

Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) On Aquatic Nuisance Species

2005 Accomplishment Report

January 31, 2006

Introduction

The Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species was formed in July 2003 at an organizational meeting held in Bloomington, MN. The second panel meeting was held in January 2004 in New Orleans, LA, a third was held in May 2004 in conjunction with an ANS Task Force (ANSTF) meeting in Columbia, MO, and a fourth was a joint MRBP/Western Regional Panel meeting held in September 2005 in Wichita, KS. Panel meeting attendance remains good at 37 in New Orleans, 40 in Columbia, and 28 in Wichita

The MRBP covers the largest geographic area (all or portions of 31 states in the Mississippi River Basin) of any of the ANS Panels in the nation. The MRBP includes 47 official members plus alternates, and 21 other interested parties, including members representing 26 states and provinces and four sub basins (i.e. Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, Missouri River, and Ohio River). The Panel has established a Web Site and maintains a Coordination Directory which is updated bi-annually.

Priorities and Issues of Concern

Asian carp are the top basin-wide ANS problem, followed by the zebra mussel. Other priority species of sub-basins are: round goby, Eurasian milfoil, hydrilla, white perch, New Zealand mud snail, purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, and salvinia species.

Institutional issues of concern to the MRBP are:

- Development of state ANS plans,
- Increasing federal funding to implement plans already developed and those being prepared, and
- Increasing awareness and skills in conducting risk assessments due to the increasing need and the fact that there are a limited number of individuals that are qualified to complete them.

The MRBP met with the Western Regional Panel (WRP) in Wichita, KS on September 7-9, 2005 and identified the following as shared concerns and potential joint efforts:

- **Risk Assessment Workshop** - Plan and convene a Risk Assessment Workshop.
- **Saltcedar** - Determine if an adequate website exists on saltcedar, and develop a website if needed.
- **100th Meridian Boater Survey** - Extend 100th Meridian boater survey to states east of the meridian.
- **Classroom Programs** - Develop a policy on classroom programs including live release of organisms, how *Habitattitude*TM might be integrated, and submit policy to the ANSTF.
- **Coast Guard Auxiliary** - Brief them, as invited, and provide packages of outreach materials.

- **Stock Recruitment Models** - Develop list of species of common concern, and provide expertise to develop models.
- **Injurious Species Listing** - Develop and maintain lists of state-regulated species, add to Panel websites, and provide data and recommendations to the USFWS that will assist in injurious wildlife listings.
- **Interpanel Communications** - Panel EXCOMs should communicate on activities, issues, and species of common concern.
- **Aquatic Animal Species Control** - Develop a more organized effort on how to control aquatic animal species, including development of a control symposium/workshop.
- **AIS Control Database** - Review what is being done, where, how and by whom.
- **Experts Database** - Integrate with USGS data base on species.
- **Global warming** - A risk assessment may be needed.
- **Survey Needs on Shared Waters** - Coordinate baseline (ecological) survey needs on shared waters.
- **Tribal Involvement** - Improve tribal involvement by developing a model for panel use.
- **Shared Resource Priorities** - Coordinate on research priorities for shared waters

MRBP Activities and Projects

The MRBP continued to use portions of its meetings to educate members on the various ANS problems across the Basin. Titles of formal presentations made at the September 7-9 joint WRP/MRBP meeting include the following:

- *Brush Management* - Thomas Flowers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resource Conservation Service
- *Eradication of Giant Salvinia and South American Spongeplant from California* - Robert Leavitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- *Rapid increase in the lower Great Lakes Population of feral Mute Swans: A review and a recommendation* - Scott Petri, Bird Studies Canada
- *The National Invasive Species Council - Update* - Chris Dionigi, National Invasive Species Council
- *Injurious Wildlife Provisions of the Lacey Act (18 USC 42 ~ 50 CFR 16)* - Erin Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- *Management Implications from a Stock-Recruitment Model for Bighead Carp in the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers* - Mike Hoff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- *Contaminant burdens and migration patterns of scaup using the lower Great Lakes* - Scott Petri, Bird Studies Canada
- *White Perch* - Tom Mosher, Kansas Wildlife and Parks
- *Raising Awareness on Aquatic Invasive Species in Mexico* - Roberto Mendoza Universidad Autonoma De Nuevo Leon
- *Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness: Ideas and Results* - Jay Rendall, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- *Proposed Statewide Awareness Campaign on Invasive Species - Marketing and Outreach Strategy* - Robyn Draheim, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University
- *Dealing With Invasive Species - Prevention Through Education* - Marshall Meyers, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
- *Invasive Species Risk Assessment Workshop - Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species - August 23-24, 2005, Tampa, Florida* - Cindy Kolar, USGS/BRD La Crosse,

