

# Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Annual Report

## A Report to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force for FY2008

### 1. Summary

The Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) held two meetings during 2008; as an individual panel January 24-25 in Nashville, TN, and a joint meeting with the Great Lakes Panel June 17-19 in Milwaukee, WI. Attendance at Panel meetings remains reasonably good despite travel restrictions by state agencies throughout the Basin; however, an increasing number of MRBP members are requesting travel assistance to attend panel meetings and functions.

The MRBP has three standing committees: Education and Outreach, Prevention and Control, and Research and Risk Assessment. The committees meet during MRBP meetings and via conference calls. The committees form annual work plans and report on their progress (see Attachment 1). The MRBP Executive Board meets in conjunction with MRBP meetings and via conference calls to make day-to-day business decisions, plan meetings and events, and provide a forum for committees to report on progress and discuss emerging issues.

Twelve MRBP states are implementing ANS Task Force approved management plans and 13 additional states are developing a state ANS management plan (see Attachment 2). Kentucky, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and South Dakota will each submit their state management plan for ANS Task Force approval in October 2008. Only three MRBP states (Arkansas, Nebraska, and West Virginia) have not initiated work on a state ANS management plan.

Focus areas and key strategies:

- Evaluate risk of pay lakes, river barges, wild caught bait, and live food fish as vectors for the introduction and spread of ANS
- Continued development and refinement of risk assessment and screening tools
- Training and familiarization with the Incident Command and National Incident Management Systems for implementing rapid response actions
- Implementation of the Asian Carp Management and Control Plan
- Periodic assessment of public knowledge on ANS as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of education and outreach actions
- Development and accessibility of ANS outreach materials

Issues of concern to the MRBP are:

- Development of state ANS plans
- Increased federal appropriations to the full authorized limit for implementing state ANS management plans

- Prioritization, funding, and implementation of recommendations in the Asian Carp Management and Control Plan
- Development of national approved and prohibited species import lists
- Recognition and management of common carp as an ANS
- Facilitate completion of an independent external review of the USFWS national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program
- Reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act
- Increasing awareness and skills in conducting risk assessments due to the increasing need and the fact that there are a limited number of individuals that are qualified to complete them.

## 2. Major Accomplishments<sup>1</sup>

- The MRBP and Great Lakes Panel (GLP) participated in a joint meeting to discuss and explore common ANS issues and concerns. Panels' standing committees met in joint sessions and identified action items for both Panels to pursue jointly. The MRBP Prevention and Control Committee and GLP Policy Coordination Committee discussed issues and coordinated approaches to VHS, communication structure, ballast water, and risk assessment.
- EPA – The MRBP provided funds to support the completion of ANS surveys in Oklahoma and Indiana during 2008. Surveys are used to determine boater and angler awareness of ANS, their sources of information on ANS, and their efforts to prevent the spread of ANS. The surveys will provide a baseline of information to evaluate the effectiveness of outreach efforts to modify boater and angler behaviors with respect to ANS. The MRBP supported the completion of similar surveys in Kansas and Montana during 2007.
- DM – The MRBP purchased 9 sonic transmitters to support early detection monitoring efforts for Asian carp near the electric dispersal barrier in the upper Illinois Waterway. Several agencies are contributing to joint efforts to complete field surveillance, and to construct, maintain, and operate an acoustic network to detect the movements of telemetered Asian carps upriver towards the dispersal barrier and the Great Lakes. The MRBP challenged the Great Lakes Panel to also provide sonic transmitters to this multi-agency effort.
- CM – The MRBP provided funding to support the development of a decision-support tool (DSS) that will give natural resource managers a practical tool for assessing, in a transparent manner, when and how to best control an invasive species on a case by case basis. Leah Sharpe, a PhD student at the University of Minnesota, is working closely with natural resources managers in the Mississippi River Basin to develop a working DSS within the next 18 months.
- CM – The database of AIS experts was updated with several changes to Tier 1 contacts and addition of new Tier 2 contacts. Webmasters of other exotic species-related web sites were asked to post links to the database of AIS experts to make it more accessible to the public.
- P - A workshop to develop a State Model Risk Assessment and Risk Management Process (Process) was conducted during the MRBP meeting in Nashville, TN during January 2008. This Process was developed as a tool for use by state natural resources agencies to help determine classifications of species and the need for management actions. The MRBP developed this Process so all its members and associates could provide their expertise in its development. Neither the entire Process, nor any part of it, is compulsory for any state agency to adopt. The Process is being updated with decision support tools and a climate change component.

