

Guide to U.S. Policy Committee's Great Lakes Strategy 2002 Goals

INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGY TEAM

The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's "Invasive Species Strategy Team" addresses Governors' Priority: "Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species."

Issues to be covered include, but are not limited to: ballast water management, National Invasive Species Act/Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act present and future implementation, the Illinois carp barriers and exploration of other potential barriers, rapid response protocols and strategies, prevention and mitigation procedures, outreach and education, and applied research.

Relevant Goals from the U.S. Policy Committee's Great Lakes Strategy 2002:

"Invasive Species" Section Goals:

#103 By 2010, substantially reduce the further introduction of invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

#104 Ensure that all vessels entering the Great Lakes comply with ballast water management standards developed by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Currently, these standards require open-ocean ballast water exchange where feasible. The USCG is currently developing new, environmentally protective standards to guide the development and implementation of the next generation of ballast water management technologies.

#105 Implement ongoing and new research activities and adaptive strategies to contain and control aquatic and terrestrial species that have already invaded the Great Lakes Basin, in order to reduce their negative impacts on native biota and their habitats.

#106 By 2005, through the cooperative effort between NOAA and other agencies, determine the efficiency of open-water ballast water exchange as the primary method to prevent introductions via ballast water.

#107 By 2005, through the cooperative effort between NOAA, USEPA, USCG, and the Great Lakes shipping industry, determine the potential threat of "no ballast on board" (NOBOB) vessels and prioritize actions to address this issue.

#108 By 2005, further investigate the relative risk from other sources and pathways of introducing new invasive species, including bait fish, recreational boating, cargo, ornamental plants, and aquaculture.

#109 Develop cooperative programs between Federal agencies and representatives of foreign

governments to identify potential source regions and pathways and to anticipate and prevent invasive species introductions into the Great Lakes Basin.

#110 a) Provide information and Great Lakes' perspective to Congress for consideration during the re-authorization of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA), which is expected to occur in 2002, as well as to b) the International Maritime Organization policy forum, which is currently developing a global policy for ballast water management.

#111 By 2003, develop a framework to integrate and coordinate multi-agency responses, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, to address and potentially control new invasive species as soon as they are discovered.

#112 Continue to examine and implement chemical, physical, and biological control methods to address already established species, including the use of barriers, such as the dispersal barrier at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, to restrict the spread of aquatic invasive species.

#113 Continue to support a variety of programs to help recreation boaters ensure that their boats do not transport invasive species via motor props, hull fouling, or in bait tank water.

#114 Continue and expand research to determine the spread and impacts (biological and economic) of invasive species in the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

#115 By 2006, coordinate and enhance the monitoring of high-risk areas for the early detection of invasive species.