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34. Purple Loosestrife

Recommended Actions:

Populations of purple loosestrife in the St. Louis River AOC should be reduced primarily by using biological organisms currently approved for use by the USDA.

(1) MDNR and WDNR should initiate release and monitoring of approved biological control organisms ASAP.

(2) State DNRs and Departments of Agriculture should educate retailers and consumers about purple loosestrife (i.e., with "Purple Loosestrife Alert"). If still sold, the feasibility of enforcement under noxious weed programs should be assessed.

(3) State DNRs, with GLIFWC, should use best available technology (BAT) to remove small populations in the estuary.

(4) State Departments of Transportation should use BAT to remove small populations from road margins in the AOC and develop procedures to reduce survival at roadside sites disturbed by maintenance and construction activities.

(5) Interstate transport via mail should be investigated. USFWS, with state agencies, should determine feasibility of pursuing federal legislation.

Implementors:

Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation; GLIFWC, USFWS.

Actions Taken:

9/94: Funding proposal to GLNPO rejected.

7/95: MDNR released 3,500 beetles at Grassy Point to control purple loosestrife.

WDNR released beetles at the base of the Bong Bridge.

4/98: Follow up letters sent to MDNR and WDNR.

5/99: CAC anticipates funding from EPA to work on problem.

10/00: Sea Grant: Five years after beetle release at Grassy Point, they feel they were successful in reducing Purple Loosestrife in the area. Intern project to begin Spring 2001.

01/01: Brock Woods WDNR planning to visit Superior in spring to check on foliage beetle and weevil sites. In his experience placing weevils out as eggs hasn't been very successful, so he's not expecting to find many of those.

07/23/01: Beetle Mania Day at Smithville Landing in Duluth. Beetles (*Gallericella*) released at four locations along the St. Louis River by 4-H kids.

08/01: Brook Woods checked wetlands south of Bong bridge. Beetles have dispersed from a release site.

Project Status:

Project not completed, but there are one or more agencies currently working on it.