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<sup>1</sup> P = Prevention; DM = Detection & Monitoring; CM = Control & Management; EPA = Education & Public Awareness; R = Research

- R, CM – The MRBP has nearly completed work to publish the proceedings of the International Asian Carp Symposium hosted by the panel in Peoria, IL during August 2006. Thirteen chapters have completed the peer-review process and been submitted to the American Fisheries Society. The few remaining chapters are in review or modification after review. All chapters are expected to be finalized by the end of 2008, with printing and publication to immediately follow.
- DM – The MRBP has completed a draft of the “Field Guide to Aquatic Nuisance Species” in the Mississippi River Basin. Following an initial review by the Education and Outreach Committee, the field guide will be sent to the full MRBP membership for final review before publication. The field guide will provide a valuable resource to ANS and other natural resource managers.
- DM, EPA – The MRBP has been working with the Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant to finalize the design of a hydrilla and Brazilian Elodea WATCH card. Design of the WATCH card has been completed and the print order is nearly finalized. The MRBP has committed funds to provide members with the new WATCH cards, as has been done with other WATCH cards in the past. The WATCH card uses the national invasive species hotline (877-STOP-ANS) for reporting ANS.
- CM – Contracted with Tetra Tech EM, Inc. to convene and facilitate an Incident Command System (ICS) based mock rapid response exercise in November 2008. MRBP members are working with Tetra Tech to plan and design the training exercise. The exercise will provide a forum for state and federal authorities to review the ICS and National Incident Management System (NIMS) models, share current knowledge and experiences planning and implementing rapid response actions, examine methods for containing or eliminating the threat posed by ANS, and test participants ability to design and conduct an ICS based mock rapid response. Discussion of relevant research, lessons learned, potential mitigation strategies, and areas for collaboration will help identify realistic next-steps for addressing the challenges associated with implementing rapid response actions.
- P, CM - MRBP members attended the USFWS's national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection Certification Program (TGCICP) workshop (August 2008) and requested the assistance and participation of grass carp stakeholders in the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct an independent scientific external review of the TGCICP inspection program. A review of the TGCICP is a recommendation in the national Asian Carp Plan. MRBP will work to broaden support and involvement of the RFP from a regional to a national level during 2009, prior to developing and/or releasing the RFP.
- P, CM – Developed a draft recommendation, in accordance with the recommendations of the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (Asian Carp Plan), and the recommendations of the USFWS national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program workshop (August 2008), that encourages states that authorize the use of grass carp to adopt consistent policies and regulations that prohibit the stocking of diploid grass carp and restrict the use of grass carp to only triploid forms. The MRBP will share and further develop the draft recommendation with other Regional ANS Panels with the intent of submitting a joint panels' recommendation to the ANS Task Force during 2009.
- P, CM – MRBP representatives and the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators were informally surveyed regarding pay lake operations in different states. The number of warmwater pay lakes and regulations differ dramatically between states, with Kentucky and Ohio having the most pay lakes in the basin. Some states require disease-free certification on all fish brought in to pay lakes, however most states have no regulations specifically concerning pay lakes. Illinois and Kentucky have a licensing system, but some pay lakes operate unlicensed. Kentucky reported providing ANS outreach materials to pay lake operators and clients.

