

The background image shows a joint training exercise on a river. Two people are in a small boat, pulling a yellow rope. A larger boat, labeled 'RESEARCH VESSEL', is also visible. The scene is set against a backdrop of dense green trees.

Insights Gained from a Joint Training Exercise on Incident Command System

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Outline

- Intro to ICS
- The “Incident”
- The Plan
- Implementation
- Insights



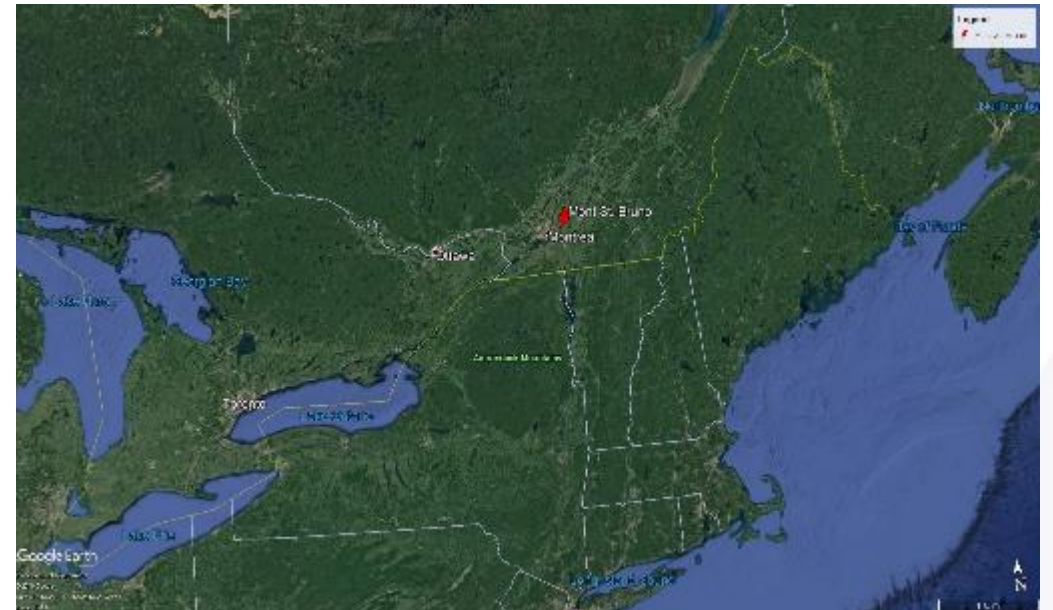
Incident Command System (ICS)

- Standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of an emergency response
 - Common hierarchy
 - Terminology
 - Communication protocol
 - Flexible to adjust
 - Easy tracking of resources
- DFO: formal use in 2016, developed **Asian Carp Strategic Response Plan**, on-water training and participation in binational responses

