

OHIO SEA GRANT AND STONE LABORATORY

# Recreational Boating and AIS Update

Sarah A. Orlando  
*Clean Marinas Program Manager and Extension Educator*



## Project Updates – Aquatic Invasive Species

- AIS signage approved and being printed
- Also requested by Columbus Parks & Rec and MWCD
- Indian Lake State Park AIS Prevention Station



# Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz

*Boaters and other recreators learn about the risks of spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) at public and private boating access sites across the Great Lakes region every summer. The Great Lakes AIS "Landing Blitz" events take place over a two-week period, emphasizing the need to **Clean, Drain, Dry** boats whenever they come out of the water, and **Dispose** of any unwanted bait in the trash.*

<https://www.glc.org/work/blitz>

## Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species **LANDING BLITZ**

Great Lakes boaters and anglers experienced a regionwide educational "blitz" encouraging them to clean, drain, and dry their boats and gear, and properly dispose of unwanted bait.

The Great Lakes AIS "Landing Blitz" is a binational multi-agency effort aimed at raising public awareness and promoting actions to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS).

In 2020, the two week event brought together hundreds of partners to support education efforts and watercraft inspections to reduce the risk of moving AIS between water bodies. However, due to public health restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, many partners were unable to host in-person events, leaving social media and other virtual events as key components of this year's Landing Blitz.

*Local volunteers partner with state and provincial agencies to deliver consistent messaging about preventing the introduction and spread of AIS from the movement of watercraft and equipment between water bodies. Information on these events, including educational materials, locations and volunteer opportunities are posted on this page as they become available.*

### Thousands of people are becoming part of the solution:

Where in-person events were able to be held safely and responsibly,

- Approximately **128,000 people** were educated about AIS by agency staff, watercraft inspectors and volunteers
- Over **1,000 public and private boat landings** in four Great Lakes states and provinces participated in the Landing Blitz in a socially distant manner
- **98%** of participating boat landings also hosted boat inspections, leading to over **110,000 inspections**

As part of Landing Blitz virtual events,

- More than **50 media outlets** covered event happenings and **millions of people watched, listened and read about AIS prevention efforts** based on news releases by partner agencies
- More than **830,000 people** saw information about the event on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter, a **746% increase from the 2019 event!**
- Tweets using the official event hashtag, **#GLAISBlitz**, were seen on up to **141,000** different user timelines
- **1,150+** interested people got information about the event through the event webpage at [www.glc.org/blitz](http://www.glc.org/blitz)



For more information and to become a partner visit:  
[www.glc.org/blitz](http://www.glc.org/blitz)

