

The Executive Order on Invasive Species

~Presidential directive offers regional opportunity~

By Dr. Michael J. Donahue, Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission

A new Executive Order, signed by President Clinton on Feb. 3, will likely give aquatic nuisance species prevention and control efforts in the Great Lakes basin a higher profile and additional resources. The "Invasive Species" order, which will complement and build upon existing federal authority, seeks "to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control, and to minimize the economic, ecological and human health impacts that invasive species cause." The Administration has proposed an additional \$28.8 million in its FY2000 budget to support the interagency effort.

The Executive Order has three main features:

- ◆ A requirement that all relevant federal agencies use their programs and authorities to prevent the introduction of invasive species; detect and respond to new populations; undertake necessary monitoring; restore native species and habitats in affected ecosystems; conduct research and develop prevention strategies; and promote public education.
- ◆ The establishment of a federal interagency Invasive Species Council co-chaired by the secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, with members also including the secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Among others, the Council will oversee Executive Order implementation; promote interagency coordination and action; encourage ecosystem-based planning at all levels of government; and employ an Internet-based information system to advance prevention and control efforts. An Advisory Council comprised in part of state, regional and tribal representatives, will assist.
- ◆ The issuance of an Invasive Species Management Plan to "detail and recommend performance-oriented goals and objectives and specific measures of success" for federal agency efforts.

The Executive Order is welcome news to the Great Lakes region, where the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species have been working for a decade to elevate the profile of this insidious form of biological pollution. However, we in the Great Lakes region must ensure that the Invasive Species Council and associated Executive Order provisions do, indeed, build upon the existing infrastructure for aquatic nuisance species prevention and control. For example, it is critically important that:

- ◆ The work, profile, role and funding base for the national ANS Task Force are maintained and enhanced;
- ◆ A strong regional presence (Great Lakes and elsewhere) on the Advisory Council of the Invasive Species Council is secured;
- ◆ The National Invasive Species Act (NISA) remains the linchpin for prevention and control efforts and is funded and implemented accordingly; and
- ◆ The Invasive Species Council takes advantage of proven coordination initiatives. For example, the Great Lakes Panel's model comprehensive state management plan; model guidance on legislation, regulation and policy; and Action Plan will all have relevance and transferability on a national scale as the Council develops its own management plan.

Those of us in the Great Lakes community are well advised to congratulate the Administration on this initiative and, in so doing, state our hope and expectation that it will build upon, complement and advance our own long-established efforts.

Great Lakes Panel Update

On April 29, the Panel sponsored a symposium titled *Ballast Water Management and Aquatic Nuisance Species: Setting a Research Agenda for the Great Lakes*, in conjunction with the

Ninth International Zebra Mussel & Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference held in Duluth, Minn. Participants assessed current approaches to ballast water management and identified the technologies and research approaches with promise for preventing new ANS introductions via ballast water. The project outcome will be a detailed ballast water research agenda that addresses unmet needs and identifies research priorities for the Great Lakes basin.

The *Great Lakes Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species* was favorably received at the January Panel meeting and currently is being revised for final approval by the Panel. The Panel's policy document, *Legislation, Regulation and Policy for the Prevention and Control of Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species: Model Guidance for Great Lakes Jurisdictions* has been approved by the Panel. **Contact:** Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Great Lakes Commission, 734-665-9135, shwayder@glc.org.

Washington Watch

The following FY2000 funding requests are being submitted by interested members of Congress to the appropriations committees responsible for the prevention and environmentally sound management of aquatic nuisance species.

Interior Appropriations Committee: The committee is urged to at least match the Administration's proposed increase of \$2.5 million to \$4.7 million to fund implementation of NISA programs through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This funding will support the USFWS in its national responsibilities including co-leadership of the ANS Task Force and associated activities; grants to states with approved state management plans; devel-

opment of ANS regional panels; and work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund research on effective ballast management technologies. The committee is also urged to provide a \$2.5 million increase for invasive species management on USFWS refuge lands. To support the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Research Division's work on ANS research and control, the Administration's request of \$6.7 million, a \$1.7 million increase, is recommended.

Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations Committee: Funding recommendations to the committee are equal to the President's request of \$4.5 million for NOAA activities pursuant to NISA, including at least \$3 million for ANS Task Force co-leadership, Sea Grant research and funds for ballast technology development. Funding of \$10.4 million is requested for NOAA's National Ocean Service to research harmful algal blooms, such as *Pfesteria*, to help states develop emergency response strategies and rapid assessment techniques.

Energy and Water Development Appropriations Committee: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is responsible under NISA for the development of management techniques that are environmentally sound for nonindigenous species already established, such as the removal of zebra mussel from public facilities. It is recommended that ACOE funding match the President's request \$1.5 million for public facility research and development and to provide \$300,000 (\$200,000 above the President's request) for design and construction of environmentally sound dispersal barrier in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. The committee is also urged to provide \$5 million for the Aquatic Plant Control Research program, \$2 million more than proposed by the Administration.