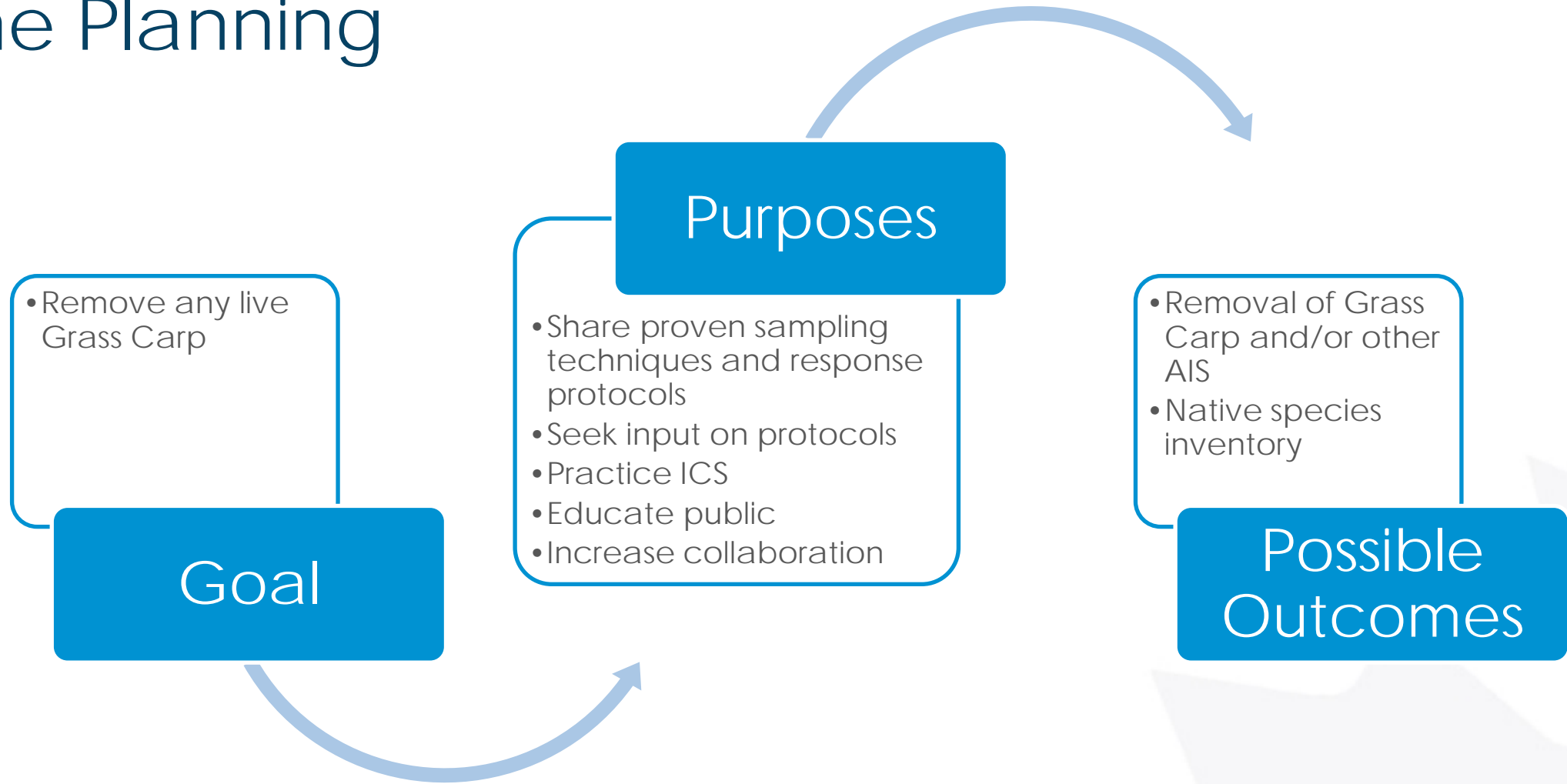


“The Incident” - Mont St. Bruno, Quebec

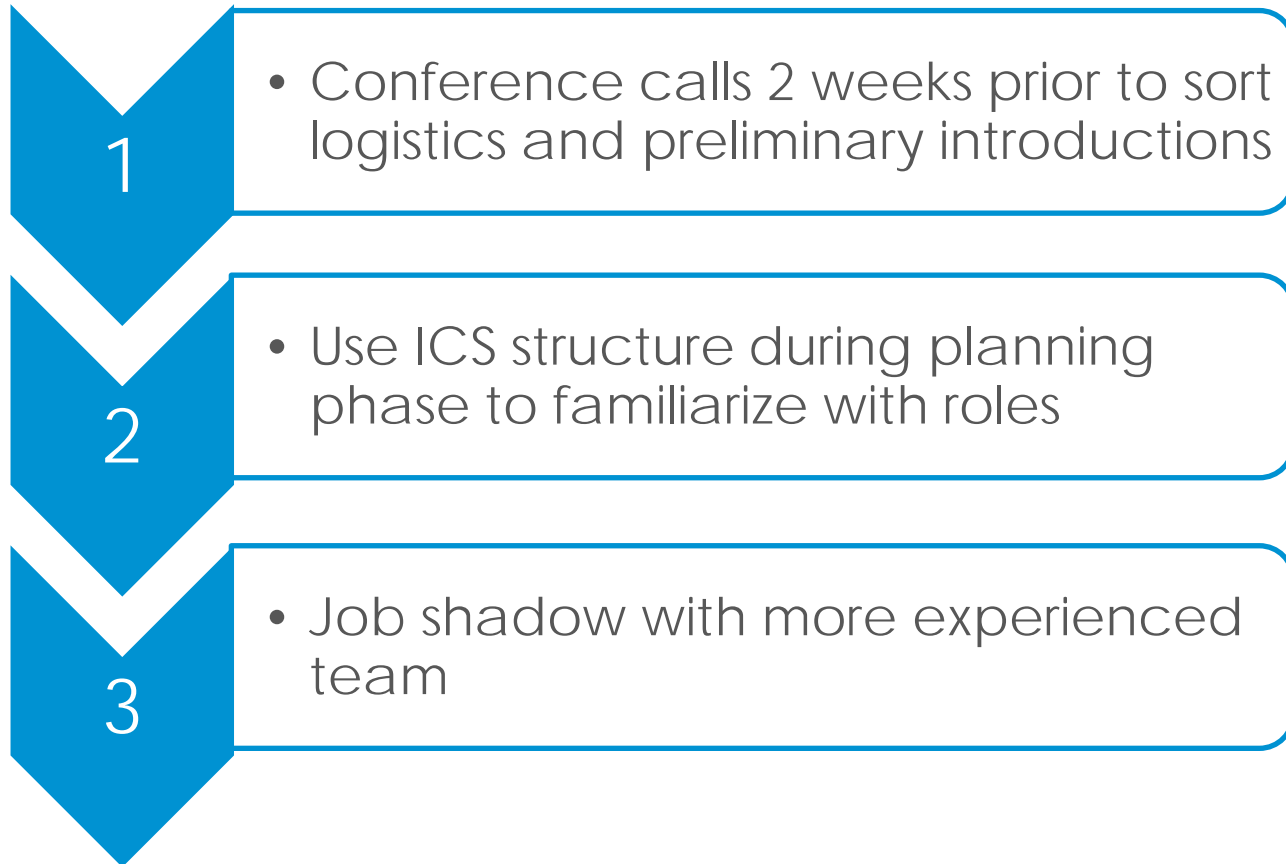
- Grass Carp sighting followed by positive eDNA samples
- Park has system of 3 connected lakes:
 - Fish passage between lakes unknown
 - Fish unlikely/ unable to spread beyond
- Previous collaboration between DFO and MFFP Asian carp programs
- Opportunity to conduct surveillance using proven techniques for Grass Carp developed by DFO
- Conduct work under ICS framework



