



# NOAA's Update: Aquatic Invasive Species



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# NOAA Highlights and Activities

- NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) update
- Chesapeake Bay Blue Catfish Management Plan
- ONMS Lionfish Response Plan
- Status of NOAA's proposal to prohibit introduction of introduced species into state waters of the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries
- 2014 Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative meeting
- National Ocean Policy
  - Invasive Species Early Detection & Rapid Response Fund



# NOAA Habitat Blueprint Focus Areas & Invasive Species

The Habitat Blueprint is NOAA's strategy to integrate habitat conservation throughout the agency, focus efforts in priority areas, and leverage internal and external collaborations to achieve measurable benefits within key habitats such as rivers, coral reefs, and wetlands.

NOAA has identified state and federal invasive species experts and plans to consider invasive species prevention and management while developing Habitat Blueprint Focus Area Implementation Plans.

## 5 Focus Areas:

- Muskegon Lake, Michigan
- St. Louis River, Minnesota & Wisconsin
- Guam
- West Hawaii
- Russian River of California



# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)



- Funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency through President Obama’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- NOAA awarded the following amounts to projects in the Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs):

FY	Amount awarded	# projects
2010	\$9.2 million	9
2011	\$4.9 million	8
2012	\$3.7 million	4
2013	\$3.2 million	5
2014	\$4.2 million anticipated for coastal habitat restoration	Announced summer 2014

All GLRI projects include a special award condition for invasive species, including development of an HACCP plan for invasive species & post-project monitoring



# Invasive Catfish Task Force

- Chesapeake Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team established an Invasive Catfish Task Force to determine the extent of the effects of invasive catfish on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.
- Report of the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team Invasive Catfish Task Force is forthcoming
  - Goal: A multijurisdictional effort that includes scientists, academic institutions, and resource managers working collaboratively to mitigate the spread and associated negative effects of invasive catfish.
  - Efforts to incentivize commercial harvest of invasive catfish are being considered in Chesapeake Bay
    - Harvest incentives are discussed further in:  
Pasko, S. & J. Goldberg. 2014 *accepted*. Evaluating Harvest of Incentives to Control Invasive Species. *Management of Biological Invasions*



For more information, visit: <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/fish-facts/invasive-catfish>



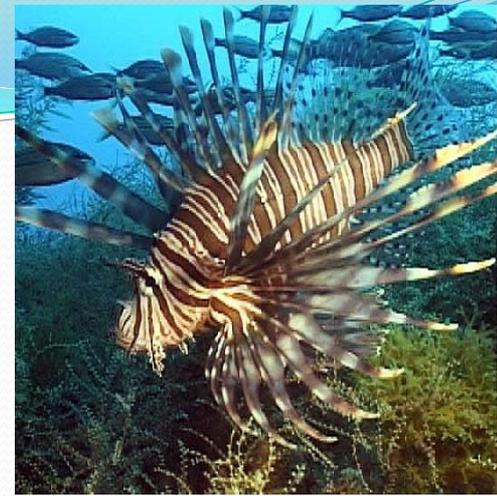
# NOAA

**CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



# Draft NOAA Lionfish Response Plan

The Indo-Pacific lionfish has become widely established within Atlantic and Caribbean waters and poses a significant threat to native coral reef communities. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is currently reviewing their draft Lionfish Response Plan.



The goal of Plan is to understand and mitigate lionfish impacts on Florida Keys, Flower Garden Banks, and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuaries.

- Purpose: guide lionfish control at national marine sanctuary sites.
- Documents ongoing monitoring, control, research, and education/outreach at each sanctuary.
- Recommends several new or enhanced activities to better manage the invasion.

The Plan complements existing response plans and applies more specifically to national marine sanctuaries.

Recognizes close coordination and cooperation with other domestic and international organizations and agencies is key at all scales and identifies those partners within the Plan.



# Extension of Public Comment Period on 79 FR 16622

- On March 18, 2013 (78 FR 16622), NOAA proposed to prohibit the introduction of introduced species into the state waters of Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries (GFNMS and MBNMS, respectively).
- On March 27, 2014 (79 FR 17073) NOAA proposed to amend the March 2013 proposed rule to allow GFNMS and MBNMS to authorize certain introduced species of shellfish from commercial mariculture projects in all state waters of the sanctuaries.
- The comment period on this amendment closed on April 11, 2014.
- In response to significant public interest in this amended proposed action, NOAA re-opened the public comment period until May 5, 2014.



# Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative Meeting

- NOAA hosted the 2014 meeting of the Ballast Water Collaborative at NOAA Science Center in Silver Spring, MD on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - In 2009, the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the International Joint Commission formed the Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative to bring together industry, state and federal representatives and scientists on the issue of ballast water and invasive species in the region.
- More than 50 stakeholders met to discuss the state of ballast water treatment science, industry perspectives, and challenges presented by regulatory inconsistencies.

Report will be available later this year at:

<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/environment/ballastcollaborative.html>





# NOAA's Ongoing AIS Actions

## Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species:

- HACCP is international standard for reducing or eliminating the spread of unwanted species during natural resource management (NRM) activities
- Team from NOAA and USFWS have revised manual, forms and teaching materials to better align with NRM work
- Team also developed a "Train the Trainer" course:
  - Trains new instructors to conduct successful courses and review submitted plans
- Several courses offered this year, including:
  - Arlington, VA
  - Silver Spring, MD
  - Eastpoint, FL
  - Carterville, IL

