

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations for the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting  
November 4-5, 2015**

**Regional Panel Name: Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (GLP)  
Submitted by: Erika Jensen, GLP Coordinator**

**Key ANS Activities from May 2015 through October 2015:**

*Major Accomplishments (bullets):*

- The Great Lakes Panel held its fall meeting October 5-6, 2015 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meeting featured break-out sessions focused on three priority topics: grass carp, starry stonewort control, and economic impacts of AIS. The second day of the meeting included informational updates on U.S. and Canadian AIS related regulations; aquatic plant control efforts (starry stonewort and hydrilla); recent grass carp collections; live organisms in trade related efforts; and the Chicago area waterway system (CAWS) interbasin connection. A meeting agenda and presentations are available on the GLP website; a meeting summary and action items will be posted on the website when available. A significant outcome of this meeting is the decision to form a GLP Grass Carp Ad-hoc Committee.

*Ongoing Work (bullets):*

- The Information/Education Committee continues to provide opportunities for members to share information about new outreach projects and share materials as appropriate. This helps expand the impact of individual projects and promotes consistent messaging throughout the region. The committee is working on a review and update the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* booklet and the I/E Priorities Document. The committee is also continuing to review the Outreach Inventory developed last year (available on the GLP website), and is working to make it a useable living document. The committee is also compiling survey questions used throughout the region with the intention of developing a standard suite of questions for future use.
- The Policy Coordination Committee continues to serve as forum for exchanging information on regional policy activities, including efforts to address the Chicago area waterway system pathway for interbasin AIS transfer, as well as regional consistency in AIS related regulations. The committee is also considering needs associated with potential reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act.
- The Research Coordination Committee continues to exchange information and identify priority research needs for both specific species and pathways. The committee recently updated its priorities document with revised research priorities for addressing the canals and connecting waterways pathway. The committee is also working on a gap analysis of AIS funding in the Great Lakes region and developing criteria for the formation of invasive species collaboratives.
- Grass Carp: Preventing the introduction and spread of Grass Carp in the Great Lakes region continues to be a high priority for the GLP. In April, the GLP approved its *Grass Carp Priorities for the Great Lakes* document (Attached), which was subsequently submitted to the ANSTF for its May 2015 meeting. At that time, the ANSTF requested additional information from the GLP on agencies that might be involved in helping to advance specific priorities. At the recent October 2015 GLP meeting, GLP members met to discuss the status of Grass Carp in the basin, as well as

review the status of GLP priorities and identify agencies that could take (or are taking) action on specific priorities. The GLP Chair and Coordinator will be reporting to the ANSTF at its November 2015 meeting on outcomes of these discussions. In addition, the GLP decided to establish an ad-hoc committee to continue to work on advancing progress on Grass Carp priorities for the Great Lakes region.

**Joint MRBP & GLP Recommendation to the ANSTF:**

1. The Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) and Great Lakes Panel (GLP) urge the appropriate federal agencies to implement recommendations #6 – 8 contained in the MICRA report to the USFWS entitled “The use of grass carp in the United States: Production, triploid certification, shipping, regulation, and stocking recommendation for reducing spread throughout the United States”. Specifically, those recommendations are as follows:
  - (6) Modify the scope and Standards of the USFWS National Triploid Grass Carp inspection and Certification Program (NTGCICP), including direct participation of states and Grass Carp distributors.
  - (7) The USFWS should work with states, triploid Grass Carp producers, and other partners to develop defensible ploidy testing procedures for quality control and law enforcement purposes in support of state random inspection programs.
  - (8) Develop and provide information about NTGCICP, Grass Carp regulations, and best management practices for natural resource managers, aquaculturists, and the general public.

See the attached excerpt from the MICRA report for details and justification.