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Aquatic Invasive Species in Commerce

Developing Solutions to Mitigate Risks

Workgroup: Industry Best Practices and Guidelines
April 28, 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.



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



LIST OF ISSUES FROM KICKOFF WEBINAR AND SURVEY

1. Insufficient comprehensive vendor protocols
2. Insufficient labeling at retail locations
3. Insufficient protocols to ensure products are certified free of invasives
4. Insufficient protocols to inspect and destroy contaminant organisms or stocks of contaminated plants
5. Insufficient takeback locations identified for species sold
6. Lack of pledge to source material responsibly



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ISSUES SUBMITTED POST- WEBINAR

- Inability to verify the collection or origin information provided to retailers.
- Lack of state regulatory agencies listing prohibited species on a national data base.
- Lack of state regulatory agencies notifying farms of potential violations.
- Lack of state agencies listing aquaculture import regulations on a national data base.
- Lack of shared tool for users and industry with clear statements of AIS on a state level.
- If industry includes small enterprises and individual owner operators, then the lack of compliance, compliance checks and materials suited to these operators.

The main slide content is displayed on a dark grey background. A large teal circle with a white border is centered on the left side, containing the text "ISSUES SUBMITTED POST-WEBINAR" in white, all-caps font. To the right of the circle is a bulleted list of six issues. The list items are:

- A centralized location/site that responsible dealers can check legality of species in other states.
- Methods of screening and/or prophylactic treatments for contaminants of concern.
- Determination of how many mass market retailers provide information to their customers (end consumer), and discuss ways to get all mass market retailers to do this.
- Lack of taxonomic expertise or identification references to accurately identify early life, juvenile, and adult stages.
- Lack of a publicly accessible database listing federal, state, county and municipal regulated species.



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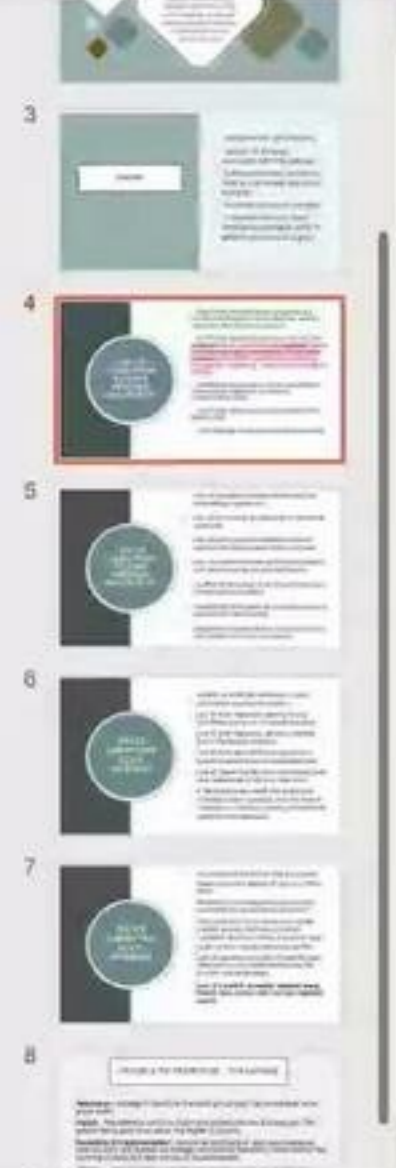
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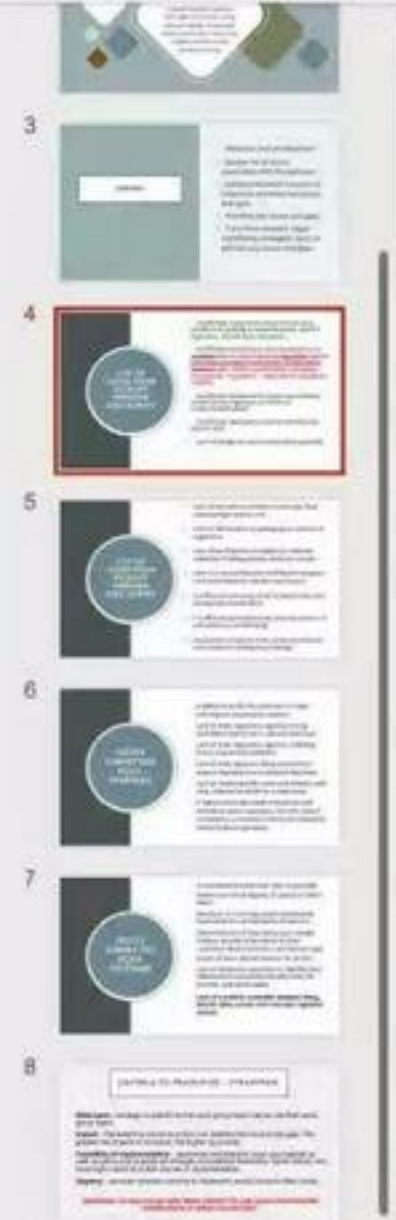
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ISSUES SUBMITTED POST- WEBINAR

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- Methods of screening and/or prophylactic treatments for contaminants of concern.
- Determination of how many mass market retailers provide information to their customers (end consumer), and discuss ways to get all mass market retailers to do this.
- Lack of taxonomic expertise or identification references to accurately identify early life, juvenile, and adult stages.
- Lack of a publicly accessible database listing federal, state, county and municipal regulated species.

CRITERIA TO PRIORITIZE - STRAWMAN

- **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?



