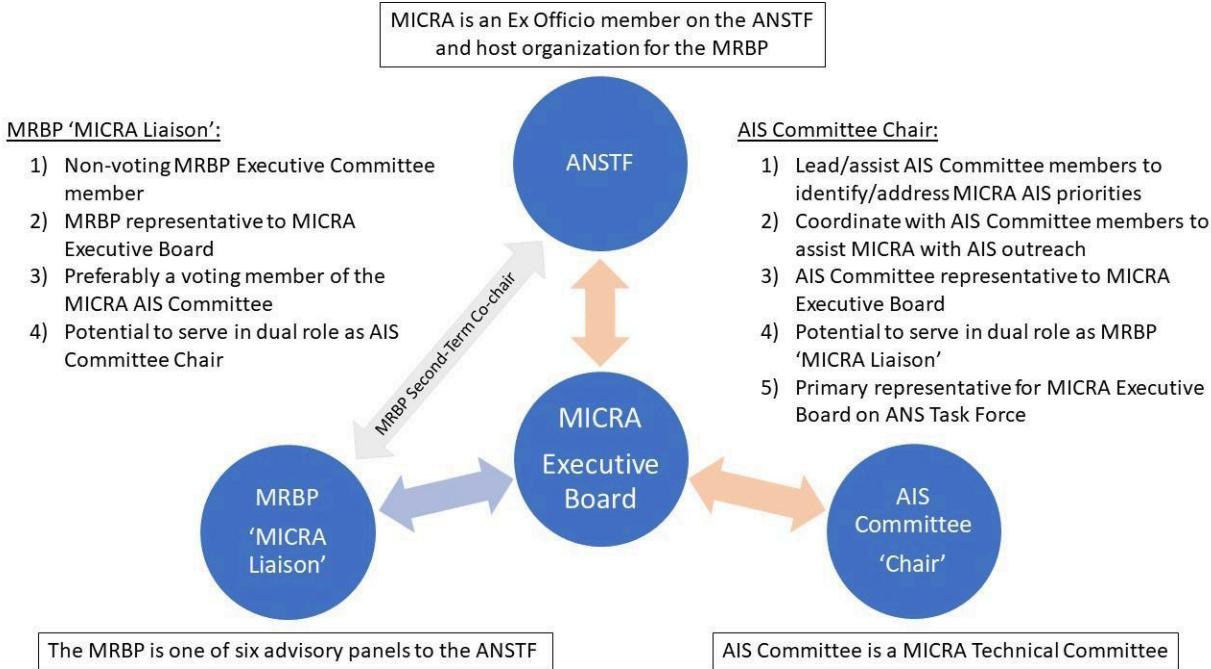


MICRA AIS Committee Notes

April 18, 2024

Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

1. Review of MICRA AIS Committee Charge and Purpose



2. MICRA DC Fly-in Fact Sheet

- Should we use specific language or pictures?
- *Action: Provide consistent bullets for 2025.*
- Recommend emailing state fact sheets and MICRA talking points when confirming office visits.
- *Action: Update economic tables with Southwick and Associates 2022 data when it becomes available in June.*
- *Action: Share the ASA state economic fact sheets with Ashlee Smith for consideration of use as stand alone handouts or which data to include in MICRA state fact sheets.*

3. AIS Informational Videos

- Storyboard or short video?
- Need a MICRA Flickr account to compile pictures and videos.
- Committee can write script.
- Workgroup members: Kim Bogenschutz, Amy Kretlow, Jeff Herod, Elizabeth Brown
- Content support: Patrick Kroboth, Rebecca Neeley

4. Governance Document

- Workgroup members: Cole Harty, Joe McMullen, Chris Steffen, Elizabeth Brown
- Could use MICRA Paddlefish/Sturgeon Committee as a template.

5. MRBP Topics

a. GLDIATR

- *Action: State reps send Elizabeth Brown list of state prohibited (restricted?) species.*
- Next step will be to compile and prioritize species for web crawler.
- IA developed a prohibited species list with links to USGS NAS species fact sheets.
 - Potential USGS NAS support?
- What are expectations/needs for LE support of a GLDIATR-like tool for Mississippi River Basin?
 - This could be a way that a Fishery Commission could support basinwide needs.
 - State LE leads meeting as a follow-up to GLDIATR
- *Action: Request Great Lakes Commission copy state AIS coordinators when letters are sent to suppliers in Mississippi River Basin states.*

b. MICRA Talking Points for DC Fly-in

- i. Recommend changing state ANS management plan bullet to “fund NISA” and have one sub-bullet for state management plan implementation and a second sub-bullet for Regional Panel funding.
 - FY24 funding for state ANS management plan implementation approximately \$91,000.
 - Recommend \$1 million for each (6) Regional Panel:
 - Southern Division AFS resolution recommends \$1 million for Regional Panels.
 - NAISMA and Western Regional Panel have also recommended increased funding for Regional Panels. What levels?
- ii. Recommend USACE authority at Mississippi River Basin locks and dams be expanded to include AIS control.
 - An expanded authority could allow for permanent deterrents beyond pilots and without individual authorization for each new deterrent project.
- iii. Grass Carp?

