

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
Portland, ME
May 5-6, 2010**

Regional Panel Name: Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
Submitted By: Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Panel Coordinator

Key ANS Activities from November 2009 through April 2010

Major Accomplishments:

- In December, the Great Lakes Panel (GLP) approved the *Position Statement on a National Ballast Water Discharge Standard*. The statement is a consensus-based document developed by the GLP to identify basic priorities that should be pursued in the process of establishing a national ballast water discharge standard in collective efforts to safeguard Great Lakes waters from aquatic invasions. The positions statement was submitted to the ANSTF in January.
- In February, the GLP approved the *Position Statement on Governance Issues Involving the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)*. The consensus-based position statement recommended that amendments to the binational GLWQA explicitly address the AIS issue and that the renegotiation process and the governance structure offer meaningful opportunities to engage with the various stakeholders in the region, including the GLP.
- The fall meeting of the GLP was held December 10-11, 2009 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The meeting agenda, action items and summary can be found online through the Panel website at <http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>. The meeting featured a session to update the membership on high priority regional issues including ballast water regulatory programs, funding opportunities under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Asian carp response and management activities.
- The spring meeting of the GLP will be held April 27-28, 2010 at the Maumee Bay State Park in Ohio. The meeting will feature a session on innovative prevention and control technologies for AIS, in addition to updates on Asian carp, the GLWQA and ballast water regulation, among others. Meeting details are available on the website noted above.

Ongoing Work:

- The Panel is finalizing a position statement for researchers reporting a new AIS discovery, for submission to the ANSTF. The statement recommends the use of a common reporting protocol that is timely while providing acknowledgement and credit to researchers in being first in reporting a new AIS or a known species at a new location.
- The I/E Committee is leading an effort to update the *National Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species* for recreational users and distribute that document among its members for wider dissemination.
- The I/E Committee continues to lead work in distributing the GLP committee priorities documents. Documents completed thus far include: 1) *Aquatic Invasive Species Information and Education Priorities for the Great Lakes* and 2) *Aquatic Invasive Species Research*

Priorities for the Great Lakes (available online at: <http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#committees>). Work is ongoing to develop a Policy Coordination Committee priorities document.

- The I/E Committee continues to lead dissemination of the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* (GLAI) booklet. Approximately half of the 10,000 copies have been distributed thus far to agencies, legislators, user groups and others at a variety of regional events. Staff is working with the committee on a strategy to distribute the remaining booklets.
- The Policy Coordination Commission is leading work to develop a position statement on federal screening regulations that will highlight specific issues that should be considered when developing new regulations.

Panel Recommendations to the ANSTF

As recommendations to the ANSTF, the Panel has recently submitted positions statements for federal ballast water regulation (January 2010) and renegotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (February 2010). In the near-term, the Panel expects to submit an additional position statement on reporting new AIS discoveries (as noted previously). The Panel anticipates that this position statement will be ready for submittal to the ANSTF in advance of the next meeting (spring 2010). All Panel recommendations to the ANSTF are archived on the Panel website at: <http://glc.org/ans/panel#recommendations>.