Transportation Appropriations Committee: The Secretary of Transportation is directed under NISA to issue national guidelines to prevent ANS introductions into U.S. waters. The committee is urged to provide \$4 million for the U.S. Coast Guard to implement its new national Ballast Water Management Program, a \$1 million increase over the President's \$3 million level funding recommendation. This program, based on ballast water exchange to prevent ANS introductions, would include a ballast water information clearinghouse to assess rates of compliance and ballast discharge surveys. **Contact:** Allegra Cangelosi, Northeast-Midwest Institute, 202-544-5200, acangelo@nemw.org

News from Around the Basin

ILLINOIS: IL-IN Sea Grant distributed 3,000 can coolers at two regional boat shows. The coolers were imprinted with Panel guidelines to strengthen efforts to

prevent ANS dispersal. **Contact:** Pat Charlebois, IL-IN Sea Grant, 847-872-0140, p_char@ix.netcom.

INDIANA: The DNR's 1999 Fishing Guide contains a revised page on aquatic invaders, highlighting a cooperative statewide exotic species advisory sign program involving the IN DNR and IL-IN Sea Grant. This information is available online at: www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild.

Contact: Randy Lang, IN DNR, 317-232-4094, lang@dnr.state.in.us.

MICHIGAN: The Office of the Great Lakes announced funding for projects under their state management plan: 1) The Nature Conservancy will conduct surveys to update records and population estimates for native mussel communities at sites in the Grand River watershed; 2) A workshop will be conducted on the development of policies and institutional structures for dealing with Great Lakes ANS invasions at the International Joint Commission's 1999 Biennial Forum on Great Lakes Water Quality, to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 24-26, 1999.

Contact: Mark Coscarelli, 517-335-4227, coscarem@dnr.state.mi.us.

MINNESOTA: Sea Grant and the DNR report no new infestations of zebra mussels, round goby or Eurasian ruffe in Minnesota's inland waters. Growing infestations of zebra mussels and round goby in the Duluth-Superior harbor raises concern over potential impacts to industry and for overland transport by boaters and anglers.

Contact: Doug Jensen, MN Sea Grant, 218-726-8712, djensen1@d.umn.edu.

NEW YORK: DEC submitted a proposal for FY99-2000 to the ANS Task Force to support the following activities: 1) continuation and expansion of the Finger Lakes zebra mussel monitoring project; 2) non-target toxicity testing of a bacteriological bio-control agent for zebra mussels; and 3) funding to revise New York's state management plan to establish consistency with federal guidance. **Contact:** Bill Culligan NYS DEC, 716-366-0228, nysdecdk@netsync.net.

OHIO: The DNR is planning to review the state's existing ANS laws, rules and regulations for ANS prevention and control along with the Great Lake Panel's model guidance. To assist states in the Mississippi River Basin with the development of state ANS management plans, a list of possible impediments and solutions was produced as an outcome of the workshop held at the 60th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (Dec. 1999). **Contact:** Randy Sanders, OH DNR, 614-265-6344, randy.sanders@dnr.state.oh.us.

ONTARIO: A survey was sent to 3,000 Ontario boaters and anglers in 1998 to assess the current level of ANS program effectiveness, as well as to discover ways to improve awareness. Volunteer monitoring revealed new zebra mussel and bythotrophes infestations in several inland lakes in Ontario in 1998. **Contact:** Ed

Palczny (705)755-1890, palcze@gov.on.ca.

WISCONSIN: The state ANS management plan and five-year workplan is under review by DNR staff and soon will be available for public review and input. Implementation of the interstate ANS management plan for the St. Croix Scenic Riverway will begin this spring with funding from the USFWS and state match.

The DNR has sent out 100 packets of information on traditional and biological control options to groups, organizations and individuals with an interest in controlling the spread of purple loosestrife. **Contact:** Ron Martin, WI DNR, 608-266-9270, martir@dnr.state.wi.us.

National ANS Task Force

The winter meeting was held April 29-30, 1999, in Duluth, Minn., in conjunction with the *Ninth International Zebra Mussel & Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference*. The first ANS Task Force annual award for contributions toward identifying and resolving ANS problems by an individual was presented to Prof. James Carlton, director of the Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program. The first Task Force annual award given to an organization was presented to the Northeast-Midwest Institute.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey's Florida-Caribbean Science Center in Gainesville, Fla., have established a toll-free aquatic nuisance species hotline: 1-877-STOP ANS (1-877-786-7267). This new service provides another avenue for reporting ANS sightings and facilitates access to information on nonindigenous species. **Contact:** Bob Peoples, USFWS, 703-358-2025, robert_peoples@fws.gov.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Second International Round Goby Conference. May 27-28, 1999; Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH (in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes Research). **Contact:** Pat Charlebois, IL-IN Sea Grant, 847-872-0140, p_char@ix.netcom.com.

On the Bookshelf

- ◆ *Harmful Exotic Species of Aquatic Plants and Wild Animals in Minnesota*: Annual Report for 1998. Jan. 1999. Minnesota DNR. **Contact:** Jay Rendall, MN DNR, 651-297-1464, jay.rendall@dnr.state.mn.us.
- ◆ *Rusty Crayfish: A Nasty Invader*. MN Sea Grant fact sheet. 1998. **Contact:** Doug Jensen, MN Sea Grant, 218-726-8712, djensen1@d.umn.edu.