WI

- *ANS Task Force Update* - Kari Duncan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- *Using HACCP Protocols to Prevent New Introductions - Reducing the spread of New Zealand mudsnails by field researchers*- Robyn Draheim, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, Portland State University

MRBP Members participated in the following ANS Events:

- WRP meeting - Tom Mosher (KS) attended and reported
- Gulf States Panel meeting - Doug Nygren (MICRA) attended
- Great Lakes Panel meeting - Mike Hoff (USFWS) attended
- Midwest ANS Workshop - Jay Rendall (MN) and Jerry Rasmussen (MICRA/MRBP) attended
- ANSTF Research Committee meeting - Cindy Kolar (USGS) attended
- Risk Assessment Workshop - Cindy Kolar (attended and presented), Jerry Rasmussen, Doug Keller (IN), and Jason Goeckler (KS) all attended

The priority concern of the MRBP continues to be the impacts and spread of Asian carp. National Issues of Interest to MRBP members include: (1) National Asian carp regulations, (2) National Asian carp plan, (3) NAISA (NISA reauthorization) S. 770, and (4) other national ballast bills S. 363.

The three MRBP committees (listed below) continued to sort out and identify their responsibilities, develop individual work plans, and project budget needs. Examples of committee projects include the following:

Information and Education Committee Projects

- Identify products, messages, audiences
- Coordinate with other panels
- Inventory of Information and Education products on ANS
- List regulated invasives in each state
- Encourage additional states to conduct model boater surveys

Research and Risk Assessment Committee Projects

- Develop a database of experts and current research
- Conduct a risk assessment workshop at the next MRBP meeting
- Develop a research priority list
- Sponsor a symposium on ANS research at the 2005 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Prevention and Control Committee Projects

- Develop a list of priority species/matrix status
- Prepare a position statement on barriers and fish passage
- Prepare an ANS harvest issue paper
- Develop a position statement supporting a national screening process for intentional importation into United States
- Request clarification of the Lacey Act from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Prevention and Control, Research and Risk Assessment, and Information and Education committees continue work on their responsibilities and work plans. A position statement on barriers and fish passage was developed and is posted on the MRBP Web site. A Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species in Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins is being developed. The Panel cooperated on a risk assessment workshop with the Gulf and South Atlantic Panel and is planning another such workshop this winter.

Also, MRBP research priorities will be determined and sent to NOAA for the next RFP.

Summary of Committee Activities and FY 06 Work Plans

Education and Outreach Committee (EOC)

The EOC Chairman, Steve Schainost (NE) encountered difficulty with health issues in 2004, and EOC leadership was passed between Byron Griffith (EPA) and Marilyn Barret O’Leary (Louisiana Seagrant) until Schainost could return to duty. This caused Committee activities to be somewhat hampered, but a Committee Work Plan has been prepared and is displayed below:

Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) Report and Work Plan for FY 06

Activity	Milestones	Deliverables	Funding Request
Develop Committee member’s roles and responsibilities for participation and interaction with other committees on MRBP listed tasks. <u>Potential Tasks:</u> A. Initiate needed products and identify correct messages, audience, and agency to deliver. B. Respond to other committees’ needs/ideas (Example: Water garden BMP’s outreach products). C. Coordinate activities with other panels and committees.	6 months or next meeting	List of Committee tasks and coordinated activities.	??
Inventory all existing information on invasives relative to the MRB. <u>SubTask:</u> A. List of all regulated/barred/prohibited invasives from each MRB state, including any web sites (URL’s).	6 months or next meeting	Database of existing products/activities	??
Develop market research/survey to determine MRB public awareness level of invasive species issues.	1 year (Produce survey and coordinate results)	Survey and Summary/Conclusions of Survey	\$35,000

Research and Risk Assessment Committee (RARC)