### 3. Recommendations to ANSTF

- MRBP requested the ANSTF recognize VHS and other pathogens as ANS and encourage states to include them in their ANS management programs.
- MRBP requested the ANSTF to approve the revised *'Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States'* (Asian Carp Plan) for implementation.
- MRBP submitted "Guidelines for Developing Commercial Harvest Policy for Aquatic Invasive Species" to the ANSTF to encourage management agencies to incorporate commercial harvest guidelines while developing tools to manage and control ANS.
- MRBP requested the ANSTF to work with its partners to ensure that the full amount of funding authorized for state management programs is appropriated. Included in this request was a recommendation that the ANSTF accept an aquatic portion of a comprehensive state invasive species management plan if that portion of the plan meets the designated criteria.
- The MRBP and Great Lakes Panel jointly recommended the ANSTF: 1) scientifically evaluate the accuracy, sensitivity, ease of use, and cost effectiveness of existing risk assessment screening tools, 2) report on the strengths and weaknesses of each screening tool, and 3) recommend how to adapt screening approaches and risk assessment methods that rapidly and accurately assess risks to native species and ecosystems.
- The Saint Louis Declaration of 2001 resulted in the original Voluntary Codes of Conduct. Five sets of codes were developed at that time for the following groups: government agencies, nursery professionals, the gardening public, landscape architects, and botanic gardens and arboreta. The Saint Louis Codes of Conduct were an important first step in responding to the global invasive plants species problem. This is a non-regulatory approach to reduce the introduction or spread of invasive species. The MRBP recommends that the ANSTF take the lead on an effort to develop Voluntary Codes of Conduct for aquatic plant and animal related industries such as the aquarium, bait, and water gardening industries. The ANSTF could also modify the codes developed for government agencies to be more applicable to state and federal agencies working on ANS issues.
- The ANSTF should adopt a resolution recognizing the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) as an ANS with national impacts. The common carp is one of the first and most damaging invasive fish introduced in freshwater systems, especially inland shallow lakes, rivers, and wetlands, in the United States. Although this species is well-established, there are strategies for controlling its abundance in closed bodies of inland waters using integrated pest management procedures. A national control plan is not warranted; however, national support is needed to coordinate local efforts to control common carp by clarifying the problems posed by this species. The MRBP is willing to help organize a workshop to discuss and coordinate basic and applied research on the common carp and to provide space on the MRBP website dedicated to common carp in coordination with Asian carps. Government and private groups should also be encouraged to support long-term, innovative research on the common carp and other related invasive species.
- The ANSTF should request the USFWS move forward with immediate implementation of the national Asian Carp Plan. At the November 2007 ANSTF meeting, the USFWS said it would begin implementation of the Plan and host the first meeting of an implementation committee in February 2008. The MRBP recognizes that the USFWS Branch of Invasive Species has had staffing challenges this year; however, this important first step in implementing the Plan has not occurred to date. The MRBP fully supports the Plan and considers its implementation a high priority regional and national issue. Implementation needs requiring prompt attention include establishing a full-time coordinator position dedicated to implementation of the Plan, establishing an implementation committee, exploring options to secure and direct the stable, prioritization of the Plan's 131 recommendations, and long-term funding necessary to fully implement the Plan.

# MRBP Committee Reports

## Outreach and Education Committee

The Outreach and Education Committee (OEC) of the MRBP has five identified responsibilities: developing recommended member actions, identification of educational product priorities, identification of collaborative projects, coordination with other Regional Panels, and support of other Panel workgroup needs. The Committee had three budgeted and two non-budgeted items in its 2008 work plan.

The first of these was the “Field Guide to Aquatic Nuisance Species”. A draft copy has been produced and is in initial review after which it will be sent to the full Committee for their review. Due to the size and cost of this publication, it will be a resource for those that need the information but will not be considered to be a freebie for the general public.