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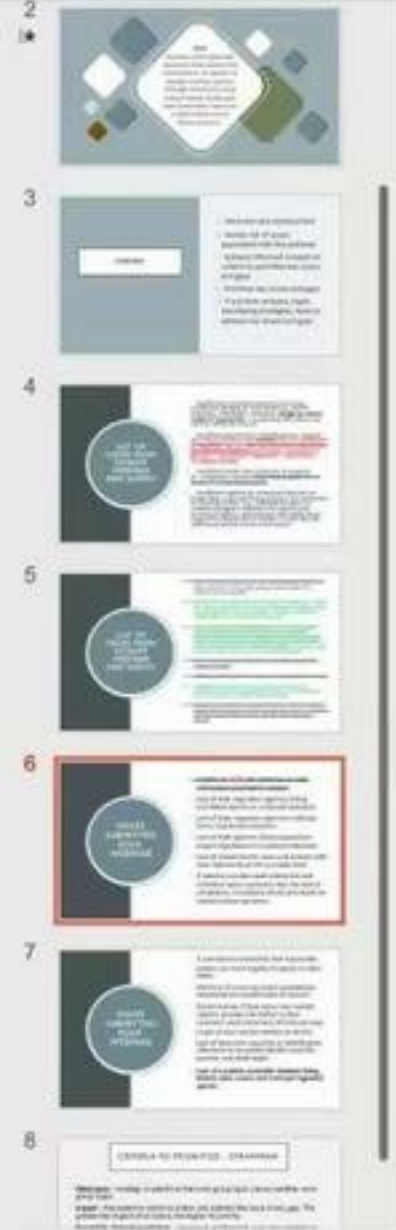
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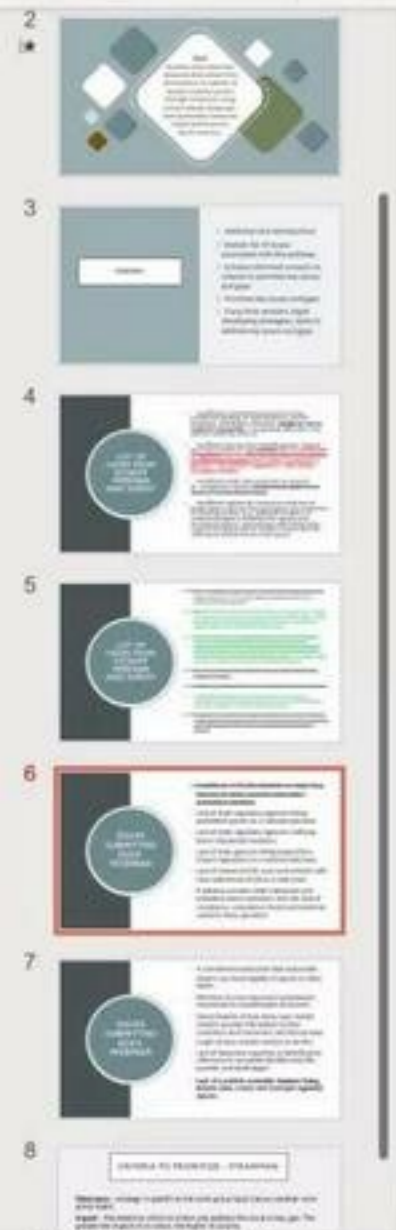
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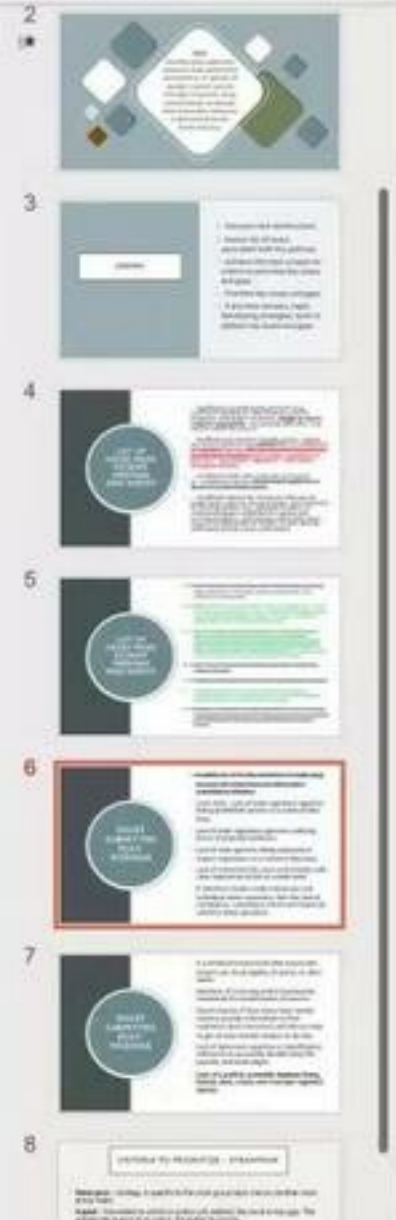
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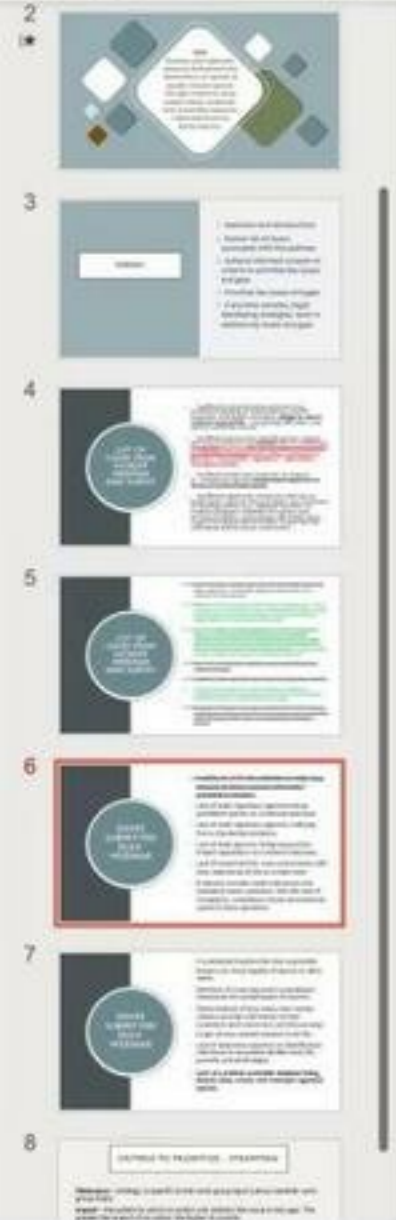
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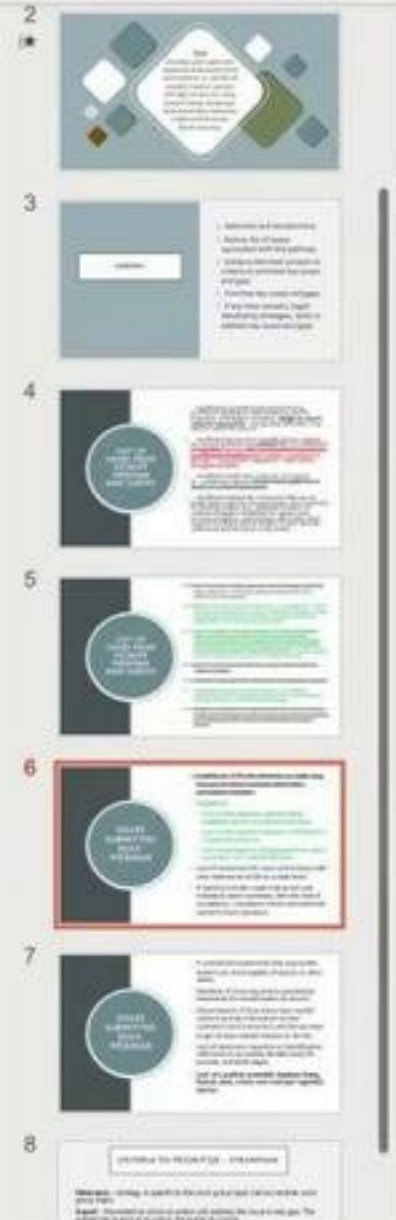
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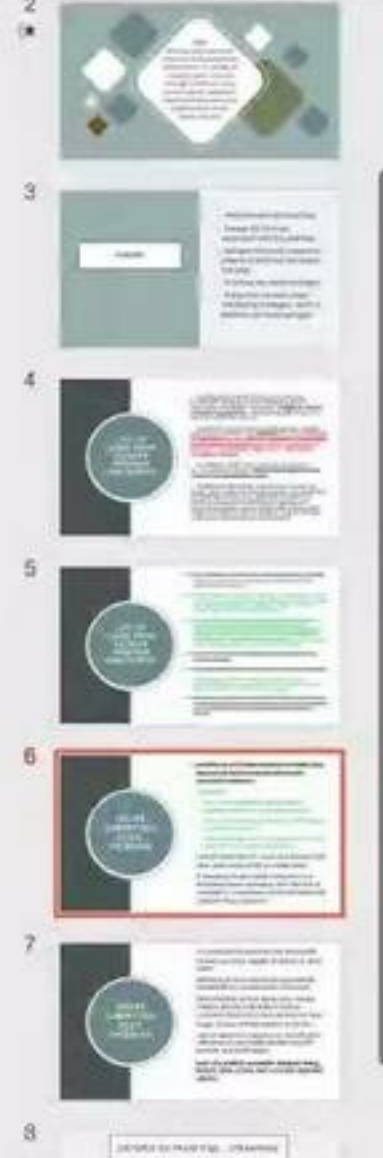
