

**Member Highlights of Activities for the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting  
May 6-8, 2015**

**Member Agency: Great Lakes Commission**

**Submitted by: Erika Jensen, Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission**

**Key ANS Activities from November 2014 through May 2015:**

*Major Accomplishments and Ongoing Work*

Asian Carp

The GLC is working in partnership with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) to investigate solutions to the threat of Asian carp and other invasive species passing through the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS), while maintaining current uses of the system. The GLC and Cities Initiative are continuing to convene meetings of an Advisory Committee as the primary regional stakeholder forum seeking solutions to the problem of AIS transfer through the CAWS. The Committee last met on April 9 and will meet again on June 3 in Chicago.

Internet Trade

Work is underway on a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to develop software and tools to track, identify and monitor the sale of invasive species via the internet. The GLC hired the software development firm RightBrain Networks to develop the web-crawling software system. The final system is complete and in the initial stages of operation.

Ballast Water

The GLC convened a Ballast Water Task Force to assess current ballast water standards and develop a common platform among Great Lakes states and provinces from which to advance a future ballast water management regime. The GLC is tracking activity on U.S. legislation, S. 373, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, that would impact state authority to regulate ballast water.

Phragmites

The GLC continues to expand a partnership with the USGS-Great Lakes Science Center to lead communications and research on the invasive plant Phragmites. The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative, established in 2012, continues to engage the resource management community, reduce redundancy, link science and management, facilitate adaptive management, and encourage a systems approach to management and conservation associated with this species. The GLC also supports the Collaborative for Microbial Symbiosis and Phragmites Management, established in partnership with the USGS to bring together researchers to explore the potential to use symbiotic relationships both to control invasive Phragmites and encourage native plant establishment.

Zebra and Quagga Mussels

The GLC is providing backbone support to a new collaborative to advance development of control technologies for invasive mussels. The collaborative was established in partnership with USGS, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and NOAA. The Collaborative Steering Committee was established in early 2015 and met for the first time in February. More information is available at [www.invasivemusselcollaborative.net](http://www.invasivemusselcollaborative.net).

Sea Lamprey

The GLC recently completed work in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to develop a sea lamprey barrier mapping tool. The tool allows the user to search and select barriers in the Great Lakes region to see what tributaries and watersheds are being protected from sea lamprey movement by those barriers in order to inform future decision-making.