

# Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce

Developing Solutions to Mitigate Risks

Workgroup: Labeling and Recordkeeping  
May 11, 2023





## Goal

Develop and implement measures that prevent the introduction, or spread, of aquatic invasive species through commerce using science-based, landscape-level prevention measures implemented across North America.

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review list of issues associated with the pathway and accept, reject, modify, or recommend for other work groups to review
3. Achieve informed consent on criteria to prioritize key issues and gaps
4. Prioritize key issues and gaps
5. Tee up homework and next work group meeting - developing strategies, tasks to address key issues and gaps

## AIS IN COMMERCE WORK GROUPS

- Information and Education
- Industry Best Practices and Guidelines
- Regulations and Enforcement
- Labeling and Recordkeeping
- Information Access and Sharing
- Monitoring and Inspection
- E-Commerce



LIST OF  
ISSUES FROM  
KICKOFF  
WEBINAR  
AND SURVEY

- I. Improperly labeled species at wholesale level (and above, e.g., growers) and methods/tools to identify recent changes to genus/species names.
  - a. Lack of available guides and other tools for retailers to use to correctly label species (**Information and Education WG**).
  - b. Insufficient traceable (NEED TO ADD TO TERMINOLOGY) purchasing (e.g., moss ball) and selling chain for agency oversight (occurs through invoicing) (**E-Commerce**)
  - c. Insufficient ability of inspectors to identify species in shipments - and compare them to what is listed in the shipment (**Monitoring and Inspection** is a piece of it - training) (intentional fraud)

Insufficient labeling that fails to identify risk of establishment, impacts, and management actions (**Industry Best Practices & Standards**)

Insufficient species registration during sales/imports (declaring on international imports what the shipment contains – customs paperwork has generic labels) (**Monitoring and Regulations**)

2. Lack of a ~~comprehensive~~ prohibited species list by states/provinces that can be incorporated into label and inventory of distributors (not one list, but **links to each of the state/provincial lists**)



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Insufficient bag/tank/shop labels retailers use to educate customers about risks of releasing pets (assumes we're talking about pet stores, but there are numerous types of sellers (bait industry, live food markets, etc.) (**Information and Education**)

Insufficient thorough record-keeping of species sold online (**E-Commerce**)

Insufficient documentation of approved animal import documents from buyer's state before animals are bought and shipped (selling state needs to verify it is okay to export to destination state – and that it was legally imported prior to sale) (**Regulation**)

STRATEGY – Promote use of emerging document scanning software and technology to detect AIS in commercial import shipments

~~7. Lack of mandatory approved animal import documents from buyer's state before animals are bought and shipped~~



ISSUES  
SUBMITTED  
POST-  
WEBINAR

3. Unidentified contaminant species mixed with species that are ordered (e.g., moss ball).

- a. Hitchhickers (contaminants)
- b. Product substitutions

Assess, catalog and share successful examples of good labeling and recordkeeping practices Examine and provide a model based upon plant supply chain regulatory and non-regulatory labeling, reporting, and record keeping efforts. Please see <https://www.nationalplantboard.org/>. (**Industry Best Standards and Practice**)

Inspectors confiscating animals based on CITES permits (during an inspection – coral genera had changed) that are allowed throughout the rest of the world (Policy, protocols, training, compliance, and labeling) (**Regulations and Enforcement**)

4. **Transshippers** and quick handling may not provide for adequate identification

5. Inconsistencies in record requirements among states/provinces with some aquatic industries.

Lack of understanding of interjurisdictional laws among states and provinces (sales, possession, etc.) (**Regulations and Enforcement, E-Commerce, Information and Education**)

**E-Commerce:** Consider pop-ups for online website sales (Craigslist, Canada counterpart, etc.)