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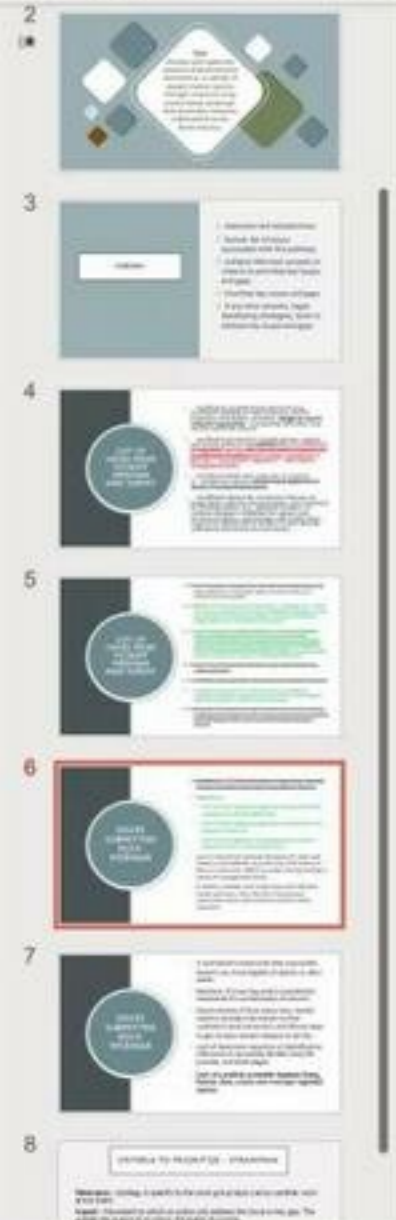
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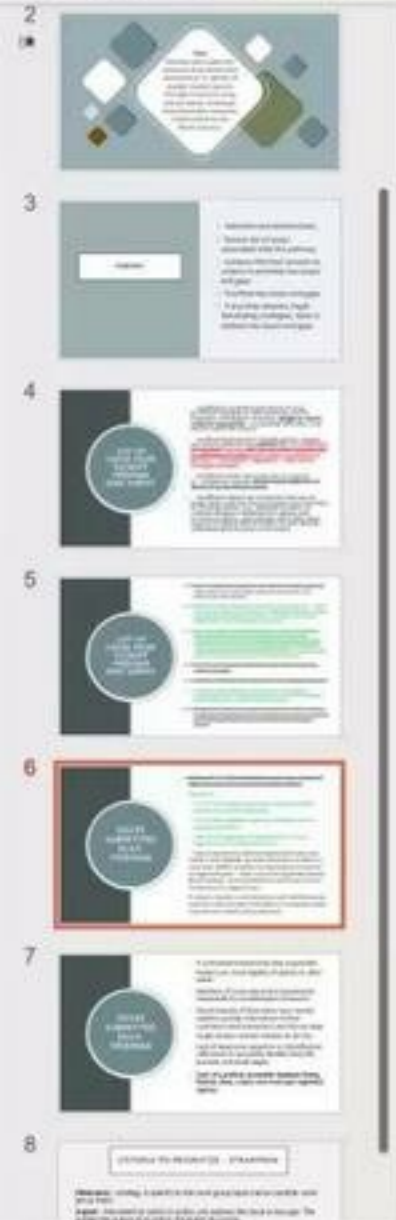
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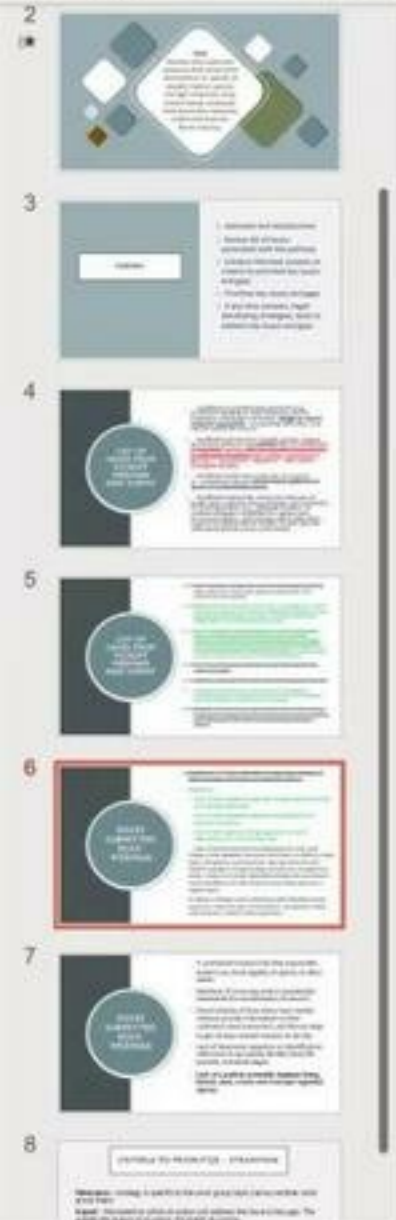
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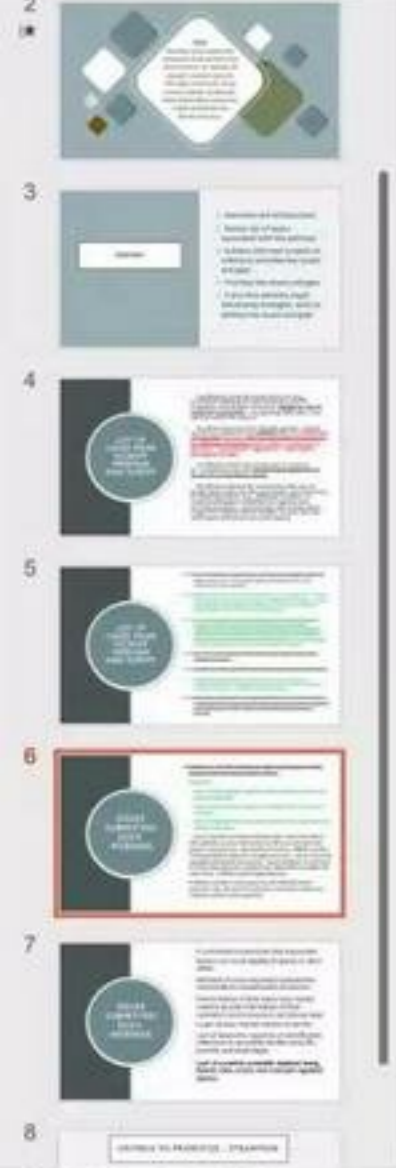
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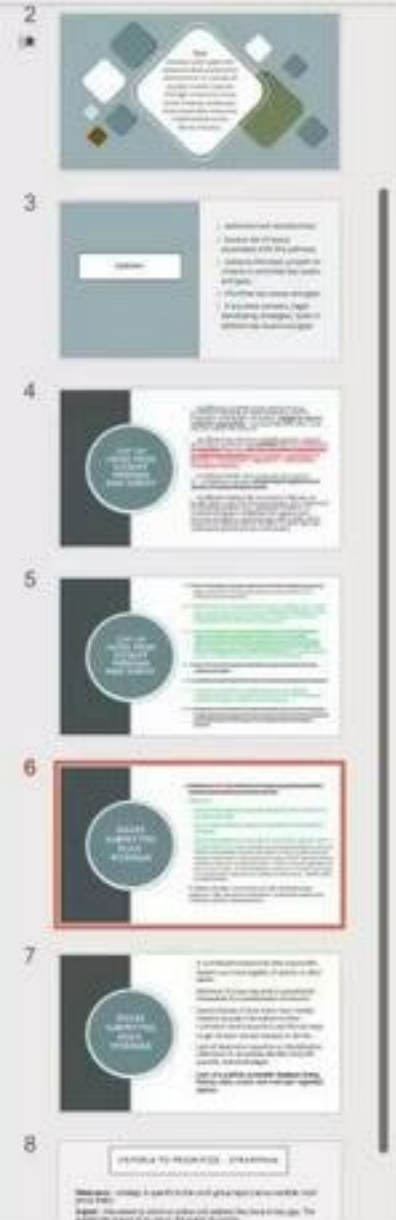
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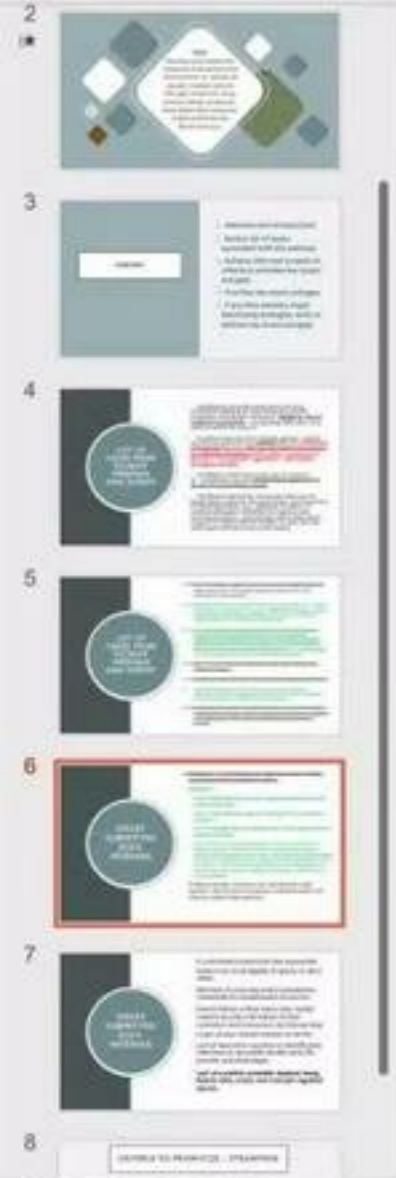