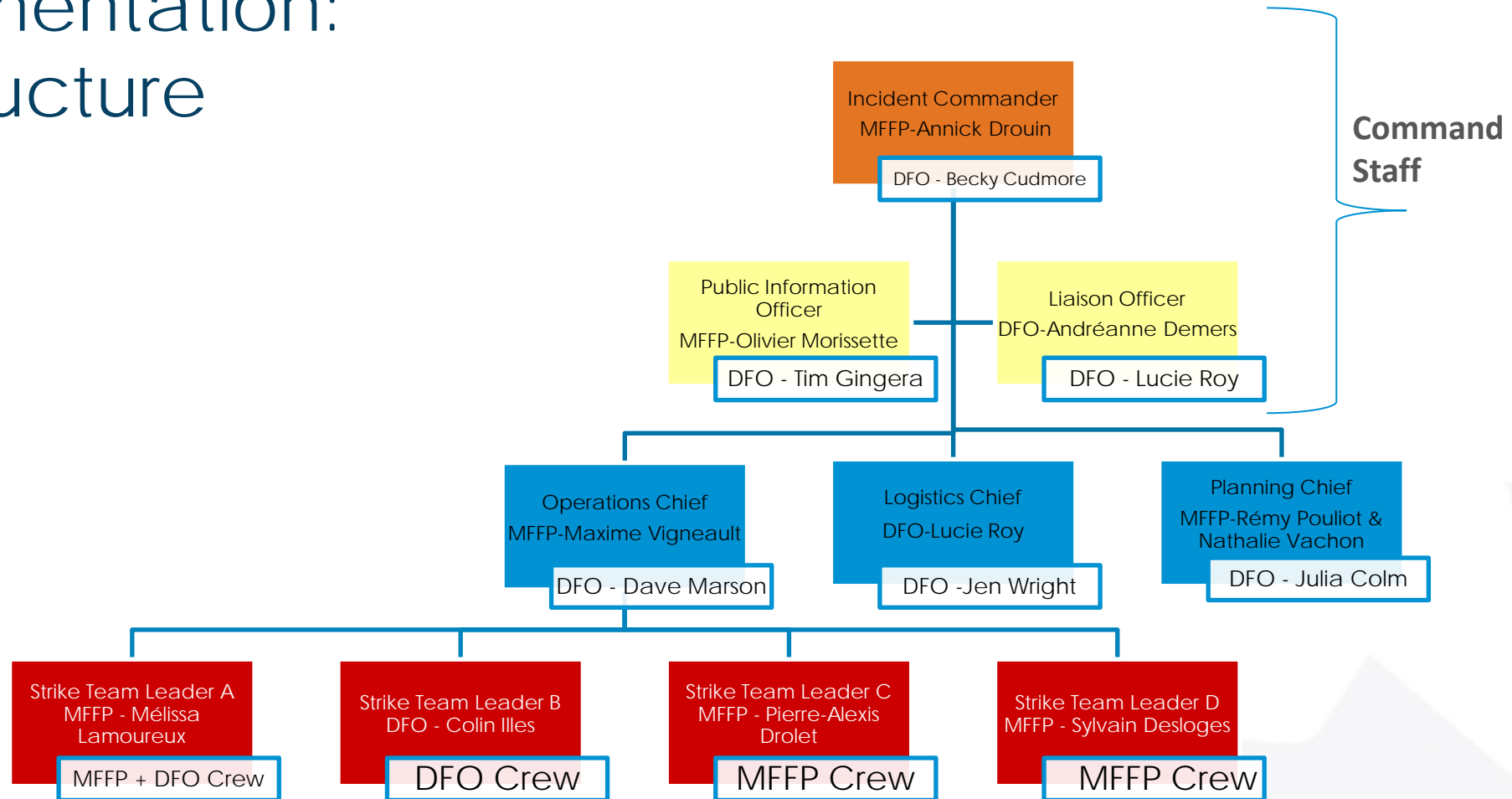
The Planning



The Planning



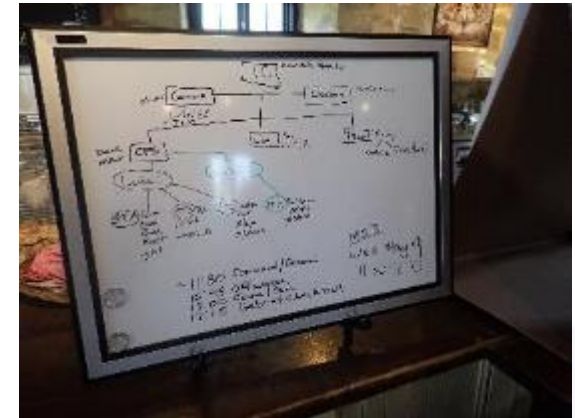
Implementation: ICS Structure



Oversight and Advice – John Saunders, Saunders Emergency Management

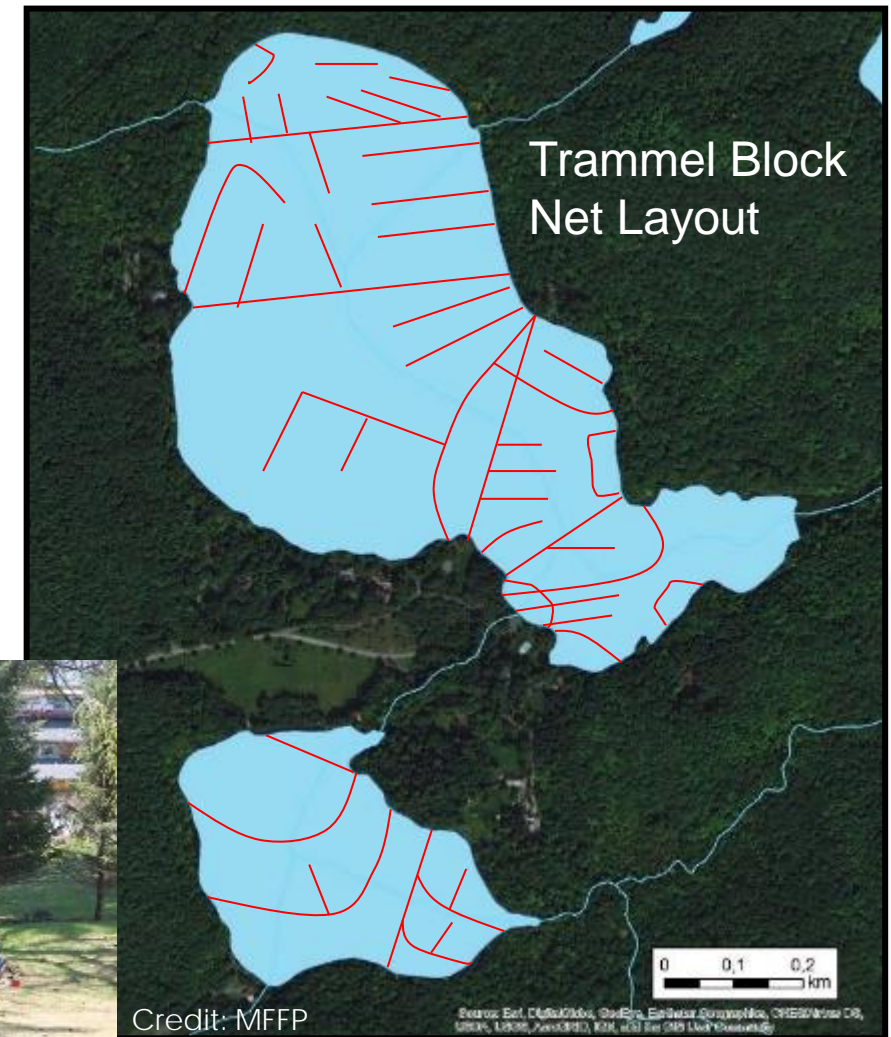
Incident Management & Logistics

- Daily briefings and de-briefings:
 - operational cycles, action plans, changes to structure, safety concerns
 - with chiefs to update action items and identify resource needs
 - operations briefs and de-briefs with strike teams to determine sampling plan
- Incident demobilization and hotwash
- Check-in/Check-out
- Meals, non-equipment resource needs



Operations: Sampling

- 4 days of on-water operations
- 4 boat crews (2 e-fish, 2 netting)
- 8.2 km of net set, 24.5 hours of fishing
- 39.3 hours of electrofishing



