

# A Quick-Reference User's Guide for the Invasive Fishes Communications Protocol

Council of Great Lakes Fishery Agencies

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This guide summarizes protocol documentation, process, and timing for communication of key messages (talking points) from a responsible agency to other CGLFA agencies regarding an invasive fish event in the Great Lakes.

Users should refer to protocol documents for additional details about protocol use.

## Protocol Documents and Contents

- *available online at <http://www.glfc.org/council-of-great-lakes-fisheries-agencies.php>*
- **Main**: definitions of terms, description of use and process, includes pages 2-4 here
- **Appendix A**: protocol application: examples and listing of actual event descriptions
- **Appendix B**: resources for completing an event description
- **Appendix C**: agency contacts for communications about events
- **Appendix D**: actual event descriptions, 2019 on

**Process (steps)**: from the main document; *see Fig. 1* (pg. 2)

**1. Responsible agency determines that an invasive fish event has occurred and invokes the protocol**

- an event involves new information about **population status, impacts, management, or research**
- events may be **planned** or **unplanned** and of an **Urgent, Important, or Routine** nature
- *see Table 1* (pg. 3), for examples of events

**2. Responsible agency completes a draft event description form and approves for external consultation**

- *see standardized event description form* (pg. 4), examples in Appendix A

**3. Responsible agency initiates consultation through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)**

- draft event description emailed to GLFC contact (Dr. John Dettmers, [jdettmers@glfc.org](mailto:jdettmers@glfc.org))

**4. GLFC emails comments from lake committee, CLC, CGLFA to responsible agency**

**5. Responsible agency finalizes talking points, emails them to agency contacts (Appendix C)**

- GLFC contact will also email the final event description to other agency contacts *upon request from responsible agency*

**Timing**: Steps 3-5 above should be completed within

**24 hours** for **Urgent** events

**5 business days** for **Important** events

**10 business days** for **Routine** events

**For assistance in using the protocol, please contact:**

Dr. John Dettmers, Fishery Management Director, GLFC, [jdettmers@glfc.org](mailto:jdettmers@glfc.org), 734-669-3009 (office), 734-417-8009 (cell)  
or Roger Knight, Fisheries Management Specialist, GLFC, [rogerlknight@gmail.com](mailto:rogerlknight@gmail.com), 419-504-8052 (cell)

Figure 1. Flow chain for communication of events involving invasive fishes among agencies and groups specified under A Joint Strategic Plan for the Management of Great Lakes Fisheries (Plan).