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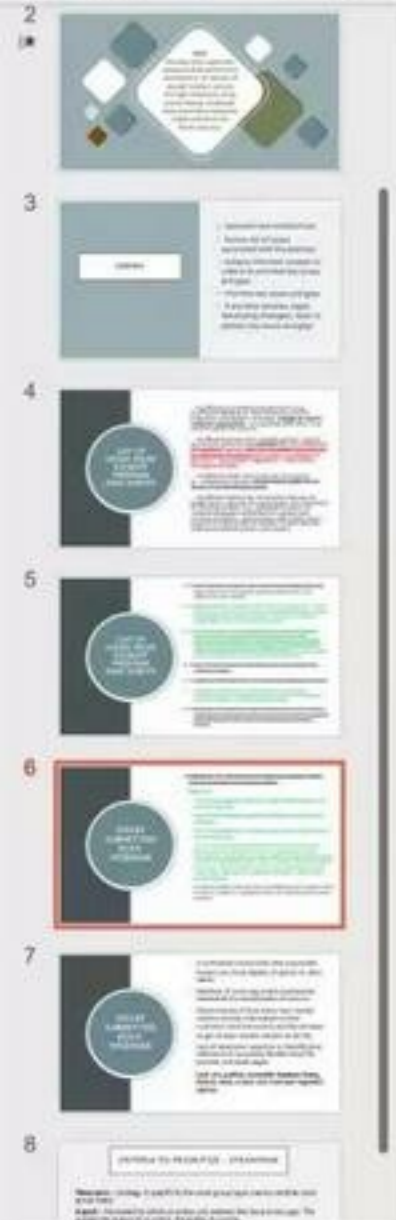
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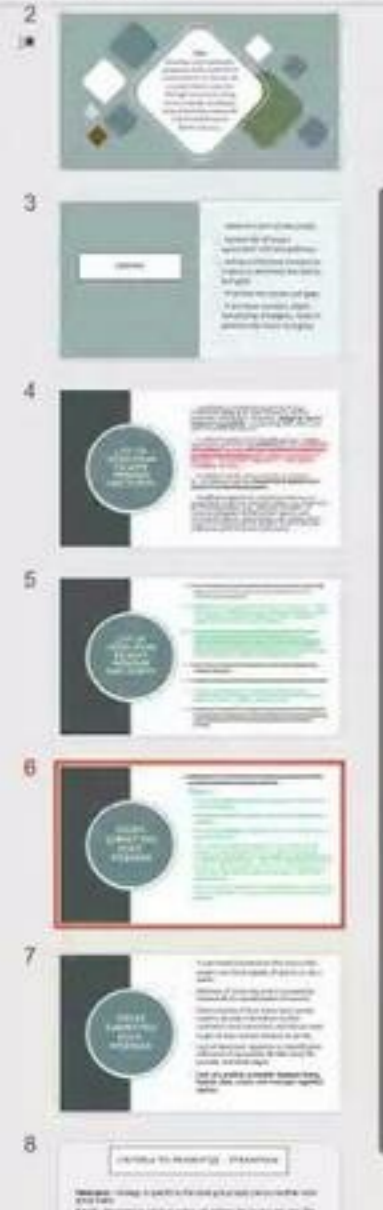
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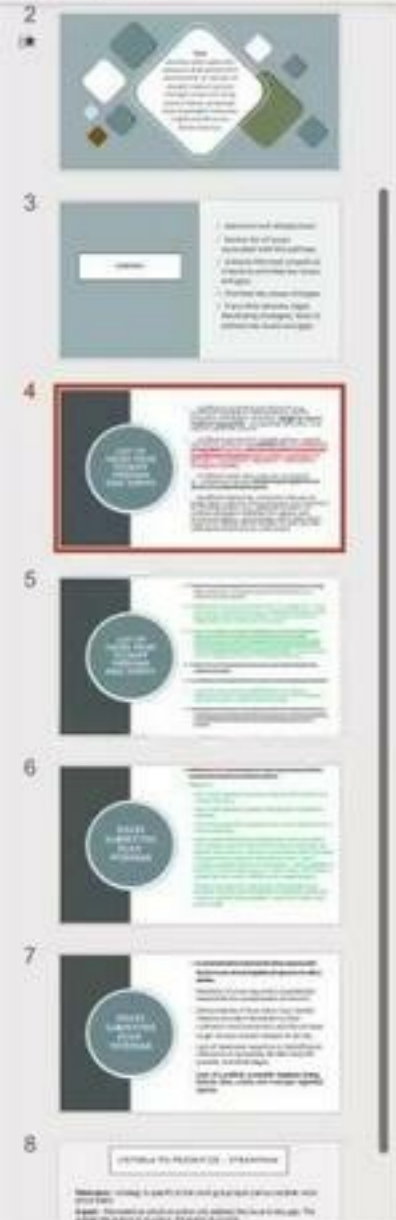
- A centralized location/site that responsible dealers can check legality of species in other states.
- Methods of screening and/or prophylactic treatments for contaminants of concern.
- Determination of how many mass market retailers provide information to their customers (end consumer), and discuss ways to get all mass market retailers to do this.
- Lack of taxonomic expertise or identification references to accurately identify early life, juvenile, and adult stages.
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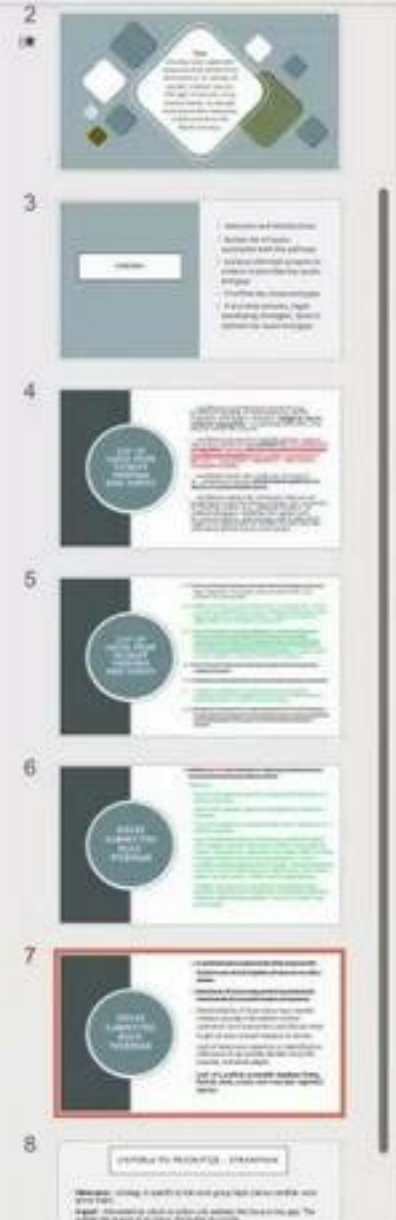
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LIST OF ISSUES FROM KICKOFF WEBINAR AND SURVEY

