



Aquatic Invasive Species

WHAT DOES THE GSGP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE DO? The Task Force works to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin. The Task Force coordinates State and Provincial efforts to combat AIS through strategic regional action.

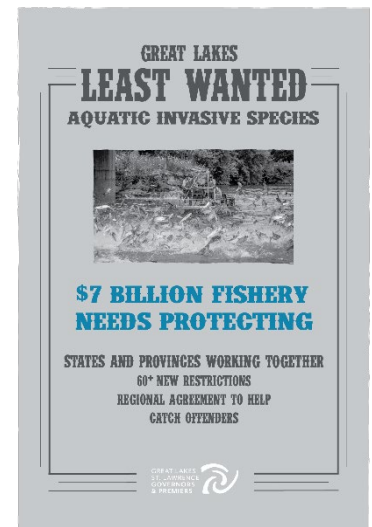
WHAT IS THE AIS PROBLEM? More than 180 non-native species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. These AIS pose a threat to human health and cause immeasurable ecological damage to native species, with consequences for our region's sport and commercial fisheries, tourism and recreation.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF THE TASK FORCE?

- 1) Taking aggressive action against high-risk AIS, including invasive carp (bighead, silver, black and grass)
- 2) Promoting regional cooperation across borders
- 3) Fostering collaboration among AIS experts, fisheries experts and law enforcement officials

WHAT ARE THE GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS DOING TO COMBAT FURTHER AIS INVASIONS?

- Created a "Least Wanted" list of 21 AIS that threaten the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin. The States and Provinces have taken more than 90 separate actions to restrict these high-risk species.
- Developed a groundbreaking Mutual Aid Agreement that facilitates cooperative response actions and the sharing of staff, expertise and resources between jurisdictions in the event of an AIS invasion. To implement this Agreement, the States and Provinces organize multi-jurisdictional response exercises to build capacity and strengthen regional defenses.
- Established a regional AIS law enforcement initiative. This includes State and Provincial participation in a Memorandum of Understanding that promotes information sharing and cross-border investigations. The Memorandum has been used in several inter-jurisdictional investigations pertaining to both invasive and endangered species.



WHY DOES STOPPING AIS MATTER? Each year, AIS cost the U.S. and Canada billions of dollars in damages, burden the economy and strain State, Provincial and federal budgets. Stopping the spread of AIS protects the health of the Great Lakes to the benefit of human health, business, recreation and tourism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://gsgp.org/projects/aquatic-invasive-species/>