The next budgeted item was the “Aquatic Nuisance Species and Boater Survey”. This survey is designed to collect information about our public’s knowledge of ANS, where they get their information, and their boating activities. Designed as a phone or mail survey, it has proven useful in directing (or redirecting) agencies information programs. It was suggested that the survey, in addition to the individual states, would prove valuable to the MRBP in addressing its public outreach efforts at the basin level. We have offered to cost/share the completion of more surveys in more states to get a more complete, basin-wide picture of the situation. Two states were able to conduct surveys in 2007 (KS and MT) while Oklahoma and Indiana are doing so in 2008. It was concluded that we would continue to try to offer this same deal each year pending the results of the surveys in progress.

The final budgeted item was the hydrilla and Brazilian Elodea WATCH card. Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant is heading up the design of these cards which is in final draft and will soon go to printing. As with previous WATCH cards, the print run will be divided equally and delivered to the member MRBP states for their use.

Additional items taken up by the Committee includes a proposal to contact major sporting goods catalog retailers to see if they would be willing to put ANS messages in their catalogs. On the same theme, we discussed partnering with organizations like Wildlife Forever and B.A.S.S. to jointly deliver the ANS message to people active in the outdoor sports.

The final item of discussion was the suggestion that a letter be written to boat manufacturers encouraging the design of boat and trailers in a way that would facilitate inspection and cleaning. We thought that such a letter should probably come directly from the MRBP and be directed towards the Marine Manufacturing Association, an umbrella organization for the boating industry as a whole.

## OEC 2009 Work Plan

Activity	Description	Deliverables	Funding Needed
ANS and Boater surveys	Survey of registered boaters and/or licensed anglers to determine level of ANS knowledge	Report on state survey results	Up to \$5,000 per state, two states per year

“Field Guide to Aquatic Nuisance Species”	Complete final review of draft field guide and submit print order.	Printed field guides for distribution to MRBP members	None in FY2009
Hydrilla and Brazilian elodea WATCH cards	Printing of final version of WATCH cards	50,000 – 100,000 WATCH cards for distribution to MRBP members	None in FY2009
Contact major sporting goods catalog retailers about putting ANS message in catalogs	Correspond with various retailers such as <i>Cabelas</i> and <i>Bass Pro Shop</i> .	Identify partners, level of interest, and potential joint projects	None
Partner with environmental and outdoor recreation organizations to deliver ANS messages	Correspond with various boating manufacturers and groups such as <i>B.A.S.S.</i> and <i>Wildlife Forever</i> to seek out projects of mutual interest.	Identify partners, level of interest, and potential joint projects	None

### Research and Risk Assessment Committee (RARC)

Experts Database: At June meeting, it was determined that some state contacts were now directed at the wrong people due to personnel turnover. Also, there is still a need to continue to add experts to database. Action item: Committee chair will contact all states and ask for updates to Tier 1 contacts, and renew call for new members. This action item was completed on July 16, 2008, and was closely followed by several changes to Tier 1 contacts and addition of some additional Tier 2 contacts.

Also at the June meeting, there was concern that the experts database may not be found by citizens that would like to contact Tier 1 experts. Action Item: Committee Chair will contact webmasters of other exotic species-related web sites and ask them to post links to the database, and request that Tier 1 contacts supply suggestions for other places to post the experts database link. Action item completed on July 16, 2008. There has not been any effort to date to determine how many web sites linked to the database. The Introduced Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society is moving and reconstructing its website and will post a link to the database on the new site when it is complete.

Risk Assessment Framework/Screening Tool: Mike Hoff (FWS) has been leading the development of a Risk Assessment framework for non-native introductions. At the June meeting, a joint GLP MRBP subcommittee for development of the Risk Assessment Framework was formed. Mike Hoff, Lindsay Chadderton (TNC), Christina Donnelly (GLP, Great Lake Commission) are subcommittee members. The subcommittee will direct the development of the Gold standard RA, not be in charge of developing the RA rules. Mike Hoff to send out updated working version of the Risk Assessment screening protocol to the panel members. The next version of the RA is to contain more decision support information (models, publications, and websites). RA screening tool is to be continually updated when additional support information becomes available. A climate change component will be added to the screening process.

