

Terms of Reference

Zonal Monitoring Workshop on Aquatic Invasive Species

Lead region: Central and Arctic

Date: October 3-4, 2006

Location: Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington, ON

Chair: S. Millard, DFO

Background and Workshop Structure

As part of the new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program (created in 2005-2006, Environmental and Biodiversity Science, DFO), zonal priority setting workshops are planned for the Pacific, Atlantic, and Central and Arctic Regions. The goals are to identify priority species for monitoring, pathways for introduction, and priority locations for monitoring invasive species. In addition, following the zonal workshops, a National Workshop on methods for monitoring invasive species will be held.

Specific objectives, products, and agency participants for the Central and Arctic Zonal Monitoring Workshop are listed below. Relevant monitoring locations include the Great Lakes, all inland waterways and marine coastal areas of the Arctic, and the St. Lawrence River (likely from Lake Ontario to Quebec city). During the two-day workshop, representatives from the different agencies in C&A region that are currently monitoring AIS will be invited to make a presentation to summarize their activities. Each presentation will address one or more of the workshop objectives. Following the presentations on Day 1, the objectives will be addressed further by targeted and facilitated discussion in break-out groups on Day 2.

Current methods and proposed future monitoring needs will be summarized, based on the presentation material and break-out group discussions. Results of the Central and Arctic Zonal Workshop will be documented with various CSAS publications and this information could be presented at a National Methods Workshop that may be planned later. The long-term goal will be to strive for consistent and comparable methods for tracking AIS in the different regions across Canada.

Workshop Objectives

1. Using science-based criteria, establish a list of priority species, key pathways for introduction, and priority locations for monitoring AIS in Central and Arctic Region.
2. Describe ongoing AIS monitoring programs in the Region by the different agencies and identify additional survey needs.
3. Identify science-based methods currently being used to monitor AIS (survey design, gear, ID protocols, data) and identify additional needs.

Products

- CSAS Proceedings (to document the ToR, program, presentation material and outcome of the workshop).
- CSAS Research Document(s) (following the workshop) summarizing the agencies and methods being used to monitor AIS in C&A Region, priority species, locations and pathways, and future needs (for possible presentation at a National Monitoring Methods workshop)
- Develop a shared website to report on AIS monitoring activities and results (proposed)

Participation

DFO Scientists (all DFO regions)
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
University scientists
Alberta Fish and Wildlife
Manitoba Water Stewardship
Saskatchewan Environment
Québec (Direction de la recherche sur la faune)
Bait Association of Ontario
DFO Sea Lamprey Control
U. S. Geological Society
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
Royal Botanical Gardens
United States Fish and Wildlife Service