Challenges and Successes Associated With A Long-Term Intertribal Invasive Species Program

Rochester, MN - October 16, 2018
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Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

• Intertribal natural resources agency
• Assists 11 member tribes from areas now known as Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan
• Implementation and protection of off-reservation treaty rights
• Co-management
First Nations: The primary users of the resources until European settlement

Source: https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/map/
With European Settlement Came Invasive Species

By land . . .

By water . . .

By air . . .
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

• Assists the tribes in securing recognition for and implementing off-reservation treaty rights.

• Develops natural resource management plans

• Develops methods to protect habitat and to maintain or improve ecosystem health

• Part of GLIFWC’s mission is “To protect ecosystems in recognition that fish, wildlife and wild plants cannot long survive in abundance in an environment that has been degraded.”
Co-Management

• The sharing of management and stewardship responsibilities and decision making by two or more entities, agencies, governments, user groups, etc.

• Control of the overall process of managing or being a steward of the natural resources does not rest solely with one group.
GLIFWC’s Invasive Species Program

• Started in 1986 with lamprey assessments and then added a focus on purple loosestrife management in 1988

• Has grown into a multi-faceted program focusing on a wide array of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species that directly threaten treaty resources

• Over 10,000 occurrences documented of various terrestrial and aquatic invasive species

• Comprised of multiple components:
  ➢ Prevention
  ➢ Early Detection and Rapid Response
  ➢ Control and Management
  ➢ Research
  ➢ Cooperation and Coordination
• Education and outreach

• Mazina’igan articles (circulation = 18,500)

• Pesticide applicator training and certification

• Herbicide workshops

• Brochures

• Pocket-sized Invasive ID cards

• AIS prevention fish ruler stickers

• Training and assistance for tribal natural resources staff

• Website

• College visits

• Booths at events

• Community events

• School groups

• Spring boat wash crews

• Train staff in decontamination and prevention procedures
Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

- Terrestrial and aquatic surveys
- ID priority species
- ID priority areas
- Respond to reports
- Monitor high priority areas

Duluth, MN
Superior, WI

Report Invasive Species

Northwoods CWMA Invasive Species Report

Location
GPS coordinates can only be collected when outside.

- latitude (xy°)
- longitude (xy°)
- altitude (m)
- accuracy (m)
Control and Management

• Mechanical, biological, and chemical treatment
• Culturally appropriate and biologically sound methods
• Protecting treaty resources
• Prioritizing efforts in areas where tribal harvest occurs: ogaa (walleye) and manomin (wild rice) waters and habitat
Research

• Keeping up with the literature – control methods, chemical studies, what can be expected short term vs. long term
• Attending workshops and conferences
• Participating in webinars
• Integrating new methods for data collection and data sharing
Cooperation and Coordination

- Multiple partners at city, county, state, federal, tribal level
- Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Data sharing
- Subcontracting
- Group field days
Funding

• BIA
  ▪ Base funding
  ▪ Invasive species program
  ▪ GLRI Tribal Invasive Species
  ▪ Noxious weeds
  ▪ Invasives Council

• USFWS
  ▪ GLRI Tribal AIS
  ▪ WI ANS State Plan

• EPA
  ▪ GLRI Coastal wetlands protection
Successes

• Preventing the spread of invasive species
• Educating youth, tribal harvesters, public
• Controlling pioneer populations of invasive species
• Reducing the spread of established populations
• Protecting treaty resources and ecosystems
• Developing relationships with many partners and co-managers

Signs of reduced garlic mustard abundance in the Bad River floodplain.
Challenges

• Securing reliable source of funding
• Turnover at partner agencies
• Recruiting volunteers
• Data sharing (getting it all into one location)
• Resorting to chemical or biological control when mechanical will not work
• Changing climate
• Non-stop threat of new invasive species

Bloody red shrimp – Lake Superior
Questions/Comments?

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