River Barges as Vectors: In June, the committee identified a data gap in regard to barge traffic (including tows) bilge and ballast water on the Mississippi River. It is unknown whether commercial traffic on the Mississippi River and between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes are a potential vector for aquatic nuisance species or not. There is a need for an understanding of types of tows, where different types of tows are used, and how bilge and ballast water (if any) are managed. Possible need for a symposium at the AFS meeting in Nashville (2009) or Pittsburg (2010). Need for coordination with GLP on this issue was noted. Action Item: Invite member(s) of barge association (American Waterways Operators) and other knowledgeable individuals such as knowledgeable Coast Guard personnel to talk at next MRBP meeting about barges and tows and the potential for transport of ANS. Coast Guard (Cmdr Timothy Cummins) and Lynn Muench (American Waterways Operators) were contacted and have responded. It is as yet unclear as to whether their organizations can provide speakers at the next meeting.

Live Bait, Live Food, and Pay Lakes: These were identified as substantial important data gaps. There is a need to collate information on wild bait harvest and shipping routes. Also, information needed on how different states monitor or regulate the sale of live aquatic food organisms. Information needed on warmwater pay lakes. Cold water pay lakes use almost entirely cultured rainbow trout which are closely monitored for disease issues and not co-cultured with other species and so are likely to pose less risk than warmwater pay lakes. Warmwater pay lakes use cultured fish and wild-caught fish. Both are sometimes transported long distances. Transport of wild fish is thought to have a higher degree of risk than aquaculture fish. There is need to collate information on how different states manage and regulate pay lakes, how pay lakes are operated, where their fish come from, what happens to the fish after being captured, and the possibility of escape from pay lakes. There is a need to collaborate with GLP on the pay lake issue. Action Item: Committee Chair will investigate to see if there are any experts on this issue and if there is a pay lake operator organization that can speak to us or can facilitate discussion with operators. Committee Chair has determined that there is no organization of pay lake operators and that the range of business models is extreme. Chair surveyed the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators and MRBP representatives regarding pay lake operations in different states. Findings were that regulations and number of warmwater pay lakes differed dramatically between states, with Kentucky and Ohio having the most pay lakes in the MRB region. Some states require disease-free certification on all fish brought in. Most states have no regulations specifically concerning pay lakes. Illinois and Kentucky have a licensing system, but some pay lakes operate unlicensed. Kentucky reported providing ANS outreach materials to pay lake operators and clients.

Developing a Decision Support System for Control of AIS: A proposal to support Leah Sharpe's PhD project (University of Minnesota) to develop a decision support system (DSS) for improved management of AIS was funded in FY2008. The DSS will be constructed following interviews with natural resource managers at the federal, state, and local levels to identify the highest priority invasive species management needs and how a decision support tool will be of most use in their work. The DSS will be designed in response to the managers' highest priorities and will focus the economic component of the tool on the values most influential to managers' decision making process. Issues such as prioritizing the management of several species with limited funds, the political feasibility of the different options, and the efficacy and long-term results of these control options will be considered. The completed DSS will be available on-line for use by natural resources managers.

Snakeheads in Arkansas: In June, the committee discussed the snakehead introduction in Arkansas and discussed whether the committee should be come involved in any way. Doug Keller (INDNR, Panel co-chair) agreed to contact Arkansas to ask how MRBP or the Research and Risk Assessment committee can contribute to their rapid response effort, such as in determination of snakehead sensitivity to rotenone,

or other needs. (Postscript: Arkansas has postponed the snakehead eradication attempt until spring 2009 due to high water in the region.)

Asian Carp Proceedings: The proceedings are very late, but still moving forward. 13 chapters have been submitted to the American Fisheries Society, and the remainder are in review or modification after review.