1. Insufficient comprehensive protocols (e.g., insufficient labeling at retail locations, and for importers, distributors, breeders; **pledge to source material responsibly** – recognizing difficulties may exist to verify the source)
2. Insufficient protocols to identify species, inspect and ensure products are **certified free of unintended; or regulated species with demonstrated invasiveness in destination locations** (let's define unintended in glossary – incorporate "regulated" - state where consignee resides)
3. Insufficient retail store protocols to respond to unintended species ~~contaminant organisms or~~ **stocks of contaminated plants**
4. Insufficient options for consumers that can no longer keep a species they purchased, and awareness for existing options (e.g., takeback locations or methods/programs identified for species sold, amnesty programs, partnerships with hobby clubs, support municipal animal shelters to hold animals until exotic animal rescue could assist)



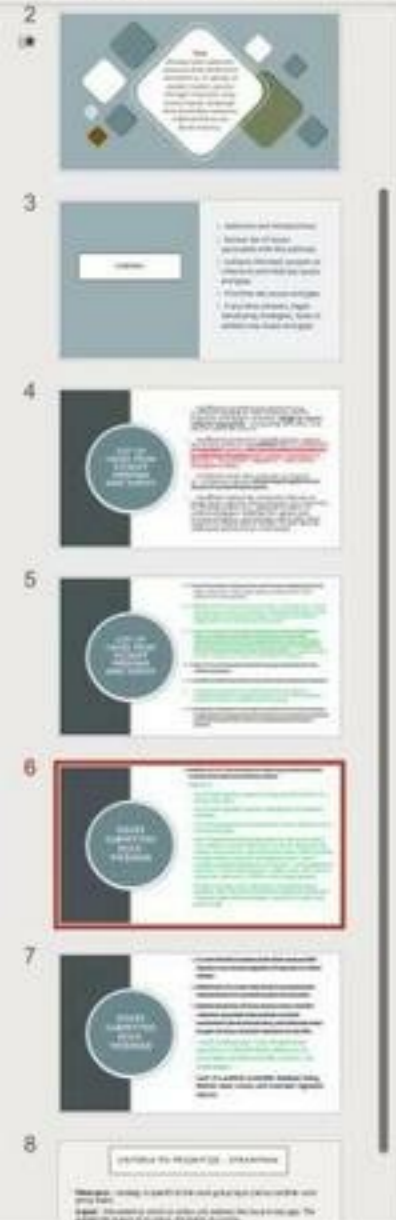
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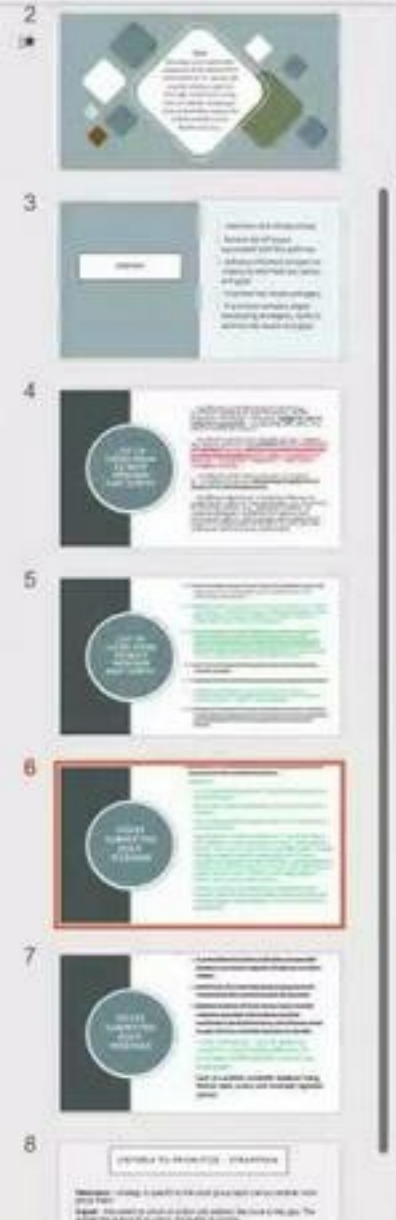
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7. ~~Lack of mandatory receipts buyers sign that acknowledge species risk~~ (legal implications of individuals signing something when risk is unknown for some species).
8. ~~Lack of~~ Insufficient educational information in packaging (e.g., release of organisms, potential risk (if known), Habitattitude branding on retail bags and other promotional information, consumer commitment pledge) (Xover with I and Outreach work group)
9. ~~Lack of compilation of existing databases of entities selling aquatic plants or animals (could help with notification on key issues—crayfish/moss balls) (Xover with regulation work group potentially)—would need resources to keep list updated—there are existing lists—info can be disseminated through trade associations (consider sending to policy workgroup to create a communication network)~~
10. ~~Lack of a comprehensive certification program well understood by retailers and buyers~~
11. ~~Insufficient screening of AIS in stock tanks and during sales transactions~~
12. ~~Insufficient participation by small businesses in pet advocacy membership (how do we engage the entire chain in this?) (targeted outreach to industry – send to I and E work group)~~
13. ~~Acquisition of species from producers that do not commit in writing to screening (who is going to do the screening, and how do we verify it?) (I and E work group—best to buy from people doing screening)—a protocol~~



