



MRBP Report to the Gulf Regional Panel

By Doug Nygren
November, 2004

Mississippi River Basin Panel

Meetings in 2005:

- Fourth meeting in January/February - undetermined (looking for southern host)
- Fifth meeting is proposed for September with Western Regional Panel - Kansas

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Members:

- Membership at 46 plus alternates
 - 21 interested parties
 - Total of 71 in coordination directory
 - Others interested
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Panel Participation at events:

- **Western Panel** - Tom Mosher (KS) attended and reported
- **Gulf Panel** - Doug Nygren (MICRA) planned
- **ANSTF** - Mike Hoff (Vice Chair) attending
- **Midwest ANS Workshop** - Jay Rendall (Chair) participating

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Issue Priorities:

- Developing state plans is a priority in many states
- Increasing federal funding to implement plans is a priority of the states with existing plans and those preparing plans

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Panel Progress and Direction

- Committees are working on their responsibilities and work plans



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Panel Progress and Direction

Examples of Prevention and Control

Committee Projects

- List of priority species / matrix status
- Position statement on barriers and fish passage
- ANS harvest issue paper
- Position statement supporting national screening process for intentional importation into US
- Request clarification on Lacey Act from USFWS

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Panel Progress and Direction

Examples of I&E Committee Projects

- Identify products, messages, audiences
- Began Inventory of I&E products on ANS
- Purchased and distributed new *Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers* brochure
- Developing a *Field Guide to Aquatic Invasive Plants and Animals* for Mississippi River basin for 2005

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Panel Progress and Direction

Examples of Research Committee Projects

- Database of experts and current research
- Risk assessment workshop at next MRBP mtg
- Research priority list
- Sponsor a symposium on ANS research at 2005 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

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Recommendations:

- The panel recommends that the Task Force place a high priority and strong focus on prevention — especially on introductions into the country, as well as interstate, interbasin, and intrabasin spread of ANS.

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Rational:

- States are limited in their responses to international and interstate commerce as well as funding projects outside of their borders, so federal leadership and funding is needed in several areas

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■ IAFWA RESOLUTION #4

■ SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-NATIONAL SCREENING PROCESS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCTIONS INTO NORTH AMERICA

- **WHEREAS**, introduction, both intentional and unintentional, of invasive aquatic species threatens the diversity and abundance of fisheries resources of North America; and
- **WHEREAS**, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has identified invasive species as a priority resource conservation issue in its current five-year strategic plan; and
- **WHEREAS**, prevention of the introduction of invasive species is the best action to avoid the enormous risk to fisheries resources posed by additional invasive species; and
- **WHEREAS**, existing U.S. and Canadian federal importation laws and procedures do not allow for adequate identification of, and prevention of introduction of, new invasive species;
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the federal governments of the United States and Canada to develop and implement a multi-national exotic species screening process that will both identify potential invasive species that are a threat to North American fisheries resources and identify exotic species that pose no threat to North American fisheries resources.

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Recommendations:

- National prohibitions (with listed exceptions) on transport of aquatic plants and priority ANS on public roads would be helpful

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Recommendations:

- MRBP recommends establishment of a national contingency fund for rapid response

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Questions
or
Comments
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