

Water Strategy Framework for Implementation

Priority Area: Prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species and control established populations

The Water Strategy includes a recommendation to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS) and control established populations. The Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources cooperatively implement the state AIS Program. Michigan's AIS State Management Plan was updated and approved by the Federal government in 2013 and serves as the program's foundation.

The departments work together and with partners in the Great Lakes basin, and at the local level to block the pathways by which AIS enter and spread in Michigan waters and to advance our collective ability to manage invasive plants and animals that are already harming the environment and economy. Special consideration and efforts are given to preventing invasive carp (bighead, silver, and black carp) from entering the Great Lakes through regional coordination and actions. The state actively participates in efforts to prevent carp from entering the Great Lakes by engaging through the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, the Chicago Area Waterways Advisory Committee, the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Separation Study Executive Steering Committee, and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. In addition, Michigan co-chairs the Conference of Great Lakes Governors' and Premieres' Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force that recently adopted a regional consensus list for least-wanted AIS, a Mutual Aid Agreement, and a pilot project to harmonize aspects of AIS regulation with Ohio, Ontario, and Michigan.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- The MDNR, MDEQ, and MDARD will continue to work collaboratively to implement Michigan's AIS Program and AIS state management plan supported by federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants, foundation funds, and state general funds.
- The state will continue to administer the Michigan's Invasive Species Grant Program to support AIS and terrestrial invasive species prevention, detection, and control projects, including efforts to advance management of species like Eurasian watermilfoil and Phragmites.
- The MDEQ and MDNR will improve early detection and response efforts through traditional and new techniques, such as eDNA, and conduct removal efforts for high priority invasive plants through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded projects.
- The MDARD and MDNR will implement a state law to develop new permitted, prohibited and restricted species lists based on risk assessments and continue inspections of organisms in trade.
- The MDNR will prevent introduction of invasive carp through bait, aquaculture, and canal vectors by enhancing enforcement, working on cooperative outreach and education, and working to seek solutions at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.
- The MDNR will continue to refine response and planning documents for occurrences of invasive carp in Michigan's waters.
- The departments will continue to implement early detection and response efforts to address AIS such as red swamp crayfish and European frog-bit and reducing the risk of AIS through key pathways like ballast water and the trade of live organisms.
- The departments will continue enhanced education and outreach efforts to communicate the harmful effects of AIS and to urge citizens to take action to prevent AIS (e.g. Michigan's annual AIS Landing Blitz conducted in partnership with local entities to reach recreational boaters).
- Michigan will host an initiative to develop innovative solutions to keep invasive carp (bighead, silver, and black) from entering the Great Lakes.

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