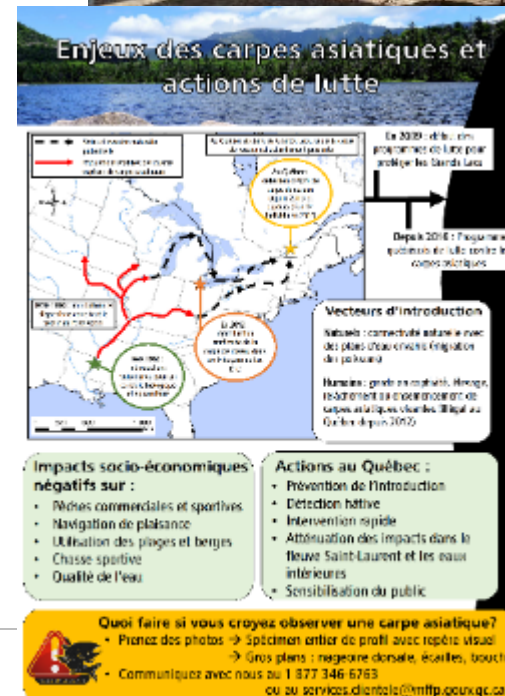
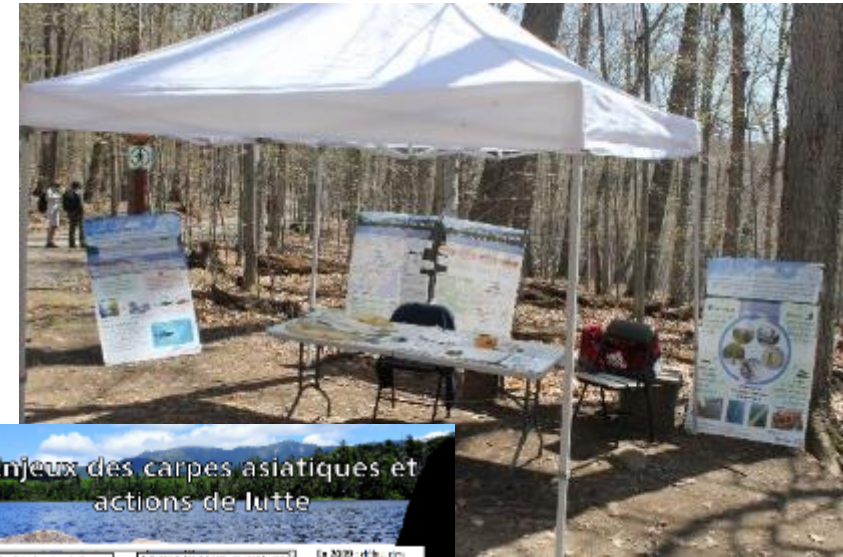
Planning and Lab Work

- Mobile laboratory on-site for ploidy testing and dissection – but no Grass Carp
- Focus on information gathering about lake ecosystem and connectivity



Outreach and Engagement

- Boat access via private property
- Residents given advanced warning of planned activities
- Public outreach booth set up during event
 - 150 visitors
 - Info on Asian carps, other AIS, and the park
 - Great feedback!
- No (real) media requests surrounding event



Implementation



Arrive 6pm for walk around

Sunday



First operational period set

Monday



Public engagement

Tuesday



Planning, shadowing, team building

Wednesday



Waiting for a Grass Carp...still

Thursday



Hotwash and demobilization

Friday

Arrive 8am for morning brief



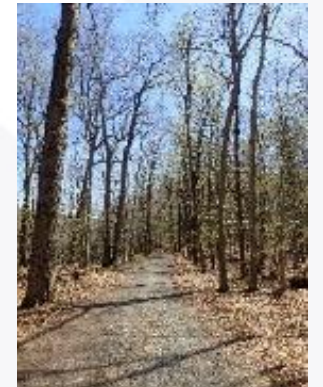
Strike teams on Lac Seigneural



Ops Chiefs suggest new plan
Strike teams on Lac du Moulin



Travel home



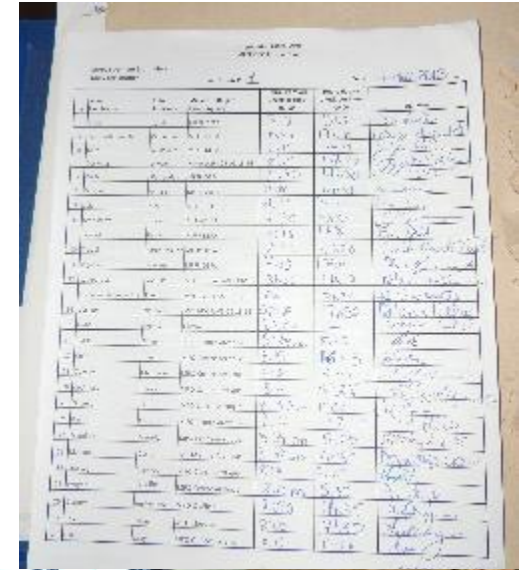
Insights: Successes

- Add a new tool for some, sharpened the tool for others in the response tool kit
- Helped refine our ICS forms
- Communication devices (walkie-talkies) were very helpful for strike teams
- Chance to test out mobile lab and mobile washing station in the field
- Outreach tent very popular, residents and park staff very supportive
- ICS helped overcome language barriers
- Increased potential for future collaboration

