

Raising awareness on *AN ACTION PLAN TO
MINIMIZE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN* by Mississippi
Interstate Cooperative Resource Association.

Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel
Charleston, SC

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Jeffrey Herod
USFWS Southeast Region
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Outline

- ⦿ Action Plan
- ⦿ GSARP Action Item
 - ACTION: Does GSARP support the implementation of the “Action Plan” and if yes, will that be expressed in a letter of support?
- ⦿ Discussion



MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN ALLIANCE



MAP OF THE
**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED**

SCALE: 1:100,000,000
1 INCH = 100 MILES

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN ALLIANCE
1000 EAST 10TH AVENUE, SUITE 1000, DENVER, CO 80202
WWW.MISSISSIPPIRIVERBASINALLIANCE.ORG

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**AN ACTION PLAN
TO MINIMIZE ECOLOGICAL
IMPACTS
OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN**

**Developed by the
Mississippi Interstate Cooperative
Resource Association (MICRA)**



Goal 1 – Our ultimate goal is for the Basin is to prevent all new introductions of AIS.

- ⦿ Therefore, a list of priority species (i.e., high risk of introduction, establishment, spread, and impact) will be developed, updated as needed, and used for ranking MICRA's collaborative efforts

GSARP: Similar efforts

- ⦿ Effort spent on master list of species
- ⦿ State ANS plans identify action items
- ⦿ Prevention of new introductions by raising awareness and informing the public and other partners

Goal 2 – Our second, ultimate goal is to stop the spread of AIS within the Basin, extirpate harmful AIS, or if impossible, then control populations to ensure sustainable aquatic ecosystems and the social, economic, and cultural uses they support.

- ⦿ We will work with our partners to help develop detailed integrated pest management plans for priority species, and for locations infested and impacted by several of those species

GSARP: Similar efforts

- ⦿ GSARP funded research into control technologies
- ⦿ State ANS plans identify action items
- ⦿ Known pathways of high risk have been identified

- 1) Support efforts to develop environmentally protective standards for ballast water, and implement effective ship-board treatments and best management practices.**
- 2) Develop and implement measures that ensure canals and waterways do not enable AIS to pass and expand their ranges.**
- 3) Prevent the introduction and spread of AIS as the result of escapement/release of organisms imported for various uses.**
- 4) Implementation of a well structured and funded integrated management program (IPM) for AIS in the Basin.**
- 5) Conduct and evaluate cost-effective AIS pathway-specific outreach and education programs.**

ACTION- GSARP

- ⦿ Provide a letter to MICRA which would express GSARP's willingness to participate, coordinate, and collaborate on appropriate activities identified in the *AN ACTION PLAN TO MINIMIZE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN.*

Discussion

- ⦿ GSARP has made progress on similar topics and shares common practices identified in “Action Plan”
- ⦿ Many members of GSARP will benefit from the implementation of the “Action Plan” because the geographic area is the Mississippi River Basin
- ⦿ Does GSARP support the implementation of the “Action Plan” and if yes, will that be expressed in a letter of support?