



October 18, 2018

Mr. Jim Kurth  
Deputy Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Gregory Ibach  
Under Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Kurth and Mr. Ibach:

RICK SNYDER  
CHAIR  
*Governor of Michigan*

SCOTT WALKER  
VICE CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

ANDREW CUOMO  
*Governor of New York*

MARK DAYTON  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ERIC HOLCOMB  
*Governor of Indiana*

JOHN KASICH  
*Governor of Ohio*

BRUCE RAUNER  
*Governor of Illinois*

TOM WOLF  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

The Great Lakes Governors encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture to take action to prohibit or restrict the interstate transfer of the “least wanted” aquatic invasive species. These species have been identified by our State and Provincial aquatic invasive species (AIS) experts as posing an ecological threat to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin. This list is driving aggressive regional action to stop their introduction and spread. A unified approach across various levels of government is the most effective way to protect the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin, and the rest of our nation, from AIS.

In 2013, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers first identified the “least wanted” AIS. Since that time, the States and Provinces have taken more than 40 separate actions to prevent the transfer of these high-risk AIS into the region. State and Provincial fisheries managers and law enforcement officials support the least wanted list as a critically important tool in the fight against AIS. As you know, in 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed four of these species - Yabby, Stone Moroko (topmouth gudgeon), Zander, and Wels Catfish – under the Lacey Act. Other AIS including the Asian carp are federally listed as injurious.

Recently, our region’s Governors and Premiers added five more species to the “least wanted” list. State and provincial AIS and fisheries experts, in conjunction with leading regional researchers, identified these five AIS as posing a high risk of invasion or spread within the region. The Governors and Premiers will take aggressive action and work with regional partners to combat these aquatic invaders. Similar action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restrict the interstate transfer of these high-risk fish and invertebrates is critical:

Killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*  
Golden mussel *Limnoperna fortunei*  
Tench *Tinca tinca*  
Marmorokreb (marbled crayfish) *Procambarus fallax forma virginalis*  
New Zealand mud snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*

20 North Wacker Drive  
Suite 2700  
Chicago, IL 60606

Similarly, we encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take actions to prevent the interstate transfer of the aquatic plants included on the “least wanted” list:

Brazilian elodea *Egeria densa*

Voice: 312-407-0177  
Fax: 312-407-0038  
Web: [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org)  
e-mail: [cglg@cglg.org](mailto:cglg@cglg.org)

European water chestnut *Trapa natans*  
Parrot feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*  
Water soldier *Stratiotes aloides*  
European frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*  
Yellow floating heart *Nymphoides peltata*

AIS cost the U.S. and Canada billions of dollars in damages each year, are a burden on the economy, and strain State, Provincial and federal budgets. They 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. More than 180 nonnative species have been introduced into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

We look forward to continued work with our federal partners to protect the world's greatest freshwater resource, and again encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture to take appropriate action to restrict the spread of the "least wanted" aquatic invasive species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Naftzger". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Naftzger  
Executive Director