

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
May 6-8, 2015**

Regional Panel Name: Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
Submitted by: Dennis Riecke, First-Term Co-chairman

Key ANS Activities from November 2014 through May 2015:

Major Accomplishments (bullets):

Had a joint meeting with the Great Lakes Panel from April 14-15, 2015 in Madison, WI. Sixty-six people attended. Thirty one people attended the Mississippi River Panel Meeting, 14 of which were panel members. There were 10 panel meeting presentations and the panel committees met jointly and separately.

Reviewed and edited MICRA report titled “*The use of grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella) in the United States: production, triploid certification, shipping, regulation, and stocking: recommendations for reducing spread and throughout the United States*” submitted to the USFWS.

Reviewed and edited the *Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force 2014 Report to Congress*.

Coordinator helped draft Action Items for the Ohio River Basin Asian Carp Strategy Framework.

Coordinator worked with states to develop six project templates -- Locks and Dams (KY), Removal (KY), Communications (KY), Wabash River (IN), Monitoring (WV), Telemetry (FWS) -- Ohio River Basin Asian Carp Coordination meeting May 6, 2015.

Ongoing Work (bullets):

Research and Risk Assessment Committee (Duane Chapman, Chair):

- Sue Thompson will be our rep on the working group that Stas Burgial is putting together.
- Duane Chapman and Peter Sorensen will work with Greg Gentz to again to seek a panel member from American Waterway Owners.
- Duane Chapman will talk to the EXCOM about getting an active panel representative with the right expertise from the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Neal Jackson will compile a list of the best gears by water body type and sampling seasons that are being used to sample for Asian Carp

- Duane Chapman will re-poll of GLP and MRBP members on key research needs.
- Peter Sorensen will arrange a workshop on acoustic deterrents and fish guidance systems for Asian Carp.
- Dennis Riecke will survey panel states on what they are spending on ANS programs and how those programs are funded.
- Dennis Riecke will submit a panel request to the USFWS economic group for them to fund a larger economic assessment of ANS expenditures.
- Sue Thompson will locate speakers on fracking and watergardens for presentations at panel meetings.
- Proposed funding a research project to determine if a pheromone can trigger Asian Carp spawning events.
- Kevin Irons, Duane Chapman and perhaps a commercial fisherman will travel to China in fall to research Unified Method of Asian Carp harvest.

Prevention and Control Committee (Steve Shults, Chair):

- Follow-up and implementation of recommendations contained in the TGC External Review report.
- Development of a plant module for MRBP Rapid Response Plan.
- Collect existing state materials to develop an MRBP briefing on lake services industry.
- Contact ANSTF to expand current Transfer / Water Carriage project and gather information.
- Update MRBP's existing AIS commercial harvest guidelines.
- Write letter to federal agencies requesting biocontrol research for Giant Cane.
- Solicit proposals and identify opportunities to cost share analysis of baitfish vector.

Education and Outreach Committee (Luci Cook-Hildreth, Chair)

- Explore participating in the next AREA conference depending on location within the basin.
- Luci Cook Hildreth with contact Pam Fuller (President of the AFS Introduced Fishes Section) about increasing panel involvement at AFS division meetings.

- Pat Charlebois will follow up with Full Option Science System (FOSS) about incorporating AIS outreach information into established curriculums and science class packets.
- Pat Charlebois will re-contact national biological supply houses regarding their sale of ANS species to schools.
- Reevaluate Panel Boater Survey by surveying AIS coordinators of basin states to see how and if a state would use this type of survey and what they would use it for.
- Survey states to determine if the panel should host an Index of AIS outreach materials on the panel website.
- Hire a consultant to revise the MRBP website.
- Consider accepting the ABYC's invitation to attend the International Boat Exposition Conference and have a booth to distribute Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker Campaign materials.

Panel Recommendations to the ANSTF:

None at this time.