Cindy Kolar (USGS), Chairperson, worked with her Committee to develop short and long term goals. Committee members also developed a repository for information and late breaking news, etc., and are developing a list of potential funding sources to add to the MRBP Web Site. The Committee is also making plans to host a workshop on risk assessment, which will bring people together who are experts in the field. Over the next several years the Committee would also like to host a symposium on ANS issues in the Basin. The Committee is also planning to develop a pathways analysis to identify areas of concern, to determine which species are of most concern, and to develop methods of looking at Asian carp population recruitment. The Committee also recognizes the need to develop information on control strategies. One strategy might be to investigate the use of locks and dams to slow the spread of invasives. The Committee is also interested in developing more information on the economics of invasives. More information is also needed on the location and distribution of invasive species and when the invasion of an area occurred. The USGS database will be used to determine the latter, and the Panel will assist in

keeping it updated. The Committee's 2006 work plan follows:

Research and Risk Assessment Committee (RARC) Work Plan for FY 06

Activity	Description	Milestones	Deliverables	Dollar Request
Expert database and database of current research projects	Database of those conducting research on ANS in the Basin including contact information, species that they are working with, aspects of the species they are examining (e.g., life history, genetics, behavior, diet, etc.), and how the research fits into the National Invasive Species Management Plan (e.g., prevention, control, outreach). This activity is envisioned as a web-based survey consisting of pull-down menus and a 'registration' process for researchers. This tool could be expanded to go beyond research to include types of outreach materials developed, database development, etc. If not set up initially for searching capabilities, this function would be included after initial roll-out.	<p>(1) Develop web-based form (developed initially by Kolar and Zajicek, circulated among committee members). Time: by end of June</p> <p>(2) Coordinate serving on MRBP site (developed by CERC or UMESC and linked to the MRBP site). Time: by end of July</p> <p>(3) Post site and begin circulating link to solicit registration and data collection. Time: by mid-August</p>	Website Database	Hopefully none. If time required to set up site, then some funds may be needed to off-set initial costs (maximum \$1,000)
Plan Risk Assessment Workshop in conjunction with the next MRBP meeting in January 2005	Use of risk assessments is growing in importance in various stages of the invasion process (not only for prevention, but also for detection, impacts, range, etc.). Although methods are quickly evolving, few people are familiar with their diversity, utility, and application to ANS issues. At this workshop, we will invite experts on risk assessments for ANS to present current tools and their application. The workshop will be held the day before the MRBP meeting, will be an all-day event, and will be open to those beyond participants in the MRBP meeting. Planning activities will be done by conference call with the RARC invited to participate. Potential	<p>(1) Develop one paragraph or so for budget planning for those who might attend (Kolar initially, out to Committee for approval). Time: end of May.</p> <p>(2) Solidify goals and objectives of workshop (Kolar initially, out to Committee for approval). Time: mid-July</p> <p>(3) Develop flyer for national AFS meeting and other venues. Time: mid-July</p>	Workshop Workshop proceedings	Cost probably about \$10,000. Will try to leverage with Introduced Fish Section of AFS entities near the next meeting location. Could charge registration for non-MRBP members and advertise

	speakers include: Richard Orr on the RAM Process; someone from EPA using environmental risk assessments; Paul Zajicek (held workshop using the entire RAM procedure to evaluate sturgeon culture in FL), Cindy Kolar on quantitative risk assessments, someone on GARP or Species Analyst	(4) Develop invited speaker list and invite speakers (Kolar initiate, Committee develop together). Time: September (5) Develop agenda (Committee together). Time: September		broadly. USGS may also co-sponsor.
Research priority list and white paper	Identify and prioritize research needs in a short white paper (maybe 3-5 pages). This document would be posted on the web to help people become aware of current issues; suggest funding initiatives; and identify priority research proposals.	(1) Further develop research questions (Kolar initiate; Committee input). Time: mid-June (2) Finalize priorities. Time: mid-July (3) Develop draft white paper (initiated by Kolar, committee member take over—volunteers?). Time: November/December (4) Submit draft white paper to MRBP. Time: January meeting	‘Marketing tool’ and information sharing	None
Hold Risk Assessment Workshop in conjunction with next MRBP meeting in January 2005	See previous			Nothing additional to 2004 request
Sponsor a symposium on ANS research in the Basin at the 2005 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in	Symposium would reach more of a management focused audience than at the ANS session, typically hosted by the Introduced Fish Section at the national meeting of the AFS.		Symposium Could consider publishing a proceedings	Costs might include \$10,000 for travel costs of researchers, but would probably be less (many will be close).