## RARC 2009 Work Plan

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Funding Needed</b>
Proceedings of International Symposium on Asian Carp Management and Control	Final revisions and publication of Proceedings document.	Peer-reviewed Proceedings document available for purchase from AFS.	\$9000
Plan Risk Framework / Screening Tool	Joint project with Great Lakes Regional Panel to develop a "gold standard" risk assessment screening tool.	Model risk assessment framework and screening tool for use by states	None in FY2009
Experts Database	Recruit new Tier 2 contacts, regularly update Tier 1 contacts, and increase accessibility to the public.	Database support	None in FY2009
Assess Risk of River Barges for Transporting ANS in Barge Ballast or Bilge Water	Experts with the U.S. Coast Guard and the American Waterways Operators will be invited to address the MRBP to elevate the understanding of barge operations, so that the risk of transport of ANS in barge ballast or bilge water can be addressed	Increased understanding by MRBP members and identification of unaddressed risks requiring action	\$1,500 - May need to provide travel support for speakers to attend MRBP 2009 annual meeting
Assess Risk of Pay / Fee-Fishing Lakes for spreading ANS as the result of live fish transport	MRBP will contact other Regional ANS Panels to seek collaboration on a risk assessment.	Increased understanding of risks associated with Pay / Fee-Fishing Lakes, identify other Panels' interest in a collaborative risk assessment, and identify next steps to address risks	None in FY2009
Developing a Decision Support System for Control of AIS	Support PhD student project to develop a decision-support tool for assessing, in a transparent manner, when and how to best control an invasive species on a case by case basis.	Web accessible decision support tool for natural resources managers.	None in FY2009 (\$5,000 support provided in FY2009, project scheduled for completion in FY2010

International Symposium on Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Fish	Provide financial support to help ensure the symposium is held in June 2010.	Symposium held in 2010 to provide an Increased level of understanding among MRBP and other AIS managers regarding emerging technologies and their potential use to control AIS	\$10,000
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## Prevention and Control Committee (PCC)

The Committee defines its roles and responsibilities as follows:

- Prioritize ANS for prevention, containment, and control within MRB and each sub-basin of MRB
- Facilitate rapid response plan for MRB invasions
- Identify integrated pest management for ANS within MRB
- Facilitate monitoring plan for ANS within MRB
- Develop ANS recommendations to submit to ANS Task Force
- Develop MRB policy on introductions
- Recommend improvements to state and federal ANS regulations

The following activities were completed during FY2008:

- Developed a recommendation requesting ANSTF to recognize VHS and other pathogens as ANS and encourage states to include them in their ANS management programs.
- Developed a recommendation encouraging ANSTF to approve the revised *'Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States'* (Plan) for implementation.
- Developed "Guidelines for Developing Commercial Harvest Policy for Aquatic Invasive Species" as a recommendation to the ANS Task Force to encourage management agencies to incorporate commercial harvest guidelines while developing tools to manage and control ANS.
- Developed a recommendation requesting the ANSTF work with its partners to ensure that the full amount of funding authorized for state management programs is appropriated. Included in this request was a recommendation that ANSTF accept an aquatic portion of a comprehensive state invasive species management plan if that portion of the plan meets the designated criteria.
- Developed a Cooperative Agreement with Tetra Tech EM Inc. to plan and implement an ICS-based mock rapid response training exercise in the Upper Mississippi River during FY2009.
- Developed a draft recommendation regarding the need for consistent state policies and regulations prohibiting the stocking of diploid grass carp and restricting the use of grass carp to triploids only, in accordance with recommendations in the national Asian Carp management and control plan.
- Met jointly with the Great Lakes Panel Policy Coordination Committee to discuss issues and coordinated approaches to VHS, communication structure, ballast water, and Risk Assessment.
- Held conference call and facilitated requests for assistance related to Arkansas' Snakehead Rapid Response efforts.
- Began gathering information on existing resources to develop a ranking system for prioritizing species for detailed risk assessment using criteria and weightings for those criteria.
- Members of PCC and MRBP Executive Committee attended the USFWS national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection Certification Program (TGICP) workshop and requested stakeholder participation in the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the completion of an external

review of the TGCICP inspection program, as recommended in the national Asian Carp management and control plan.

