

Mississippi River Science Forum

Aquatic Invasive Species

Kim Bogenschutz

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Current State of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River – Science, Policy, Coordination

- Preventing Introductions and Spread
 - Federal and State regulations aimed at preventing accidental and deliberate introductions to prevent or slow the spread of AIS into new areas
 - Implementing measures to contain and control current AIS infestations
 - Investigating organisms in trade pathway
- Detecting and Monitoring Populations
 - Utilizing tools to predict potential new AIS
 - Surveying for early detection, distribution, and status of AIS populations
- Controlling Populations
 - Rapidly responding to new AIS introductions
 - Managing established AIS infestations

Current State of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River – Science, Policy, Coordination

- Coordinating among Partners and Developing Plans
 - Conducting effective intra- and inter-agency communications
 - Developing and implementing management plans for AIS
- Conducting Research
 - Determining AIS life cycle requirements and population parameters
 - Developing AIS containment and control measures
 - Determining AIS effects on native species and ecosystems
 - Developing alternatives to AIS in trade
- Reaching our Constituents
 - Educating the public, politicians, agency leadership, and aquatic resource users of the threat of AIS

Gaps in Science, Policy, and Coordination of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River

- Prevention
 - Lack of continuity among state regulatory authorities regarding AIS
 - Controlling the sale and movement of AIS in commerce
 - Understanding AIS movement through man-made and natural watershed connections
- Early Detection and Monitoring
 - Multiple and inconsistent use of AIS reporting tools
 - Lack of resources for AIS early detection and population monitoring surveys
- Management
 - Inability to rapidly respond to new AIS introductions
 - Limited control options for AIS

Gaps in Science, Policy, and Coordination of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River

- Coordination and Plan Development
 - Complications with sharing AIS data among partners
 - Lack of resources to implement national, regional and state AIS plans
- Research
 - Implementing AIS deterrents and control tools
 - Determining effectiveness of AIS containment and control strategies
 - Evaluating interactions of AIS with native species, especially species of greatest conservation need (SGCN)

Future Direction to Prevent and Manage Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River

- Prevention
 - Coordinate regulatory strategies and enforcement to prevent the introduction of new AIS into and the transportation of existing AIS
 - Develop understanding of needs for regulating and monitoring online AIS sales
 - Take actions to minimize the risk of AIS spread between watersheds via man-made and natural connections
 - Support implementation and evaluation of deterrent technologies to prevent the spread of AIS and improve native fish passage
- Control and Management
 - Strengthen market-based incentives for AIS harvest, processing, use, and consumption
 - Develop coordinated approaches to AIS removal programs (e.g., subsidies, commercial fishers)
 - Evaluate effectiveness of current AIS management actions

Future Direction to Prevent and Manage Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River

- Coordination and Plan Development
 - Enhance information sharing and data-driven solutions to aid in management of AIS
 - Measure effectiveness of national, regional and state AIS management plans
- Research
 - Develop innovative control tools to reduce the abundance of AIS while not impacting native species
 - Develop comprehensive monitoring and assessment programs to provide for the evaluation of AIS impacts on native ecosystems and economies
- Outreach
 - Target buyers and sellers of AIS in trade with information about the effects of AIS when released into the environment

Questions

Kim Bogenschutz

Kim.Bogenschutz@dnr.iowa.gov

515-290-0540