c. MRBP Injurious Wildlife List

- Plus, Marbled Crayfish
- All injurious wildlife (USFWS) and federal aquatic weed list (USDA)
- *Action: Develop a draft recommendation*

6. Review and Discuss Revising MICRA's AIS Action Plan

- *Action: Elizabeth Brown share WRP resolution on full-time ANS Coordinator and dedicated ANS budget*
- 7. Review and Discuss Implementation of MICRA's 2024-2028 AIS Priorities (See excerpt below notes)
 - Lacey Act
 - AIS in commerce website
 - OIT for future meeting
 - Overviews and understanding of what other groups are doing and their recommendations.
 - Federal screening process
 - Horizon scans
 - ERSS
 - More?
 - Legislation?
 - Model baitfish regulations
 - 2019 analysis
 - 2021 GSARP model baitfish regulation
 - Now what's needed?
 - Gap analysis: who is aligned and who is not (\$25k?)
 - January 2025 meeting?
 - OIT workgroup?

MICRA 2024-2028 Priorities

(AIS Committee priorities are highlighted grey.)

Objective 3: Coordinate prevention and control measures for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to ensure sustainable aquatic ecosystems within the basin.

Priorities:

1. Serve as an *ex officio* member of the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.
2. Host, coordinate, and support activities of the Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, a regional advisory committee to the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.
3. Support a standing technical committee on Aquatic Invasive Species for coordination of basin-wide efforts to prevent introductions, manage introduced populations, and develop recommendations regarding AIS policy concerns.
4. Seek Congressional support to strengthen the Injurious Wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act.
 - a) The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will identify needs and provide recommendations to the Executive Board to promote streamlining of the Lacey Act Injurious Wildlife Listing process.
 - b) The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will identify needs and provide recommendations to the Executive Board for establishment of an efficient federal screening process to evaluate risk of non-native species prior to importation, particularly species not already in trade.
 - c) The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will identify needs and provide recommendations to the Executive Board for establishment of an efficient federal screening process for organisms in trade.
5. Promote development of consistent basin-wide regulatory approaches for the management of AIS.
 - a) The Executive Board will facilitate meetings and discussions with the states that allow stocking of diploid grass carp within the basin, as needed, to establish regulatory consistency for grass carp as recommended in the February 2015 MICRA Grass Carp Report.
 - b) The Mississippi River Basin Panel and Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will coordinate efforts to implement recommendations in the February 2015 MICRA Grass Carp Report.
 - c) The AIS committee will work to develop model baitfish regulations that can be used by states within the Mississippi River Basin to limit the movement of AIS and pathogens through the bait fish trade.

- d) The AIS Committee will engage in and support national efforts to develop model regulations for Organisms in Trade.
- 6. Support efforts to prevent the exchange of AIS between the Mississippi River basin and connected watersheds such as the Great Lakes and Mobile River basins.
 - a) Raise awareness of the immediate need for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate the scoping phase for a feasibility study to prevent the *two-way* transfer of AIS as the next step for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.
- 7. Support the Invasive Carp Advisory Committee for basin-wide coordination to develop collaborative advice and recommendations on the development, implementation, and assessment of management and control actions across the six sub-basin partnerships to promote a unified, collaborative strategy for the Mississippi River Basin.
 - a) In partnership with USFWS, coordinate the collaborative development of an annual Monitoring and Response Plan to identify highest priority management actions for invasive carps in the Mississippi River Basin.
 - b) Coordinate the collaborative development, prioritization, and submission of an annual basin-wide suite of priority project proposals to USFWS for federal funding assistance to implement sub-basin Invasive Carp Control Strategy Frameworks.
 - c) Develop recommendations for population assessment approach(es) to evaluate the change in abundance and/or distribution of invasive carp across the basin in response to management actions.
 - d) Develop recommendations for coordinating invasive carp removal programs on a basin-wide scale.
- 8. Promote the development and support promulgation of consistent outreach materials and messages throughout the Mississippi River Basin to support AIS prevention, management, and control.
 - a) The Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will review and make recommendations for revising the MICRA AIS Action Plan so that it remains a relevant outreach tool.
 - b) Seek support from USFWS and other partners for collaborative sub-basin and basin-wide internal and external invasive carp communication needs.