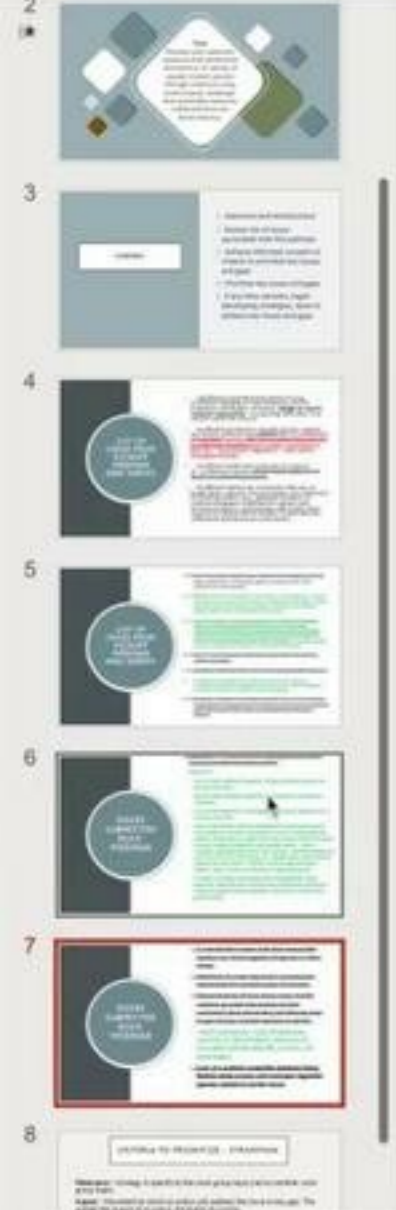
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 - Lack of shared tool (national database) for users and industry with updated, accurate information on AIS on a state level and species, nomenclature, injurious/harmful status. (ANSTF provides limiting funding to states for management plans – what is currently regulated and who do we contact) - recommendation to task force to revise those plans on a regular basis; need states to update the information – USFWS could manage database – Federal, State, County, and Municipal regulated species
 - If industry includes small enterprises and individual owner operators, then the lack of compliance, compliance checks and materials suited to these operators – also link to I and E work group as well.



ISSUES SUBMITTED POST-WEBINAR

- ~~A centralized location/site that responsible dealers can check legality of species in other states.~~
- ~~Methods of screening and/or prophylactic treatments for contaminants of concern.~~
- ~~Determination of how many mass market retailers provide information to their customers (end consumer), and discuss ways to get all mass market retailers to do this.~~
- I and E work group - Lack of taxonomic expertise or identification references to accurately identify early life, juvenile, and adult stages.
- ~~Lack of a publicly accessible database listing federal, state, county and municipal regulated species. (added to earlier issue)~~





