

# Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce

Developing Solutions to Mitigate Risks

Workgroup: Information Access and Sharing  
May 19, 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
3. Achieve informed consent on criteria to prioritize key issues and gaps
4. Prioritize key issues and gaps
5. If any time remains, begin 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

- 1. Lists of locations where species cannot be shipped**  
(comment: we need for this information to be regulated – past efforts (Takeaim.org) - how to maintain – if not updated, culpability? World fishes important to NA (AFS publications – list names of spp., introduced, naturalized – published in 1991). (maybe 2 different groups – one that collects the information, and one that shares the information))
- 2. Prohibited species lists, by state/province, online, and in a convenient location**
- 3. Insufficient networks** (lack of knowledge of existing networks – groups and what they are working on - and collaboration across those networks) (Re: AIS in Commerce) and information access and sharing across regional, national, and international agencies and organizations (seizure upon import does not get communicated back to country of export – overwhelmed inspectors, no mandate, no platform) (no central database enforcement agents can use to document shipments with issues) (this one could feed back into #1 and #2) - Networks = Feedback mechanisms through supply chain are important. (**SORN** – System of Record Notice – may need to navigate privacy act issues). AFWA (state FW biologists – need biologist/law enforcement links strengthened). **Regulators** should be cooperating and collaborating.
- 4. Lack of one stop shop for public, sellers, and government to access info on state/province-specific regulations** (Regulations WG), responsible pet ownership (I&E group, Industry BP WG), pet disposal and rehoming (I&E WG, Industry Best Practices WG) (Industry BP WG - agreements in place between producers and retailers re: what to do when hitchhiker contaminant is in shipment). How is info conveyed to different groups? We need to address mechanisms (incorporating social science – meeting people where they are – which isn't necessary a government website). **Clearinghouse AND portal – ensure regulatory review prior to launch**
- 5. Lack of directories of aquatic species in trade entities (e.g., wholesalers, retailers, etc.) throughout the supply chain**  
(look at Pet Product News International as an example of wholesalers) - Definition of wholesaler: An entity that is registered as a wholesale business within their state/province.



ISSUES  
SUBMITTED  
POST-  
WEBINAR

6. Identify best management practices associated with **minimum/consistent information standards** (type of information, format, units etc.) for information interoperability and sharing purposes between various systems (create once, access and share multiple times).

- a. Standards of information should be established to facilitate information through portal and clearinghouse. E.g., definitions/terminology, unit-based data (e.g., species in trade? # of species in trade?)

High degree of diversity in regulatory authority which is dispersed amongst federal, state and local agencies (i.e., county, city). Regulatory terminology is not uniform nor regulatory approaches that include outright prohibitions or conditional restrictions that can be described in different terms or nuances. (Regulatory WG) **Ensure information is useable and translatable across numerous agencies. ONE HEALTH (Depts of Ags, EPA, FWS – information exchange) - Biosecurity in N.A.**

**7. Discussion on funding and responsibility for funding of AIS in Commerce programming/oversight (Lack of long-term commitment and funding - Ensuring updates of relevancy and information – need long-term sustainability of this effort to provide continually updated information).**

Regulations:

- Lack of a publicly accessible database listing federal, state, county and municipal regulated species. A model to examine is the national approach to plants. USDA posts a compendium of plants to create uniform terminology, <https://plants.usda.gov/home>, and works with a nonprofit organization composed of plant regulators, National Plant Board, to collate and post regulations: <https://www.nationalplantboard.org/>. (Does show the last time it was updated).
- Knowing where to go to for regulations – who to contact
- Being able to understand the regulations
- Accessibility of prohibited species lists, by state (or jurisdiction), online, and in a convenient location.

## CRITERIA TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES

- **Relevance** – strategy is specific to the work group topic (versus another work group topic)
- **Impact** - the extent to which an action will address the issue or key gap. The greater the impact of an action, the higher its priority.
- **Feasibility of implementation** - personnel and financial resources needed as well as policy and procedural changes and political feasibility. Some actions may have high impact but little chance of implementation.
- **Urgency** - consider whether waiting to implement would cause further issues.

**Questions: Do you concur with these criteria? Do you have recommended modifications or others to consider?**

AIS IN COMMERCE WORK  
GROUPS – MEETING #2

- Information and Education & Information Access and Sharing (May 30)
- Industry Best Practices and Guidelines (May 31)
- Regulations and Enforcement (June 2)
- Labeling and Recordkeeping & Monitoring and Inspection (June 9)
- E-Commerce (June 28)