December				Wouldn't have to offer travel costs—could be virtually no cost.
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Prevention and Control Committee (PCC)

Kim Bogenshutz (IA), Chairperson, worked with her Committee to begin prioritizing ANS for prevention, containment and control within the basin and sub basins using input from the four sub basins. The Committee plans to develop a matrix for which species can be controlled and contained. The Committee recognizes the need for development a Rapid Response Plan and will work with the RARC on this issue. The Committee supports the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in development of the Asian Carp Management Plan, and hopes to identify tools to control ANS through an integrated pest management plan, and to facilitate a monitoring plan for the basin. The Committee will assist the RARC with development of pathways, and will develop its own ANS issue papers (i.e. fish passage, marketability of Asian carp, etc.) providing that information to the ANSTF. The Committee will encourage the states to respond to federal notices, and plans to develop a policy on species introductions, relying on support from the RARC and EOC, and to eventually develop a Clean Species List. The Committee also plans to recommend improvements to state ANS regulations, and to encourage the states to participate in NAISA reauthorization. The Committee will also promote regulations prohibiting transport of ANS on public roads, and encourage the states to support panel activities. The Committee's 2006 Work Plan follows:

Prevention and Control Committee (PCC) Work Plan for FY 06

Activity	Milestones	Deliverables	Funding Request
Develop a matrix of priority ANS within the MRB categorizing them for prevention, containment, or control.	December 2004	Matrix of priority ANS within the MRB including state ranks of priority, distribution, severity of impacts, pathways, availability of information	\$0
Develop a database of ANS program contacts within MRB states to facilitate rapid response plans.	September 2004	Database containing contact information for ANS program personnel in each MRB state	\$0
Develop a database of agencies responsible for water permits and pesticide regulations in each MRB state to facilitate rapid response plans.	December 2004	Database containing agency and contact information for personnel in each MRB state responsible for water permits and pesticide	\$0 unless Panel wants to hire a student to contact and compile

		regulations	
Support development of the Asian Carp Management and Control Plan. Several MRBP members are on the planning team, and many more were participants in a workshop to develop actions and priorities for the plan.	November 2004	Asian Carp Management and Control Plan submitted to ANS Task Force	\$0 unless Panel wants to support travel
Prepare an issue paper discussing the balance between fish passage and fish barriers within the MRB.	May 2004	Issue paper reported to ANS Task Force	\$0
Prepare an issue paper discussing harvest and marketing of ANS in the MRB (e.g., positive and negative impacts of developing a market for Asian carp).	November 2004	Issue paper reported to ANS Task Force	\$0
Support the clean list concept and national screening process for intentional importation of nonnative species into the U.S. and for new uses of nonnative species currently in the U.S.	November 2004	Letter to the ANS Task Force supporting clean list and screening process legislation	\$0
Encourage MRB states to participate in NAISA reauthorization efforts.	August 2004	(1) Letter template for states to send to Congressional delegation requesting support of NAISA (2) NAISA summary to each state MRBP representative	\$0
Promote ANS Task Force participation in IAFWA meetings to highlight ANS issues and NAISA reauthorization to state directors.	May 2004	Request that ANS Task Force send a representative to the IAFWA meeting in September, 2004	\$0

MRBP Expenses and Budget Needs

Projected completion dates for committee work plan activities are all subject to change, as it must be understood that the chair persons and committee members all have full time jobs with their respective state or agency, and committee activity doesn't always meet the highest priority need or those states or agencies. However, committee activity is expected to increase shortly as projects begin to come together. Funding needs are also anticipated for Committee and Panel meetings, and some members will continue to require full or partial reimbursement for travel expenses to Panel and Committee meetings.

Actual expenses for 2004 and projected expenses for 2005 are shown below:

MRBP Expenditures FY 05

Travel	12,319.78
Meeting Expenses	5,292.65
Brochures	23,670.00
Office Supplies/Rent/Telephone	3,236.42
Overhead	5,000.00
In Kind Staff Support	<u>50,000.00</u>
Total	\$99,518.85

Budget Needs FY 06

Travel	\$20,000.00
Meeting Expenses	9,000.00
Equipment	10,000.00
Contractual	56,000.00
Overhead	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total	\$100,000.00