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# **Announcement & Registration Information Aquatic Invasive Species/Lake Michigan Monitoring Workshops**

**June 7-10, 2004**

**Grand Valley State University  
Annis Water Resources Institute - Lake Michigan Center  
Muskegon, Michigan**

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We are pleased to invite you to participate in a series of workshops and meetings focusing on aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues in the Great Lakes region and coordinated monitoring opportunities in the Lake Michigan basin. It should be noted that although these workshops are being held as separate events, they are interrelated given the common interest in AIS monitoring. The events will be held June 7-10, 2004 in Muskegon, Michigan, coinciding with the state of Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week. Below you will find information about each event. A registration form for all events is attached. Agendas for each event will be available online at [www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org) in the coming weeks.

## **Monday, June 7, 2004**

### ***Workshop: Rapid Response for Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions: A Species-Specific Case Study***

The second workshop for the project *A Rapid Response Plan for Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions*, focuses on a species-specific case study on hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). The project, funded by the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), is in the process of developing a model rapid response plan for Great Lakes aquatic invasions. The primary objective of the second project workshop is to apply the model rapid response plan to a species-specific case study on hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*).

Although this aquatic invasive species has not yet been detected in the Great Lakes system, it is considered a high risk species with the potential to invade, causing significant ecological damages, as evidenced by invasions in other regions. The case study will examine the components of the model rapid response plan to determine where the plan is effective in addressing the potential invasion of hydrilla and areas in need of refinement and/or further development. A secondary objective of the workshop is to explore how rapid response planning should be modified for different jurisdictional scenarios in the event of hydrilla infestations.

## **Tuesday, June 8, 2004**

### ***Workshop: AIS Early Detection and Monitoring: A Pilot Project for the Lake Michigan Basin***

The project *AIS Early Detection and Monitoring: A Pilot Project for the Lake Michigan Basin*, also funded by U.S. EPA GLNPO, will produce a set of guidelines and recommendations for developing an invasive species monitoring network for the Lake Michigan basin. As part of the project, a survey was sent out to Lake Michigan monitoring programs to assess their respective interest, ability to contribute, and applicability to invasive species monitoring. Based on survey results and analysis, a draft set of guidelines and recommendations have been produced. The purpose of the workshop will be to review survey results and provide input and further development on the draft guidelines and recommendations for an AIS early detection and monitoring network in the Lake Michigan basin. Topics for the workshop include active AIS monitoring perspectives, passive AIS monitoring perspectives, the role of volunteer monitoring, communication and reporting protocols, and monitoring gaps.

## **Wednesday, June 9, 2004**

### ***Spring 2004 Meeting of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council***

The Commission continues to provide organizational support to the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (LMMCC), formed in 1999 by various federal, state and local agencies to foster cooperation and coordination among groups involved in ecosystem monitoring activities in the Lake Michigan basin. The Council hosts workgroups that focus on ten issue-based monitoring networks

covering the range of monitoring in the Lake Michigan basin. These monitoring networks include tributaries, wetlands, aquatic nuisance species and wildlife, among others. Each group is working to establish strategies to better coordinate data collection, sharing and reporting. This meeting of the Council will provide updates on recent monitoring-related activities in the Lake Michigan basin and provide topical presentations and information on coordinated monitoring initiatives being planned for the near future. While the focus this year is on tributary and AIS monitoring initiatives, future efforts will continue work toward the development of common monitoring standards and a coordinated monitoring framework for the Lake Michigan basin.

**Thursday, June 10, 2004**

***Lake Michigan Tributary Monitoring Workshop***

This workshop, hosted by the LMMCC Tributaries Workgroup, will aim to solidify details for a synoptic monitoring event for Lake Michigan tributaries in the 2005 sampling year. Through the workgroup, the Commission is coordinating four state agencies and several federal agencies to combine monitoring efforts and supplement them with additional monitoring to update pollutant load estimates to Lake Michigan from major tributaries. Details of this synoptic monitoring event will emerge over the course of this year, with monitoring commencing in spring 2005.

**Registration and Additional Information**

Please complete and return the attached registration form and return it by Friday, May 21, 2004. For additional information please contact Kevin Walters ([kwalters@glc.org](mailto:kwalters@glc.org)) or John Hummer ([jhummer@glc.org](mailto:jhummer@glc.org)). Both can be reached by phone at 734-971-9135.

**Receptions and Other Activities**

Receptions will follow the Rapid Response workshop (June 7) and the meeting of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (June 9) at local restaurants. A tour of the Annis Water Resources Institute Lake Michigan Center and the W.G. Jackson research/education vessel will follow the AIS Early Detection and Monitoring workshop on June 8. All participants are invited to attend the receptions and tour.

**Directions and Transportation**

A map with directions to the Lake Michigan Center in Muskegon is available at [www.gvsu.edu/wri/about/directions.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/about/directions.htm). For those traveling from Wisconsin, there are now two ferries that cross Lake Michigan:

- *S.S. Badger* from Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI. See: [www.ssbadger.com/home.asp](http://www.ssbadger.com/home.asp)
- *Lake Express* from Milwaukee, WI to Muskegon, MI. See: [www.lake-express.com/](http://www.lake-express.com/)

For those taking the *Lake Express* ferry or flying into Muskegon and needing local transportation, a free shuttle is available to the Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor – call 231-720-7100. A taxi service is also available – Yellow Cab – call 231-739-7161. Rental cars will also be available at the *Lake Express* dock through Thrifty Car Rental at 414-483-5870.

**Logistics/Hotel Accommodations**

The workshops and meetings will be held at Grand Valley State University's Lake Michigan Center in Muskegon, Michigan (<http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/>). Hotel accommodations are available across the street at the Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor (<http://www.holidayinmuskegon.com/>). Rooms are available to participants at the discounted rate of \$79 (plus tax) per night. To ensure this special pricing and room availability you should make your reservations by **May 17, 2004**. Reservations can be made by contacting the Holiday Inn at 231-720-7100. Be sure to ask for the Great Lakes Commission rate.