

A photograph of a calm lake surrounded by lush green vegetation and trees under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, tall grasses are visible. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the image.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Role with AIS in the Prairies

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Central & Arctic Region AIS Program

Lake Laberge, Yukon Territory, Canada. Shutterstock

Timeline

- 2015 – *AIS Regulations* (AISR) enacted under *Fisheries Act*

- Prohibitions
 - Importation (listed spp.)
 - Possession (listed spp.)
 - Transportation (listed spp.)
 - Release (listed spp.)
 - Introduction (all non-indigenous spp.)
- Control tools
 - Fishing licenses
 - Deleterious substances
- Enforcement tools
 - Quarantine/containment zones
- Listed species
 - 6 nationally restricted spp.
 - 90+ regionally restricted spp.



Timeline

- 2015 – *AIS Regulations* (AISR) enacted under *Fisheries Act*
- 2017 – additional funding for AIS used to create DFO's National Core AIS Program
 - Nationally coordinated program
 - Full AIS management cycle
 - Regional priorities



Central & Arctic (C&A) Core AIS Program

Regional Priorities

- Coordinate and leverage partners
- Implement and enforce AISR in region
- Identify regional priorities

Regional Challenges

- Limited resources
 - Small team
- Large geographic region
- Provinces are the delegated authorities for AIS

Central & Arctic (C&A) Core AIS Program

Regional Solutions

1. Limit geographic scope
2. Identify where DFO AIS management can have largest impact (nationally and regionally)
3. Work with delegated authorities

Regional Challenges

- Limited resources
 - Small team
- Large geographic region
- Provinces are the delegated authorities for AIS

1. Limiting C&A Scope

- Ontario
 - Asian Carp Program
 - Sea Lamprey Control Program
 - **Therefore, only 5 AIS managed in region with greatest # of AIS in Canada**
- No resources for territories



1. Limiting C&A Scope

- Ontario
 - Asian Carp Program
 - Sea Lamprey Control Program
- No resources for territories
- **Prairies Focused**
 - Manitoba (MB)
 - Saskatchewan (SK)
 - Alberta (AB)



2. National AIS Issues

- National AIS issues can have major impact on prairies

1. International border

- Collaboration with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Conservation and Protection (C&P)
- Working towards AISR enforcement pilot at a prairies border crossing

2. AIS Regulatory Integration

- *Up next!*



3. Work with Partners

- MB, SK and AB delegated authorities on AIS
 - Prevention, early detection, response and management of AIS falls under the conservation and preservation of fisheries
 - Management authority for commercial freshwater fisheries delegated to provinces
- Therefore, what is our role?
 - a) Facilitate coordination between 4 governments
 - b) Cross-jurisdictional initiatives
 - c) Function as additional assistance (in-kind staff + financial support)

3. Work with Partners

Coordination and Communication

- Provide travel funding for partners
- Annual face to face Prairies AIS Steering Committee (PAISC) meeting
- AISP uses PAISC to seek partner input into work-plan
- Help ensure work-plan is cohesive and complementary to existing programs

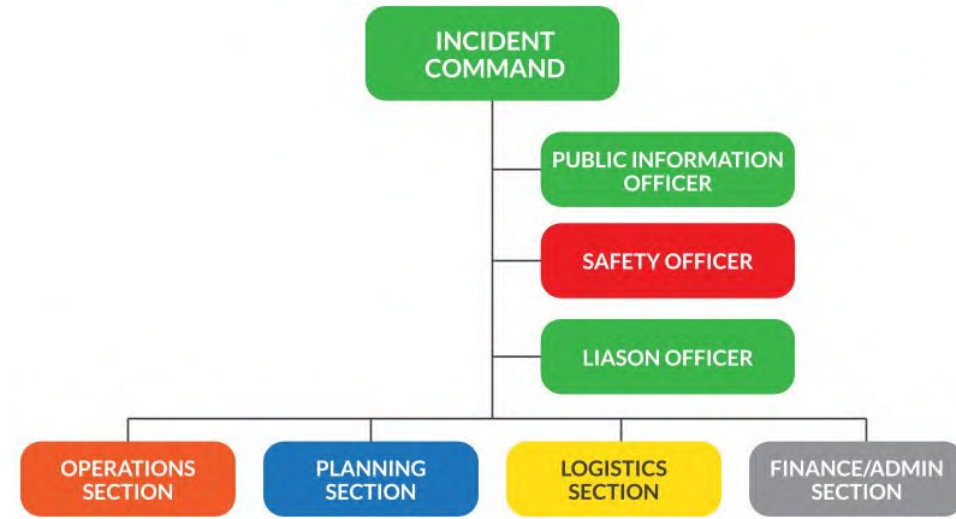
3. Work with Partners

Cross-jurisdiction Initiatives

- Regional Incident Command System (ICS) training and emergency response plan development

ICS

- Systematic tool implemented for the command, control and coordination of emergency response
- Enables effective and efficient incident management by developing operations for AIS response



3. Work with Partners

- Developing ICS response plans and guidance documents for MB, SK
- Undergoing review and gap analysis of AB response plan
- Plans will be flexible and adaptable depending on the scale of the response (e.g., one sighting vs. multiple sightings vs. multiple sightings and locations; single jurisdiction vs. multiple jurisdictions)
- ICS Exercises and Training



3. Work with Partners

Assistance to existing programs

- Flowering Rush (AB)
 - Management – hand pulling in newly invaded areas (100 m shoreline, 12 staff hours)
 - Early detection of spread



3. Work with Partners

Assistance to existing programs

- Zebra Mussels (MB)
 - Research + Monitoring – 3 veligers (2 live, 1 dead) found in Shoal Lake, Ontario (ON) in 2018
 - ON lead but important waterbody for MB, therefore assisting with monitoring
 - Partnering with DFO Science on environmental DNA (eDNA) detection methods
 - Veliger tows



Questions?



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