Regional Collaboration in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin
UMISC/NAISMA—October 16, 2018

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Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers

• More than 30 years of collaboration among the region’s chief executives:

  Illinois  Indiana  Michigan  Minnesota  New York
  Ohio      Ontario  Pennsylvania  Québec  Wisconsin

• Growing the region’s economy and protecting the world’s greatest freshwater system

• Chair: Michigan Governor Rick Snyder
  Vice Chair: Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker
Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin

- 20% of the world’s surface freshwater
- About 90% of US surface freshwater
- Drinking water for over 40 million people
- World-class fishery with $7B annual economic benefit
Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin

- 160+ in AIS Great Lakes Basin
  - Zebra and Quagga Mussel
  - Goby

- Economic & Environmental Threat
  - Billions spent annually
  - Harmful effects to ecosystems and native species

- Ongoing battle versus high-risk species
2013 Leadership Summit

- Governors and Premiers sign resolution renewing commitment to fight AIS
- Identify “least wanted” species
  - 16 high-risk AIS
- Call for development of Mutual Aid Agreement
“Least wanted” list

- State and Provincial experts name 16 high-risk AIS
- Nearly 50 separate actions taken since 2013
- 4 species listed under US Lacey Act in 2015:
  - Yabby
  - Stone Moroko
  - Zander
  - Wels Catfish
- Five new AIS added in 2018
## “Least wanted” list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Invertebrates</th>
<th>Plants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bighead carp</td>
<td>Killer shrimp</td>
<td>Hydrilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver carp</td>
<td>Yabby (crayfish)</td>
<td>Brazilian elodea</td>
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<td>Grass carp</td>
<td>Golden mussel</td>
<td>Water soldier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black carp</td>
<td>Marmorkreb</td>
<td>European water chestnut</td>
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<td>Northern snakehead</td>
<td>New Zealand Mud Snail</td>
<td>Parrot feather</td>
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<td>Stone moroko</td>
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<td>European Frogbit</td>
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<td>Zander</td>
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<td>Yellow Floating Heart</td>
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<td>Wels catfish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydilla Brazilian elodea European water chestnut Parrot feather Water soldier European Frogbit Yellow Floating Heart Killer shrimp Yabby Golden mussel Marmorkreb New Zealand Mud Snail</td>
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**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Michigan**

**Minnesota**

**New York**

**Ohio**

**Ontario**

**Pennsylvania**

**Québec**

**Wisconsin**
Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA)

- Signed by all ten Governors and Premiers
- The MAA is designed to:
  - Prevent the introduction and spread of AIS
  - Foster mutual aid among the States and Provinces
  - Encourage further cooperative actions by the States and Provinces
Implementing the MAA

- Joint exercises
  - May 2014 - Illinois/Indiana: targeting Eurasian ruffe in Lake Michigan’s Calumet Harbor
  - September 2014 - Michigan/Ohio: targeting grass carp in Lake Erie
  - June 2018 – Ohio: targeting grass carp in Sandusky River
Harmonization Initiative

- Michigan, Ohio and Ontario collaborate to explore harmonization of AIS regulations
- Initial focus on risk assessment
- Partnership with key stakeholder groups
- Strategies
  - Focused on similar outcomes
  - Share information
  - Identify gaps and resolve discrepancies
2017 Leadership Summit

- Governors and Premiers sign resolution strengthening protections against AIS

- Additional “least wanted” species
  - Tench
  - Marmorkreb
  - New Zealand mud snail
  - European frogbit
  - Yellow floating heart

- States/Provinces sign law enforcement MOU
2017 Resolution

- MOU on Regional Cooperative Enforcement Operations
  - Used to aid in inter-jurisdictional investigations for both invasive and endangered species.
  - Timely sharing of information
  - Specific objectives of this MOU include:
    - Facilitating the investigation of wildlife offenses to meet the standards of the courts in both Canada and the United States;
    - Supporting the enforcement operations of all Parties, and supporting any prosecutions that may result;
    - Establishing a solid and ongoing framework to improve communications
2017 Resolution

- MOU on Regional Cooperative Enforcement Operations
  - Parties include enforcement agencies from Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario; U.S. and Canadian federal governments
  - Since October 2017: Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin signed
Next steps

- Advocacy for action on least wanted list
- Develop consistent approaches to AIS prevention and enforcement
- Finalize MOU signatures
- Regional joint exercise(s)