- Developed a draft recommendation with the Great Lakes Panel Policy Coordination Committee requesting the ANSTF provide information to the Panels on (1) the status of state management plan guidelines, (2) ANSTF views on the need for new funding mechanisms for interagency activities, and (3) the extent to which ANS priorities of the Regional Panels and the ANSTF as a whole are reflected in the federal budgeting process.

### PCC 2009 Work Plan

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Funding Needed</b>
Finalize Statement of Need Letter to ANSTF	Work with MRBP and Great Lakes Panel Executive Committees to gain support of all Regional Panels and finalize as an all Panels letter to the ANSTF	All Panels letter sent to ANSTF as a statement of need for accomplishing Panel mandates	None
Completion of ICS Rapid Response Exercise	Finalize plans and host a Mock Rapid Response exercise in the Upper Mississippi River	1-1/2 day workshop facilitated by Tetra Tech EM Inc. and completion of an After Action Report	None in FY2009
Develop RFP for Triploid Grass Carp Inspection Program External Review	Organize an MRBP led committee of grass carp stakeholders to develop a Request for Proposal and select a Scope of Work for funding. Seek to broaden support for review to a national scale (e.g., other Regional Panels, AFWA)	Independent scientific review of USFWS national Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program resulting in final report with recommendations to reduce the introduction of diploid grass carp.	\$10,000

Develop a ranking system for prioritizing species needing detailed risk assessment	The MRBP previously developed a risk assessment screening tool to determine which species warrant a detailed risk assessment. As a next step in the process, a systematic approach is needed to prioritize species for which detailed risk assessments are needed.	Model tool to prioritize species needing detailed risk assessment.	None
Support early detection monitoring for Asian carps near the dispersal barrier in the upper Illinois	Support multi-agency surveillance efforts of Asian carps near the dispersal barrier in the upper Illinois Waterway by providing sonic	Increased numbers of bighead and silver carps monitored for movements near the barrier resulting in more effective early detection	None in FY2009

Waterway	transmitters.	monitoring to prevent the spread of Asian carps into the Great Lakes.	
Identify barriers to rapid response efforts	Build from the ICS mock rapid response exercise to identify barriers to rapid response efforts and make recommendations for agency cooperation and coordination.	Identification of needs and recommended actions to improve agencies abilities to plan and execute rapid response actions in a timely manner.	None in FY2009
Develop guidance on dry hydrants to prevent the spread of AIS	Invite Oneida County (WI) Land and Water Conservation District AIS Coordinator to attend the MRBP annual meeting and discuss the risk of spreading AIS associated with dry hydrants.	Increase MRBP members understanding of risks associated with dry hydrants, and identify next steps to address risks.	\$1,000 travel support to MRBP annual meeting

# Status of State Management Plan Development in the MRBP

## Status of MRBP Member State Management Plan Development

State	Approved	In Development	No Action
Alabama		X	
Arkansas			X
Colorado		X	
Georgia		X	
Illinois	X		
Indiana	X		
Iowa	X		
Kansas	X		
Kentucky		X*	
Louisiana	X		
Minnesota		X	
Mississippi		X	
Missouri		X	
Montana	X		
Nebraska			X
New York	X		
North Carolina		X	
North Dakota	X		
Ohio	X		
Oklahoma		X*	
Pennsylvania	X		
South Dakota		X**	
Tennessee		X*	
Texas		X	
Virginia	X		
West Virginia			X
Wisconsin	X		
Wyoming		X	

\* ANSTF is being asked to approve these plans at the October 2008 meeting.

\*\* ANSTF is being asked to conditionally approve the South Dakota plan at the October 2008 meeting pending submission by the governor.