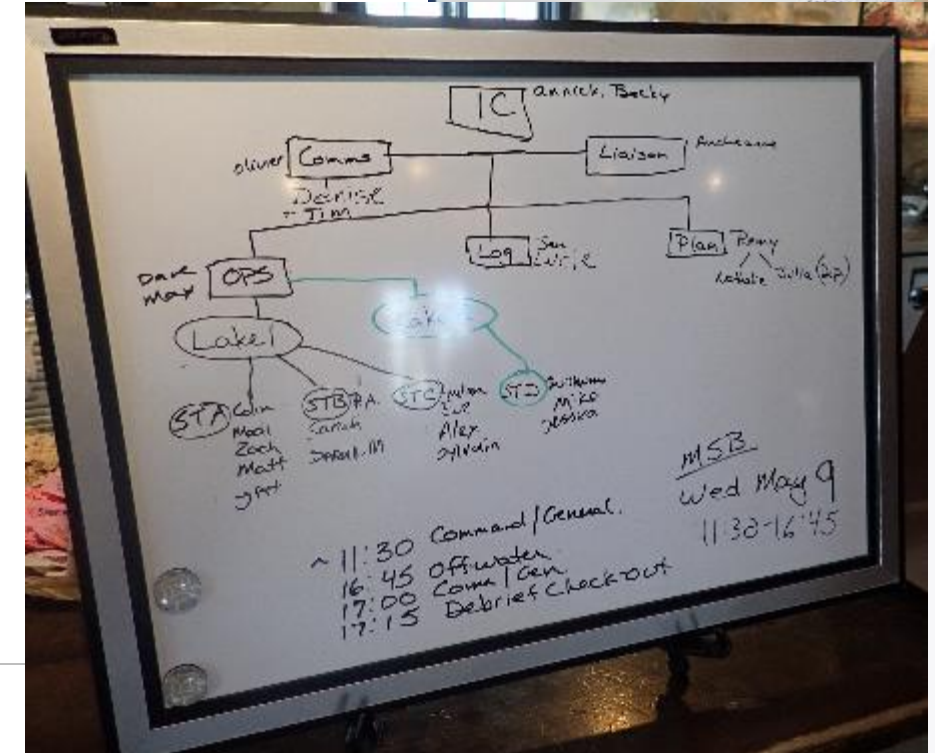


Insights: Room for Improvement

- Familiarity with ICS at all levels
- Could reduce/refine briefings for some groups
 - e.g. strike teams didn't need a morning and evening meeting with all
- Keep strike teams updated on what information they can share with public
- Pull participants in right from the beginning so they aren't playing catch-up on decisions already made



A handwritten table representing an Incident Command System (ICS) roster. It is organized into columns for various roles and personnel. The roles listed include Incident Commander (IC), Operations (Ops), Planning (Plan), Logistics (Log), Finance/Admin (Fin/Admin), and Liaison. Under each role, specific names are written, such as 'Annick, Becky' for IC, 'Oliver' for Comms, 'Dennis + Tim' for Ops, 'Log' for Logistics, 'Plan' for Planning, and 'Liaison' for Liaison. The table also includes a section for 'Strike Teams' (ST) with names like 'ST1', 'ST2', 'ST3', and 'ST4' listed.



Lessons Learned

- Important for **everyone** involved to have ICS training
- Develop further guidance on how to handle eDNA detections
- Get plans pre-approved so they can be implemented immediately upon detections
- Role shadowing was effective when planning the incident, but not always during the incident
- Outreach tent hugely successful and worthwhile at larger events



Forget Rain Dates;
Ice Cover
Problematic!