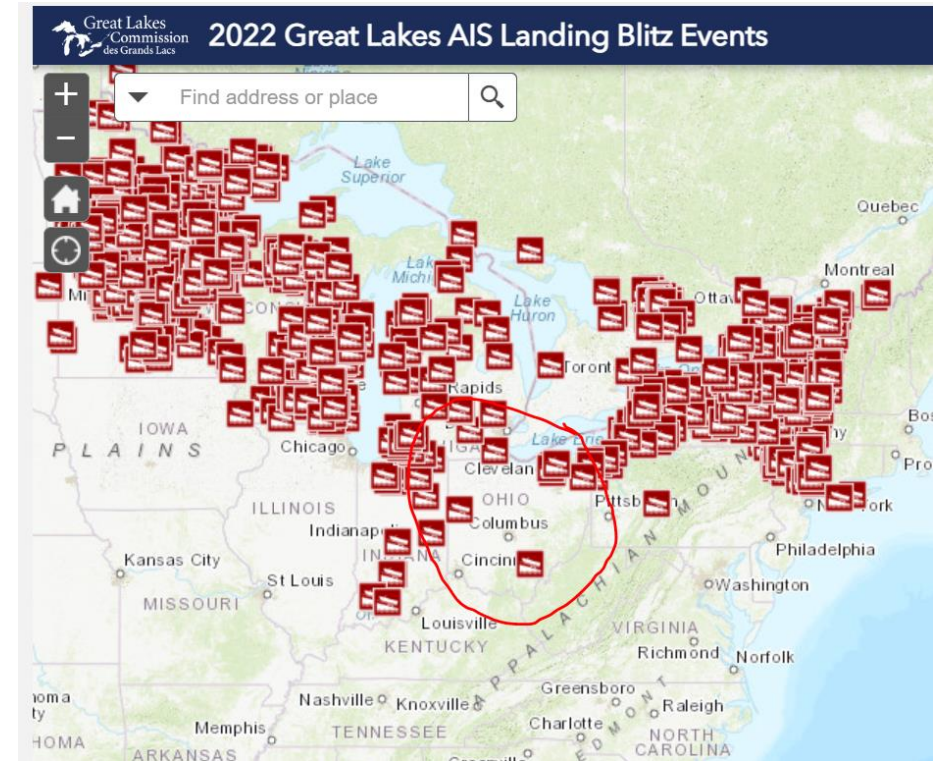
**June 30 – July 13, 2025**

# Help Us Put Ohio on the Map!

2024 Grant RFP:

<https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-RFP-for-GL-AIS-Landing-Blitz-2.6.24.pdf>

- 2025 RFP out early 2025
- Very similar to 2024 RFP
- Up to \$10,000 for outreach at public boat ramps across Great Lakes
- Eligible applicants: Tribal or U.S.-based local units of government, lake associations/watershed protection groups, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, universities/colleges, conservation groups.
- Applicants do not need to be physically located in the Great Lakes basin to apply for this funding.





# Hosting an Event: Resources for Boat Wash Stations

- Clean Boats, Clean Tournaments
  - YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13FfNNWFyGk>
  - Boat Wash at Fishing Tournament Brochure: <https://publications.aqua.wisc.edu/product/clean-boats-clean-tournaments-how-about-a-boat-wash-station-at-our-tournament/>
  - BMPs to Inspect and Wash Fishing Tournament Boats: <https://publications.aqua.wisc.edu/product/clean-boats-clean-tournaments-best-management-practices-to-inspect-and-wash-fishing-tournament-boats/>

# Not Hosting an Event? Support and Promote Ohio's Efforts

- Press releases
- Social Media and YouTube content leading up to, during, and after the event
- Encourage others to get involved

<https://www.glc.org/work/blitz>

## Invasive Species Webinar Series

Find the webinar event links at  
[www.facebook.com/OhioCleanMarinasCleanBoaters/events](https://www.facebook.com/OhioCleanMarinasCleanBoaters/events)

July 7 at 10 a.m. EST  
**What's That? An overview of Aquatic Invasive Animals and Plants in Ohio**

July 14 at 10 a.m. EST  
 **hitchhikers! Tips and Resources on Aquatic Invasive Species**

July 21 at 10 a.m. EST  
**Get about the Plants! Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Ohio**

July 28 at 10 a.m. EST  
**Citizen Scientist: Invasives of Concern in Ohio and How you Can Help**

Aug 4 at 10 a.m. EST  
**Terrestrial Invasive Animals: Spotlight on Wild Boar**

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/TheOhioDNR> to watch the recordings.



# Thank You!

## Contact

Sarah Orlando  
Program Manager

[orlando.42@osu.edu](mailto:orlando.42@osu.edu)

419-609-4120

@SarahAOrlando

@OhioCleanMarinasCleanBoaters



## Find Out More

[ohioseagrant.osu.edu/clean](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/clean)

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/land-water/clean-marinas>

[go.osu.edu/CleanMarinasYouTube](http://go.osu.edu/CleanMarinasYouTube)

[gcleanmarina.org](http://gcleanmarina.org)

<https://go.osu.edu/cmairs>

## OHIO CLEAN MARINAS PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ohio Clean Marinas Program is funded by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as administered by NOAA through the ODNR Office of Coastal Management and matched with Ohio Sea Grant funds. Funding for the statewide expansion is provided by the ODNR Division of Watercraft.