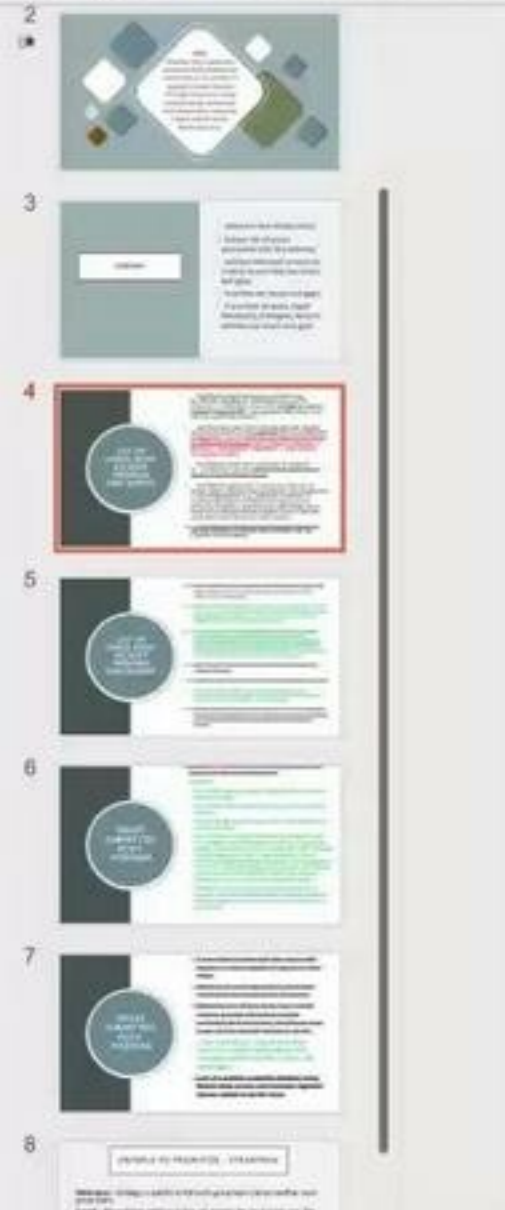
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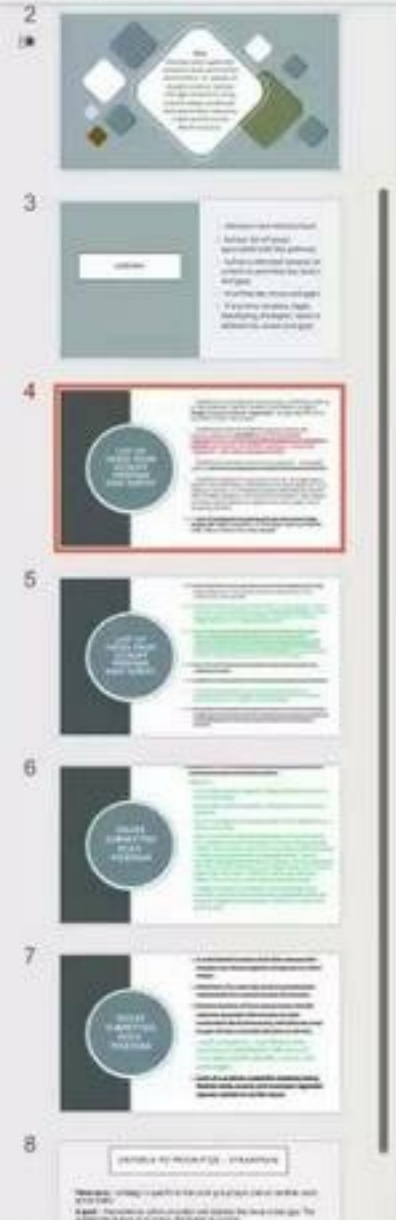
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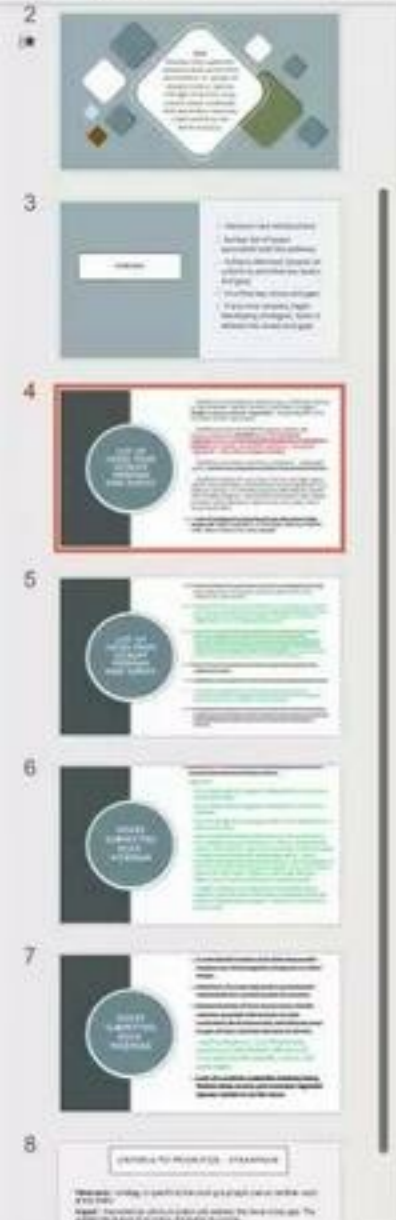
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- ~~Lack of Insufficient educational information in packaging (e.g., release of organisms, potential risk (if known), Habitattitude branding on retail bags and other promotional information, consumer commitment pledge) (Xover with I and Outreach work group)~~
- ~~Lack of compilation of existing databases of entities selling aquatic plants or animals (could help with notification on key issues—crayfish/moss balls) (Xover with regulation work group potentially)—would need resources to keep list updated—there are existing lists—info can be disseminated through trade associations (consider sending to policy workgroup to create a communication network)~~
- Lack of a comprehensive certification program well understood by retailers and buyers
- Insufficient screening of AIS in stock tanks and during sales transactions
- Insufficient participation by small businesses in pet advocacy membership (how do we engage the entire chain in this?) (targeted outreach to industry – send to I and E work group)
- Acquisition of species from producers that do not commit in writing to screening (who is going to do the screening, and how do we verify it?) (I and E work group—best to buy from people doing screening)—a protocol



