

AIS STRATEGY TEAM  
Conference call  
January 11, 2005

Gerry Jackson welcomed everyone to the conference call. He introduced the co-chairs, Ken DeBeaussiaert (supported by Roger Eberhardt) and Chris Goddard (supported by Marc Gaden). (Gerry Jackson is supported by Mike Hoff.) Jackson reviewed the group's charge: the regional collaboration was established under executive order. The effort was launched on December 3 with the meeting in Chicago. The AIS Strategy Team met for the first time on that date. The Council of Great Lakes Governors' list of priorities was the starting point for the strategy teams. The Strategy Teams are the working bodies for producing the strategic action plans, which will be combined into a single document. The AIS team is charged with developing a 4-5 page action plan by summer, 2005. The document should include background information, as appendices.

The purpose of the call is to agree to a process to develop the action plan, to discuss the vectors to include, to review the outline for the drafting teams, to discuss drafting teams, and to plan for the next call. Jackson noted that there has been website established for the AIS Strategy Team ([www.aisstrategyteam.com](http://www.aisstrategyteam.com)). This website will be used to guide the process. People can use the website to volunteer for the drafting teams. Contact Marc Gaden for posting information on the website.

Goddard described the process to develop the action plan. The plan will be organized around vectors/pathways. The co-chairs have tentatively identified the vectors. There will be a drafting team established to address each of the vectors. Each team will develop an action plan for each of the vectors. The co-chairs will select the team leaders. People can volunteer for the drafting teams. The drafting teams will be selected by the co-chairs and the leaders. The drafting teams will discuss their work and can append their documents to the website. Once the drafting teams have done their work, the co-chairs will distill that into the 5-page plan that must be submitted. It was his hope that the group would agree to the process that Goddard outlined.

Phil Moy of Wisconsin Sea Grant noted that the process seemed pretty straight forward. Marc Hudon of the Union Québécoise pour la Conservation de la Nature asked whether existing work and documents shall be used. Gaden responded yes, that was the hope. Kathe Glassner-Shwayder of the Great Lakes Commission asked whether there would be an overarching document produced. Goddard replied that the co-chairs have that responsibility and will work on that. Mike Kleppenger of Michigan Sea Grant asked where the list of members is. Goddard replied on the website. Dave Thomas from IL Nat History Survey observed that there are a lot of species that come in by several vectors. Goddard replied that we are trying not to be species oriented, but rather, vector oriented. For example, Asian carp could fall under canals and organisms in trade. They will probably both cover this.

DeBeaussiaert led the group through the vector discussion. Much of what we do is dictated by the Executive Order's steering committee. The co-chairs chose the vectors to try to focus this project. The vectors are (1) aquaculture, (2) ballast water [later re-named "maritime commerce"], (3) canals and waterways, (4) organisms in trade, and (5) un-intentional transfer associated with boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. DeBeaussiaert asked what the

group thought of the vectors. Jim White from Cuyahoga River RAP observed that the list of vectors seems like the list is pathways, rather than response mechanisms. How do we respond once they are here? DeBeaussiaert noted that the outline shows how the vectors and control can be addressed. The outline should capture his concerns. Dave Reid from GLERL asked whether ballast should be re-stated as “vessels” or “maritime commerce,” or “ocean-going vessels.” For example, hull fouling is an issue. Ballast water is not the only vector associated with ships. Eberhardt thought that sounded good, as did the other co-chairs. Reid also asked whether this should focus exclusively on ocean-going vessels or lakers. The group agreed that “maritime commerce” seems broad enough to include both domestic and ocean-going shipping. The group agreed to rename “ballast” “maritime commerce.” Carol Swinehart of Michigan Sea Grant asked that there be some discussion about the difference between organisms in trade and aquaculture. Eberhardt noted that the two were separated because of the regulatory differences. There are different ways in dealing with aquaculture than there are, say, with bait shops. It was better to distinguish them, rather than lump them.

