

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

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

Key ANS Activities from November 2014 through May 2015:

Major Accomplishments (bullets):

- **Fall 2014 Meeting – November 19-20, 2014, Ann Arbor, Mich.**
More than 60 people attended the GLP meeting that was held November 19-20, 2014 at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meeting featured sessions on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative accomplishments and future plans, risk assessment tools, lessons learned from AIS response exercises, a synthesis of recreational water user surveys conducted across the region, next steps for preventing AIS movement through the Chicago waterways, determining priorities and recommendations for Grass Carp, an update on projects focused on organisms in trade, and a new Invasive Mussel Collaborative. A meeting summary, presentations and other items are on the GLP website (<http://glc.org/projects/invasive/panel/glp-meetings/>)
- **Spring 2015 Meeting – April 14-15, 2015, Madison, Wisc. – Joint with the MRBP**
More than 70 people attended the joint GLP and MRBP meeting held April 14-15 in Madison, Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin. Joint meeting session topics included consensus efforts in Western states; activities to address the movement of AIS between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins; reauthorization of NISA; Grass Carp; and organisms in trade. As an outcome of the meeting, the MRBP and GLP are working a joint recommendation on Grass Carp. The GLP meeting focused on lessons learned from efforts to control invasive crayfish and several invasive aquatic plants. A meeting summary, presentations and other items will be posted on the GLP website when available (<http://glc.org/projects/invasive/panel/glp-meetings/>).
- **Grass Carp Priorities for the Great Lakes**
The GLP finalized the document “Grass Carp Priorities for the Great Lakes.” The document is intended to elevate awareness of the risks, complexities for management and needs associated with preventing new introductions and establishment of Grass Carp in the Great Lakes basin.

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 has begun work to review and update the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* booklet and the I/E Priorities Document. The Committee continues to review the Outreach Inventory developed last year, 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 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, building off of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers GLMRIS report.
- The Research and Policy Coordination Committees are working jointly to identify priority issues for the GLP to address at future meetings, including assessing the costs and benefits of AIS prevention and control; risk assessment; and invasive macrophyte control.

Panel Recommendations to the ANSTF:

- The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species recommends that the ANS Task Force and its member agency representatives work to advance the priorities and recommendations outlined in the *Grass Carp Priorities for the Great Lakes* document developed by the Great Lakes Panel.