

Mississippi River Basin Panel (MRBP) Coordination Meeting

October 20-22, 2026

North Dakota Game and Fish Headquarters
100 N. Bismarck Expy, Bismark, ND 58501

Agenda

Times are listed in Central Standard Time

*All speakers have been invited, but not all are confirmed**

(v)=virtual

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

8:00 am - 8:15 am	<i>Welcome and Introductions - Jeff Herod, MRBP 2nd Term Co-Chair</i>
8:15 am - 10:00 am	Session 1 - Host State Presentations - Ben Holen, ND Game and Fish* ● North Dakota AIS Program (45 minutes) ● Smishek Lake Zebra Mussel Eradication Effort (25 minutes) ● The Story of Zander in North Dakota (25 minutes) ● Q&A (10 minutes)
10:00 am - 10:15 am	<i>Networking Break</i>
10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Session 2 - Pathways (20 minutes each + 5 minutes Q&A) ● Mapping Human-Mediated NAS and AIS Pathways: Prevalence and Patterns in the Upper Mississippi River Basin - Alison Coulter, SD State University* ● AquaSale: A National Tool for Addressing Organisms in Trade and Online AIS Sales - Sam Tank, Great Lakes Commission* ● Live Bait as an AIS Pathway: Risk, Regulations, and Prevention in the Missouri River Basin - Alison Coulter, SD State University* ● Boat Launch Cleaning Tools Could Help Prevent AIS Spread by Waterfowlers - Valerie Brady, University of Minnesota* (v) ● When Watersheds Connect: Flood-Driven Pathways for AIS Spread - David Coulter, SD State University*
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm	<i>Lunch (on your own)</i>

1:45 pm - 3:30 pm

Session 3 - Education and Outreach
(20 minutes each + 5 minutes Q&A)

- Closing the Knowledge–Action Gap: What Actually Motivates AIS Prevention Behavior? - Elizabeth Golebie, The Ohio State University* (v)
- From Awareness to Action: Using Community-Based Social Marketing to Prevent Invasive Fish Spread - Amber Stilwell, Pennsylvania Sea Grant* (v)
- Trusted Voices, Wider Reach: Using Influencers and Ambassadors for AIS Prevention - Rebecca D’Orazio, Invasive Species Centre in Ontario* (v)
- Brewing Up AIS Awareness: Partnering with Local Breweries to Reach New Audiences - Amanda Weber, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District in Grand Marais Minnesota* (v)

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Networking Break

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm

Session 4 - Aquatic Invasive Plant Management
(20 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A)

- Starry Stonewort Management: What a Decade of Research Is Telling Us — Dan Larkin, University of Minnesota* (v)
- When Watermilfoil Hybridizes: How Genetics Can Change Management Outcomes — Ryan Thum, Montana State University*
- Managing Invasive Phragmites at the Landscape Scale: Lessons from Federal and State Partnerships — Richard King, USFWS

5:15 - 5:30 pm

Wrap-Up and Adjourn Day 1

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Welcome to Day 2!

Session 5 - Invasive Fish
(20 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A)

- Grass Carp Rapid Ploidy Analysis Method - Jill Jenkins, USGS*
- Keeping Prussian Carp Out: Structured Decision Making for an Emerging Invasion Threat - Michael Colvin, USGS
- Keeping Carp Back: What We Know About Invasive Carp Barriers and Deterrent Technologies - Andrea Fritts, USGS
- From Pest to Product: Market-Based Solutions for Invasive Carp Control - Julie Kurnik, World Wildlife Fund* (v)

10:00am - 10:30 am	<i>Networking Break</i>
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Session 6 - Contributed Presentations (20 minutes each + 10 minutes Q&A) ● Golden Mussel in California: Rapid Response to a New Aquatic Invasion - Martha Volkoff, CADFG*(v) ● Aquatic Invasive Species in Midwest National Parks: Challenges, Priorities, and Management Perspectives - Lily Thompson, University of Missouri School of Natural Resources* ● Measuring the Invasion: Occupancy, Detection Power, and Community Size Spectra for Invasive Carp Management - Chris Rota and Brent Murry, WVU* (v)
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch (on your own)</i>
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Session 7 - MRBP and MICRA: A Year in Review (15 minute each) ● MRBP - Neal Jackson and Elizabeth Brown ● MICRA - Neal Jackson and Rob Bourgeois
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Session 8 - MRBP Committee Meetings ● Education and Outreach - Breakout Room A ● Prevention and Control - Breakout Room B ● Research and Risk Assessment - Breakout Room C
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	<i>Networking Break</i>
4:15 - 5:00 pm	Session 9 - <i>Wrap-Up</i> - Jeff Herod, MRBP 2nd Term Co-Chair ● Committee Reports by Committee Chairs (5 minutes each) ● Project Updates ● 2027 Work Plan and Budget Requests ● ANS Task Force Recommendations (10 minutes) ● MICRA AIS Committee Recommendations (10 minutes) ● Hosting the ANS Task Force in Spring 2027 in KY (5 minutes) ● Winter 2027/2028 MRBP Meeting Location (5 minutes)
5:00 pm	Adjourn

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Field Trip to [Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery](#). We will leave the hotel at 8:00 am and return by 12:30 pm. Transportation will be provided, but attendees are also welcome to drive themselves.