

Great Lakes Panel Priority Invasive Species List, 2005

Introduction

In 2003, the Great Lake Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species identified the need to establish research priorities. As part of this process, panel members agreed to develop a separate list of priority species. Over 160 non-native species are established in the Great Lakes; all of them deserve some research attention. This list is intended to highlight a few of those organisms with known and significant adverse impacts on the Great Lakes ecosystem, its users and uses. The list is intended to be dynamic, shifting and changing as the research develops, populations fluctuate, new impacts are found and new organisms of concern appear on the horizon.

Organisms not listed include naturalized organisms, intentionally stocked fishes, those organisms managed for sport fish forage and those with as yet unknown or unidentified effects. It is not the intent of this committee that research on non-priority species be entirely unsupported. Many of these species do not appear to have a significant impact on the Great Lakes ecosystem, but are species for which we have little information with which to assess possible future impacts. Research to compile what is known about the ecology of these species in their native ecosystems and their record in ecosystems to which they have spread would be a useful investment of part of a research budget. However, those species that have obvious and significant socioeconomic impacts demand more immediate and focused attention and investment of our research dollars.

With these thoughts in mind, we offer the 2005 Great Lakes Panel List of Aquatic Invasive Species that have the highest priority for expanded research towards eradication and control in the Great Lakes ecosystem:

- Priority Invasive Species List