

An underwater photograph showing a variety of smooth, rounded rocks in shades of blue, green, orange, and grey. The water is clear and greenish, with ripples and reflections on the surface. The rocks are densely packed in the foreground and middle ground, creating a textured, colorful mosaic.

Interstate Early Detection and Response Plan

Great Lakes Panel on ANS

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The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
Action Plan, Invasive Species Focus Area
has identified one of its long term goals as:

“A comprehensive program for detection and tracking newly identified invasive species in the Great Lakes is developed and provides up to date critical information needed by decision makers for evaluating potential rapid response actions.”

Funding Opportunity

- FY14 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Implementation of AIS State Management Plans
 - Creation of an Interstate Plan
- Preliminary proposal submitted to USFWS

Project summary

- Timeframe: 1 year
- Geographic scope: Great Lakes, connecting channels, and Great Lakes tributaries up to the first barrier for United States waters of the Great Lakes
- Outputs: An Interstate Plan for the Great Lakes
 - Comprehensive early detection program
 - Multiagency rapid response plan
 - At least one interjurisdictional rapid response exercise

Key Steps

1. Establish a GL EDRR Planning Team
2. Hire Consultant
3. Develop surveillance plan using strategic planning process
 - Consultant will work with states to identify method for surveillance plan development
 - Existing surveillance plans
 - Surveillance currently being implemented (State, Federal, University, etc.)
 - Site selection prioritization (analysis of pathways)
 - Species specific surveillance versus generic surveillance
 - Surveillance methods
 - Capacity for conducting surveillance
 - Other factors identified by the Team

Key Steps

4. Develop a multiagency rapid response plan
 - Existing (State, Federal, Tribal, etc.) response plans
 - Response actions or trainings completed or planned in the Great Lakes
 - Agency and partner participation in a response action (Mutual Aid Agreement)
 - Triggers for a rapid response action in the Great Lakes
 - Communication Protocols
 - Participation in interstate rapid response action training sessions or rapid response actions
 - Other factors identified by the Team
5. Conduct at least one interjurisdictional rapid response exercise

Timeline

- Begin work Fall 2014
- Plan development through Fall 2015
- Response exercise Fall 2015
- Coordinated surveillance 2016