

Great Lakes Commission Report to the ANS Task Force

Restoring the Natural Divide: Separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins in the Chicago Waterway System: A final report was released Jan. 31 by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative identifying options for separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds as a way to control aquatic invasive species and to improve transportation, water quality and flood control. Promotion of the report included a satellite media tour, which generated TV coverage in 27 regional markets, reaching nearly 5 million viewers. Coverage of the story was picked up by the AP and Reuters news wires, resulting in coverage in more than 500 publications. The report and supporting materials can be viewed at www.glc.org/caws.

Phragmites Invasions in Michigan: A Symposium to Build Capacity for Management: Staff completed the *Strategic Framework for Coordinated Management and Control of Invasive Phragmites in Michigan* based on outcomes from a project public stakeholder meeting held in August 2011. Distribution of the strategic framework to project participants for final review/comment is currently in process. Further information on this project is available online at www.glc.org/ans/phragmites/symposium2011-recap.html.

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Aquatic Invasive Initiative: The GLC is supporting the Governors and Premiers in their efforts to advance coordinated strategy to address AIS that includes prevention, early detection, rapid response, and management.

Organisms in Trade: The GLC developed a fact sheet on recommendations to strengthen regulations against the importation of injurious wildlife. Direction and input on the fact sheet was provided during the November 2011 ANS Task Force meeting by the coordinators and chairs serving on the ANS regional panels. The group agreed that it would be valuable to tell stories of high risk organisms in trade in continuing efforts to educate decision makers on the situation. The fact sheet was distributed during Great Lakes Day events in Washington, DC in February 2012. A copy of the fact sheet is available at http://glc.org/restore/pdf/2012/GLC_AISOIT_2012PriorityFactSheet_final.pdf and is also attached.

National Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW): Representing both the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, Kathie Glassner-Shwayder participated in NISAW. This event—attended by AIS stakeholders from around the country—is a week of activities, briefings, workshops and events focused on strategizing solutions to address invasive species prevention, detection, monitoring, control, and management issues at local, state, tribal, regional, national and international scales. As part of NISAW, an invasive species forum was held, sponsored by the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS). At the forum, Glassner-Shwayder presented on the Great Lakes Commission's recently completed project, *Restoring the Natural Divide, Separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin in the Chicago Area Waterway System*. The presentation discussed project

outcomes on preventing the movement of Asian carp and other AIS by development and evaluation of alternatives for physical separation of the basins in the Chicago Area Waterways System.

Great Lakes Panel Staff Support: The Great Lakes Commission continues to serve as panel coordinator and provide staff support for the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and its committees.

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