

REGULATING ORGANISMS-IN-TRADE THROUGH A PERMITTED SPECIES LIST: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

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Organisms in Trade (OIT)

- Unwanted species sold or moved in trade
- In Michigan, plants, fish, mammals and mollusks have become invasive through the OIT pathway
- Regulations/policies are becoming more rigorous
 - Prohibited Species List
 - Restricted Species
 - Permitted Species
- Regulations can be:
 - On time (Great Lakes Least Wanted Species)
 - Too late
 - Burdensome



Paige Felice

Michigan Examples



Michigan Examples



Michigan AIS Council

- Over 40 AIS in Michigan
- ~ \$5.7 billion/year in economic effect
- AIS Advisory Council legislated in 2011
 - Tasked to provide recommendations on:
 - Michigan's AIS Management Plan
 - Ballast Water regulations
 - Phragmites control/management
 - **Organisms in Trade**



Council Recommendations (OIT)

- Develop a Permitted Species List
 - Using Risk Assessments
 - Harmonizing State and Federal Law
 - Education and Outreach
 - Collaboration

Public Act 537 of 2014 amended Michigan's invasive species statute to:

- Assess all aquatic organisms in trade
- Develop a Permitted Species List within 2 years

Implementation

- Coordinated a workshop with 30 key individuals from industry in 2015
 - Wholesalers
 - Shop owners
 - Government
 - Industry leaders
- Workshop Goals: 1) build relationships/trust, 2) provide a forum to understand requirements and share information.



Hit the Brakes!

- Aquarium industry was not represented on AIS Advisory Council
- ~16k species shipped to Michigan in 2015...
- Statute ambiguous and burdensome
- Internet/hobbyists?



Additional Concern

- Risk assessments
- Law enforcement
- Staffing
- Industry
- Maintenance of a Permitted Species List



Collaboration with OIT Industry

- Can we fine-tune the rules and:
 - Improve protection for MI
 - Improve information on OIT
 - Develop some teeth
 - Provide flexibility, and
 - Maintain relationships?
- Conversation with Industry and Legislators to extend deadline to 2019



Collaboration

- Require licensing for business's engaged in selling aquatic organisms
 - Include a format for record retention/annual notification
 - Names, temperature, salinity
 - Allow inspection authority
 - Teeth
- Remove Permitted Species Requirement (prohibited/restricted)
- Allow flexibility with risk assessments
- Establish an Advisory Group
- Hobbyists – require notification of trade events

Next steps for MI

- Work with Legislators to revise AIS law
 - Review current Prohibited/Restricted Lists
 - Improve other aspects of AIS law
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- Most importantly, continue protecting Michigan!



Concluding Thoughts

- Permitted Species List
 - Not for Michigan but...
- Relationships
- Improved regulations
- Prohibited and Restricted Lists are essential





Thank you!

