



Blue Accounting Aquatic Invasive Species

SMART SURVEILLANCE TO CURB INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE GREAT LAKES

www.blueaccounting.org

CATCHING THE PROBLEM EARLY

Like many things in life that benefit from vigilance to minimize risk, finding invasive species early makes it less expensive and easier to manage them. For aquatic invasive species (AIS), that means instituting a comprehensive strategy across the Great Lakes Basin to monitor for new populations of high-risk species or spread of recent invaders that are still localized to a small area. A comprehensive strategy needs to identify what to look for, where to look for it, and the most efficient and effective way to find it. Blue Accounting is providing this information through an interactive tool designed to help managers make strategic decisions about investments in early detection for AIS.

LEADING THE CHARGE

Efforts to establish a comprehensive AIS early detection strategy for the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes are led by an interstate team composed of agency representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In 2014, the team secured funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and partnered with The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), University of Toledo, Great Lakes Commission and Wayne State University to create an early detection framework that determines risk of invasion from high-risk species at locations across the Great Lakes Basin. The framework complements ongoing early detection monitoring efforts by USFWS and aims to help state and federal agencies set priorities, and coordinate



Crew collects a fish as part of an early detection survey. Photo ©Lindsay Chadderton.

with each other to efficiently and effectively monitor for high-risk species. A Canadian counterpart to the framework is underway.

DELIVERING INFORMATION THROUGH BLUE ACCOUNTING

The risk of new invasions will evolve in response to targeted pathway prevention efforts, increased understanding of species and pathways, and improvements in detection methods. It is important to update the framework to reflect these changes. Blue Accounting is supporting the interstate team in creating an interactive, GIS-based tool to keep early detection information timely and relevant. Users can navigate to U.S. Basin locations to understand the different factors that contribute to risk of fish, invertebrate and plant invasions at that site. Using the tool will help natural resource managers understand relative risk of multiple locations and track progress toward implementing a risk-based early detection program.



Asian carp. Photo ©Ryan Hagerly/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

THE FUTURE

Blue Accounting will continue to test and expand services that support regional AIS efforts like the interstate team and ultimately advance adaptive management for AIS. In 2019, Blue Accounting will incorporate data into the information hub showing how ongoing early detections efforts align with risk-based needs. Collaboration with federal and provincial agencies to expand the early detection framework and associated tools to Canadian waters of the Great Lakes will also continue. Additionally, Blue Accounting is synthesizing investments data to help managers better understand the scope and scale of resources supporting AIS early detection and the impact of those investments.

For more information on Blue Accounting's efforts to support early detection for AIS, please reach out to Lindsay Chadderton, Aquatic Invasive Species Director at The Nature Conservancy, Ichadderton@tnc.org. You can learn more about Blue Accounting and our other issues at www.blueaccounting.org.



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