazilian elodea could be transported on equipment. Stakeholder meetings continue to develop regulations for aquatic plants in trade, BMPs for those selling aquatic plants, and outreach materials to prevent the release of aquatic organisms by aquarium and water garden enthusiasts. Meetings are facilitated by IISG. **Contact:** Doug Keller, Indiana DNR, 317-234-3883, dkeller@dnr.in.gov.

MICHIGAN: A U.S. District Court judge dismissed a lawsuit that challenged Michigan's ballast water law designed to stop invasive species from reaching the Great Lakes. The court ruled that it did not have jurisdiction to consider the plaintiff's state law claims and that the plaintiff had failed to state a claim that the Michigan law violates the Due Process, Supremacy or Commerce Clauses of the U.S. Constitution. Under the law, which requires a permit for port operations, 73 permits have been issued to ocean-going vessels representing 27 different companies. A process has been approved by the MDNR to guide listings and delistings of species under Michigan's new invasive species laws. The MDEQ Office of the Great Lakes has released *A Landowner's Guide to Phragmites Control* which provides information on management options for controlling *Phragmites*, associated state permit requirements and the benefits to managing *Phragmites*. **Contact:** Emily Finnell, MDEQ, 517-241-7927, finnelle@michigan.gov.

MINNESOTA: Last spring, *Habitattitude* was featured at two youth education events: the 2007 River Quest and 2007 St. Louis River Watch Congress attended by over 720 Duluth-area middle and high school students. Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed June 23 – 30, 2007 as *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* Week. During the week, DNR Conservation Officers and watercraft inspectors worked extra hours enforcing invasive species laws. Preliminary results of an ongoing boater survey in MN, IA, and WI show the *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* campaign can very strongly influence behavior aimed at preventing the spread of AIS. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy filed suit in state district court demanding that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency take action to enforce the federal Clean Water Act and restrict the virus Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) and other invasive species spread by ballast water from ships. The Making of a Great Lake Superior Conference (www.seagrant.umn.edu/superior2007) hosted an AIS session in October in Duluth, Minn. **Contact:** Doug Jensen, MN Sea Grant, 218-726-8712, djensen1@umn.edu; or Jay Rendall, MNDNR, 651-259-5131, jay.rendall@dnr.state.mn.us

OHIO: The ODNR Division of Wildlife continues to revise Ohio's State Management Plan and will have a draft completed in early 2008. ODNR, Ohio Sea Grant, and Great Lakes Commission hosted the AIS Workshop for Developing a Rapid Response Plan (RRP) for Ohio. Over 50 stakeholders attended the workshop to identify key issues that need to be incorporated into the RRP. As one outcome of the workshop, ODNR is in the process of soliciting membership for an Ohio Aquatic Invasive Species Committee and hopes to have a first meeting in early 2008. The committee will be represented by a wide range of individuals from government and

private industry. ODNR also assisted the Midwest Invasive Plant Network with the development of a publication entitled *Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants*; helped sponsor the Midwest Natural Areas Conference focusing on nuisance plants; and assisted several local groups with the control of invasive plants along Lake Erie. **Contact:** John Navarro, ODNR Division of Wildlife, 614-265-6346, john.navarro@dnr.state.oh.us.

PENNSYLVANIA: *Dreissenid* mussels continue to spread to inland portions of the Commonwealth. Quagga mussels were discovered in a diving quarry near Williamsburg in March 2007. Zebra mussels were discovered in Cowanesque Lake near Lawrenceville in May 2007 and in the Pennsylvania waters of the Susquehanna River near Great Bend in September 2007. The invasive alga "Didymo" was also discovered in September in both the east and west branches of the Delaware River, marking the first occurrence in Pennsylvania. In partnership with PADEP, PA Sea Grant has developed an online zebra mussel tracking website at www.pserie.psu.edu/seagrant/zm. PA Sea Grant hosted a zebra mussel monitoring summit November 2007 in Harrisburg. PADEP has committed to making AIS a funding priority for its 2008 Growing Greener grant program. **Contact:** Jim Grazio, PADEP, 814-217-9636, jgrazio@state.pa.us.

QUÉBEC: An international didymo workshop was held in Montréal in August during the Société Internationale de Limnologie (SIL) congress. It included presentations from experts and stakeholders of Canada, United States, New Zealand and Europe. Québec's early detection network of AIS captured a Chinese mitten crab specimen this summer in the brackish waters of the St.-Lawrence River. This is the eighth specimen captured during the last four years. A VHS monitoring program was implemented this summer in the St. Lawrence River. Federal and provincial agencies are involved in the program. To date no cases of VHS have been detected in Québec's waters. **Contact:** Isabelle Simard MDDEP, 418-521-3907 #4417, isabelle.simard@mddep.gouv.qc.ca.

WISCONSIN: Hydrilla was found in a small artificial pond in northeastern Wisconsin. The WDNR has developed a draft rapid response plan that involves chemical treatment and drawdown which will be implemented this fall. The pond is not connected to any natural waterbody. Spiny water fleas were documented in a second inland Wisconsin lake. They were found in August in a 522-acre lake near the Michigan border. In addition, several waterbodies were newly confirmed to have zebra mussels and Eurasian water-milfoil. The WDNR is developing a draft administrative rule on invasive species that should be communicated at public meetings later this fall. **Contact:** Ron Martin, WDNR, 608-266-9270, Ronald.Martin@Wisconsin.gov.

Great Lakes Panel Update

The fall meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on ANS will be held November 28-29, 2007 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The focus of the meeting will be on risk assessment and vector management for aquatic invaders. Meeting information and logistics are available online at <http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>. Proceedings and action items from the spring meeting (May 8-11, 2007, in Erie, Penn.), are available on the same web site. **Contact:** Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, shwayder@glc.org.

ANS Task Force

The Task Force met Nov. 6-8, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia. Agenda items included climate change and ANS, consideration of recommendations from the Regional ANS Panels, Asian and common carp management, and ballast water management. This and prior meeting documents are available at <http://anstaskforce.gov/meetings.php>. Listings in the ANS expert database are growing daily, thanks to the efforts of the Regional ANS Panels. More information is available at <http://anstaskforce.gov/experts/search.php>. **Contact:** Scott Newsham, USFWS, 703-358-1796, Scott_Newsham@fws.gov.

Upcoming Events

- *Meeting of the Great Lakes Panel on ANS.* Nov. 28-29, 2007. Ann Arbor, Mich. **Contact:** Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Great Lakes Commission, shwayder@glc.org, 734-971-9135