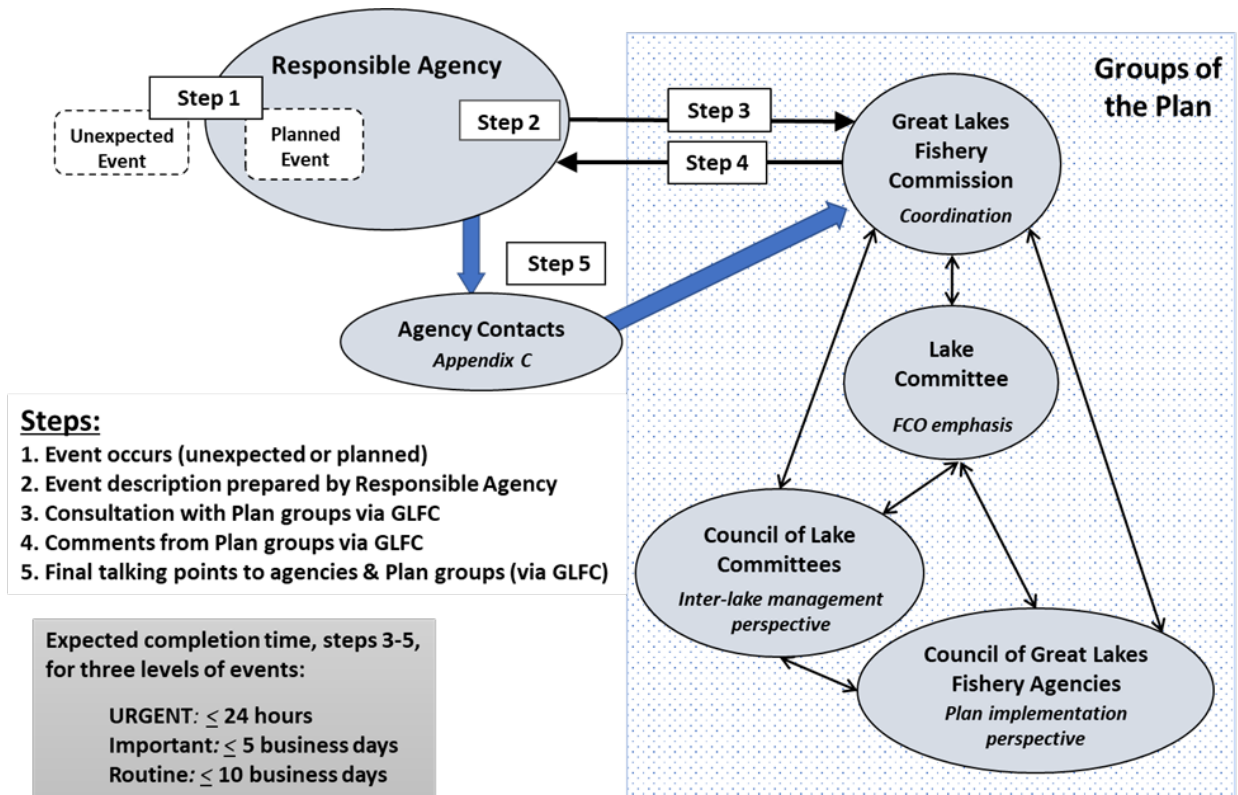


Table 1. Examples of events involving invasive fishes that would be communicated through the protocol.

Timing	Event	Type	Responsible Agency
Urgent	New invasive fish unexpectedly captured in commercial gear or by an angler	Unplanned	Non-federal
Urgent	New invasive fish captured in signatory agency routine sampling	Unplanned	Federal or Non-federal
Urgent	New invasive fish unexpectedly captured by non- signatory group during research	Unplanned	Non-federal
Urgent	New invasive fish captured in signatory agency targeted sampling	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Urgent	New invasive fish found dead in a tributary to a Great Lake	Unplanned	Federal or Non-federal
Important	eDNA evidence of invasive fish first presence in a lake	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Important	New evidence of natural reproduction by invasive fish, university study	Planned	Non-federal
Important	New evidence of natural reproduction by invasive fish, federal study	Planned	Federal
Important	New evidence of spread by invasive fish already in lake, targeted sampling	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Important	New evidence of invasive fish suspected of entering a lake, targeted sampling	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Important	Outcome from enforcement project to detect invasive species in trucked tanks	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Important	Findings from federal agency research on new control techniques	Planned	Federal
Important	Results from federal-aid university study on impacts from invasive fish	Planned	Non-federal
Important	New evidence from study of invasive fish affecting fishery on native species	Planned	Non-federal
Important	Unexpected detection of impacts from invasive fish on fishery	Unplanned	Non-federal
Routine	eDNA from invasive fish in lake with confirmed presence; evidence of spread	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Routine	Outcome from project to remove invasive fish	Planned	Non-federal
Routine	Serendipitous observation of gear avoidance by extant invasive fish	Unplanned	Federal or Non-federal
Routine	Plans to examine bait industry for invasive fishes	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Routine	Signatory agency project plans on new control techniques	Planned	Federal or Non-federal
Routine	New federal aid university study on likely impacts from invasive fish	Planned	Non-federal
Routine	Plans for coordinated project to remove invasive fish	Planned	Federal or Non-federal

## Event Description Form

NOTE: This information is confidential, not for distribution or use beyond intended audiences.

Draft       Final

URGENT     Important     Routine

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Event time/duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person/e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type:     Unexpected     Planned

Information category:     Population status     Impacts

Activity:     Management                       Research

prevention

population status

surveillance

ecological impacts

response

fishery impacts

suppression

tools/techniques

control

other

Talking Points (bullets):

Supporting information: (attach additional files or links as necessary)