DeBeaussiaert led the group through the outline for each drafting team. The group does not have a lot of say in this outline, as it was generally provided by the EPA, though the AIS Strategy Team expanded it a bit. The final goal is for each drafting team to develop a 4-5 page document, backed up with materials, to be turned into an overall 4-5 page document. Reid expressed some concern about how the vectors will tie into the outline. Would the outline fit easily by vector? He did not see how the natural flow of the document would be based on vector. White seconded Dave’s comments. DeBeaussiaert noted that the full team will need to tie it all together. However, he also noted that this is a beginning point, and we will have ample opportunities to shape this in a way that is suitable. The co-chairs will work very closely with the drafting teams to make sure it flows. Eberhardt accepted that there would be choppiness in any event. It will be a challenge. Early detection and rapid response, for example, cuts across vectors. Not all will cut across vectors. The final product might need some considerable attention to crossing vectors. Tim Eder of the National Wildlife Federation thought the vector approach could work. He also thought it would foster creativity and independent thinking on the drafting teams. The co-chairs will be key here, however, because they will have to make sense of it all. The drafting teams will need to give ample time to the co-chairs so they can work out the bumps.

Eder also asked whether the reports are expected to identify policy gaps and funding needs. DeBeaussiaert agreed that the identification of gaps are expected. Thomas suggested a problem with the vector approach and the outline. He particularly saw a problem with aquaculture and organisms in trade, and that the vectors might overlap. Eberhardt agreed that there was overlap, and because we know what species are in aquaculture, we might approach them by species. Glassner-Shwayder proposed a look at how the infrastructure has been set up in the Great Lakes region. For example, education has been set up to work across the vectors. There would be continuity between the teams; they could work together to identify such continuity. Eder added that an advantage of the vector approach is that allows a proactive (prevention) approach, as opposed to a species approach, which might be more focused on management.

Jackson discussed the drafting team leaders. The co-chairs spent quite a bit of time setting up the drafting teams and outlines. They also had some discussion about the drafting team leaders. The

co-chairs identified team leaders and suggested a finite group of people per team. The leaders and staff are as follows:

1. Aquaculture: Ted Batterson will lead; Roger Eberhardt will staff.
2. Maritime Commerce: Dave Reid will co-lead; Roger Eberhardt will staff
3. Canals and Waterways: Phil Moy will lead; Mike Hoff will staff
4. Organisms in Trade: [leaders yet to be designated]; Marc Gaden will staff
5. Un-intentional transfer associated with recreational activities: John Schwartz will lead; Mike Hoff will staff

Jackson noted that the intent is to recruit 5 or 6 drafters per team. People should sign-up via the internet by January 18 (<http://www.aisstrategyteam.org/signup.asp>). Once AIS strategy team members have signed up for a drafting team, the co-chairs will consult the drafting team leaders and select the 5-6 person team. The co-chairs will strive to achieve a cross section of representation on each drafting team. If we come up short, the co-chairs will recruit.

Goddard discussed the next steps: Co-chairs will review and come up with a way to deal with cross-cutting issues. Co-chairs will confirm who the team leaders will be. The drafting teams will be established. The teams will hold conference calls. After that, there will be team-wide calls.

Reid suggested that the strategy team leaders provide the drafting teams with more definitions of what they are looking for. Joy Mulinex of the Great Lakes Task Force replied that she has been participating on the executive committee calls and that additional guidance about Reid's question should be provided in a couple of weeks. Goddard suggested a co-chair and team leader conference call. Ted Batterson of Michigan State University asked whether aquaculture means both public and private sector aquaculture. Jackson replied that it does as the intent is not to leave anything out. Glassner-Shwayder noted that as we press ahead with drafting, we need to make it clear how the document will be used. Is there an overarching goal about where these documents are heading? Jackson reminded the group that the short 4-5 page document will rely on supporting documents, so the larger document will be the policy guidance document that will guide legislation, policy, etc. The purpose is to provide the framework leaders about what the ultimate purpose will be. Reid suggested that the drafting teams use MS Word. Dan Thomas of the Great Lakes Sportfishing Council noted that Adobe is a universal program and that documents can be edited using Adobe (though Reid thought that one needed software to edit a document. Thomas thought that software was not needed). Mulinex agreed to check into the word processing standard that the steering committee wanted the groups to use. The team leaders will be notified about what to use.

Jackson thanked everyone for participating and asked people to check back to the website for updates.