

SAVE THE DATE!

Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop: *Exploring the Organisms in Trade Vector* June 10-11, 2008

The Great Lakes Commission, with funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund, is conducting a workshop under the planning grant *Building a Framework to Advance Aquatic Nuisance Species Management of Organisms in Trade in the Great Lakes Region*. The goal of this project is to identify and build on current efforts to address unmet needs in reducing the risk of aquatic invasive species introduction and spread resulting from the trade of live organisms in the Great Lakes region. **The workshop will take place June 10-11, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, Michigan.**

Of growing concern in the Great Lakes region are the invasion risks posed by pathways associated with the trade in live organisms. These pathways include the aquarium and pet trade, nursery and water gardens, aquaculture, live bait industry, and live food fish markets, among others. The outcomes from the workshop are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the activities associated with organisms in trade pathways and potential options for reducing the likelihood that invasive species will be introduced or spread from these activities. Of particular interest is increasing awareness of past and current efforts to mitigate risk of introduction or spread, towards a goal of identifying opportunities to build on these efforts, or address gaps, in areas of outreach, best management practices or policy. The use of information technology will also be a primary consideration in how best to advance management of high risk activities. ***Key to the success of this effort will be the participation of representatives from government, commercial, research, technology and non-government sectors.***

A preliminary agenda and formal invitation will be sent out within the week. In the meantime, we hope you will set aside this time and plan to attend! Your contributions will be extremely valuable as we look further into aquatic invasive species introduction and spread resulting from the trade in live organisms.

Please contact Kathe Glassner Shwayder (734-971-9135, shwayder@glc.org) or Erika Jensen (734-971-9135, ejensen@glc.org) at the Great Lakes Commission with any questions.