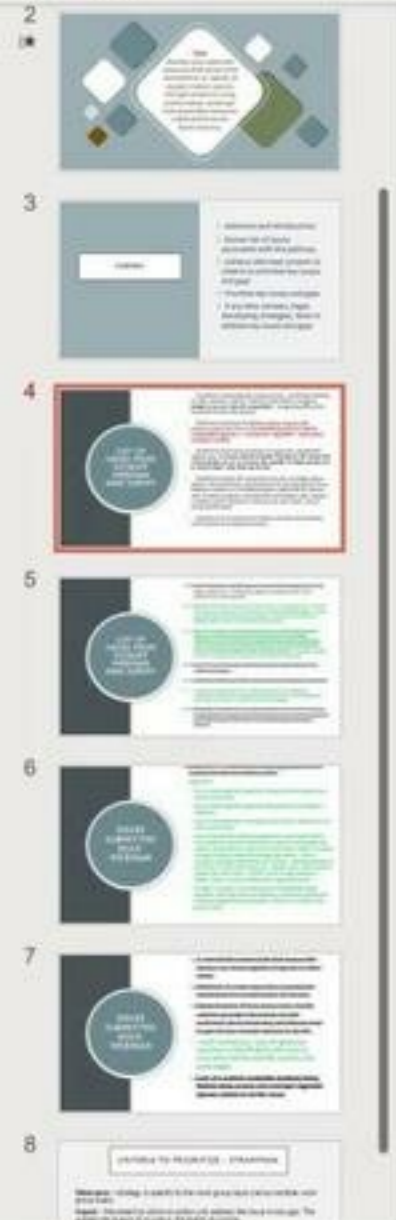
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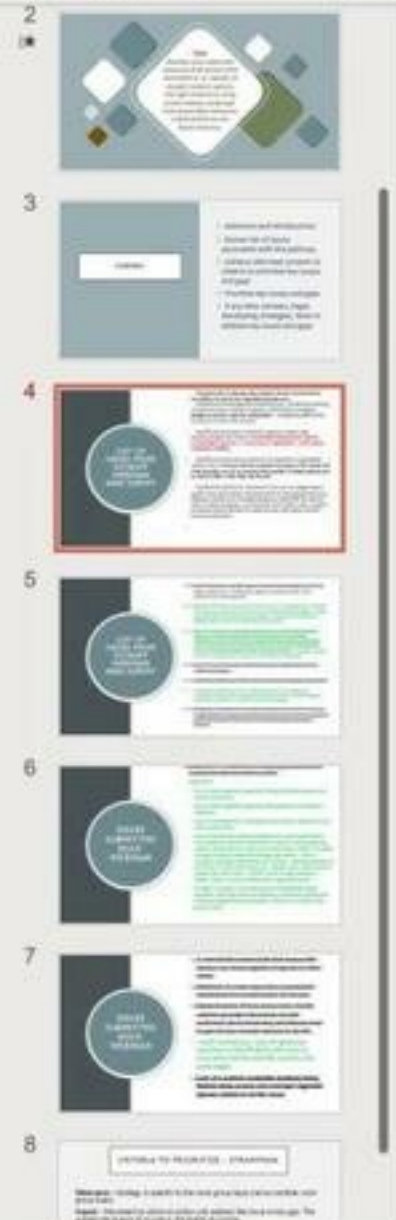
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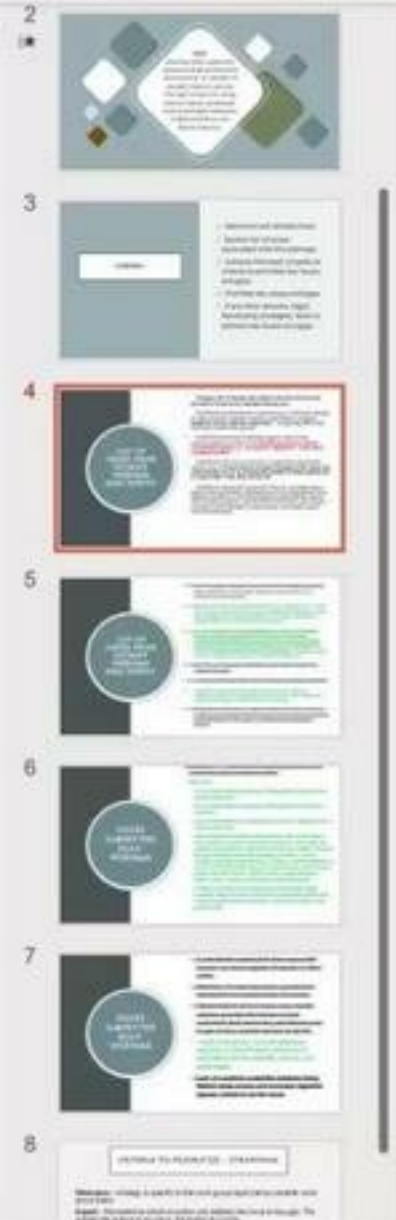
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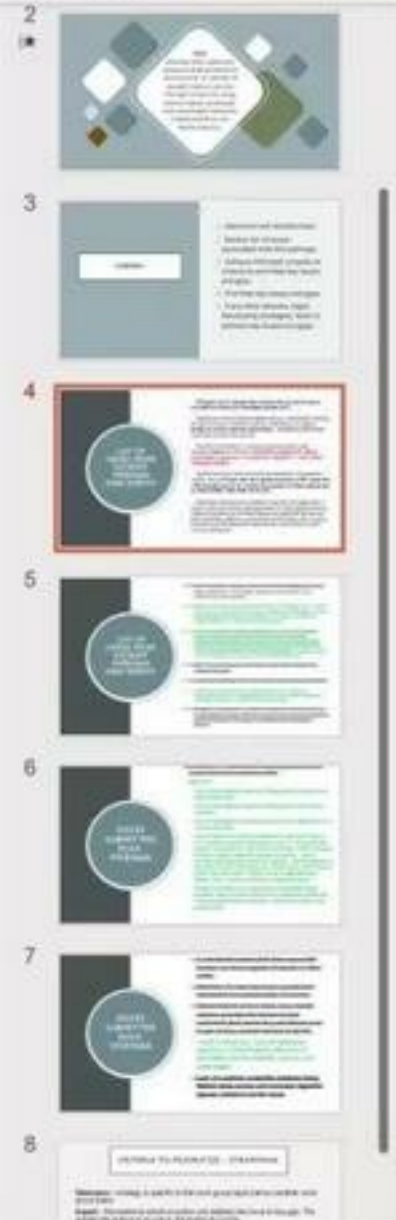
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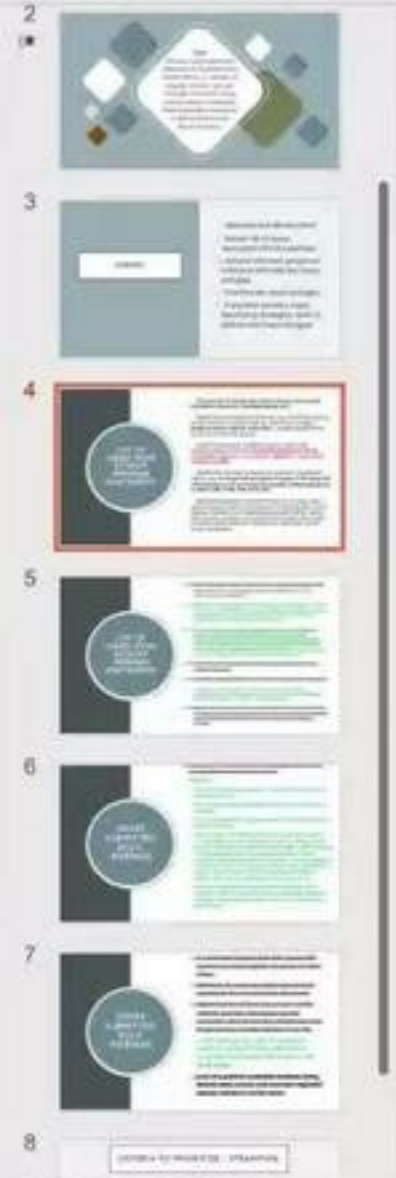
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- **Urgency** - consider whether waiting to implement would cause further issues.

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

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