



Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species Program

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Ommundsen

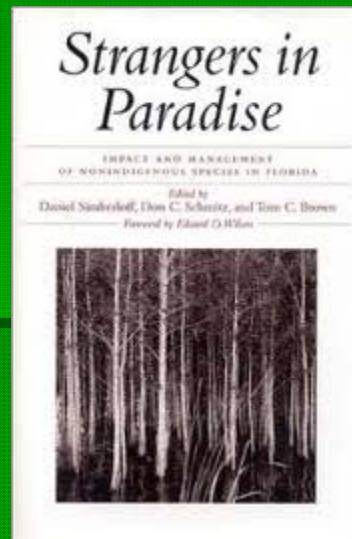
“WE’RE exotic, *THEY’RE* invasive.”

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

“A non-native species that becomes established, spreads widely and causes harm to an ecosystem is considered invasive. These aquatic invasive species compete with native species for food and habitat, and can directly or indirectly kill or displace native species, degrade habitat, and alter food webs. AIS can also have significant economic effects on waterfront property values, tourism, utilities, and other industries.”

**Why should we
care about AIS?**

“The two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first habitat destruction and, second, invasion by exotic species.”



- E.O. Wilson, *Strangers in Paradise*



Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)

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Water hyacinth
(*Eichhornia crassipes*)

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Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*)



Pelvic fins near
pectoral fins/gills

Extended anal fin



VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia)



**Keep Our
Waters
Great!**



Don't Dump Your Bait!

*Fish diseases like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)
can be transferred in your bait bucket!*

Michigan's AIS Program: History

- NISA mandated development of first management plan in 1996: “Michigan’s Non-indigenous ANS State Management Plan”
- Update completed in 2002: “Michigan’s ANS State Management Plan”

Michigan's AIS Program: Current Status

- GLRI funding received in 2010 to address priority AIS actions
 - Establish formal, cohesive AIS team
 - Full-time statewide AIS program coordinator hired (Sarah Lesage – DEQ WRD)
 - Update and implement SMP

Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

- Summarizes progress/developments made since 2002 plan
- Summarizes relevant laws/regulations
- Gives goals, strategies and measures of success for implementation
- Collaboration and partnerships are priority activities

Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

SMP Goals:

1. Prevent new introductions of AIS
2. Limit the spread of existing AIS invasions
3. Abate harmful impacts from AIS
4. Develop an early detection & rapid response (EDRR) capacity



“It doesn’t seem to be covered in our invasive species management plan.”

Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

Implications for MiCorps

- Species of Concern identified within the plan
- Prohibited & Restricted Species Law (NREPA Part 413)
- Provides an overview of:
 - DEQ's ANC program
 - DARD efforts focused on organisms in trade
 - DNR efforts focused on the water-related recreation vector

Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

Strategic Actions Example:

- Signage at public boat launches



Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

Implications for MiCorps

- Early Detection and Rapid Response
 - Key component of the AIS SMP
- Structure will be based on Incident Command System
- Wildlife Division aquatic plant EDRR project

Michigan's AIS State Management Plan

- Early Detection & Rapid Response section will include:
 - Surveillance
 - Verification
 - Assessment
 - Planning and Communication
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring
 - Follow-up

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- 3 key components for volunteers:
 - Knowing what to look for
 - Knowing where to look for it
 - Knowing what to do if you find it

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- DNR-WLD and MNFI collaborative project
 - GLRI grant funded
 - Addresses EDRR for 6 priority AIS
 - Serves as a trial for the larger EDRR program within the AIS SMP



“The breakthrough was giving them genes from invasive species.”