# New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

Heather Desko New Jersey Water Supply Authority

New Jersey Invasive Species Conference October 5, 2022



### Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can be...



Fish - 17



Reptiles/Amphibians - 1



#### Mollusks - 9



Mammals/Birds - 1

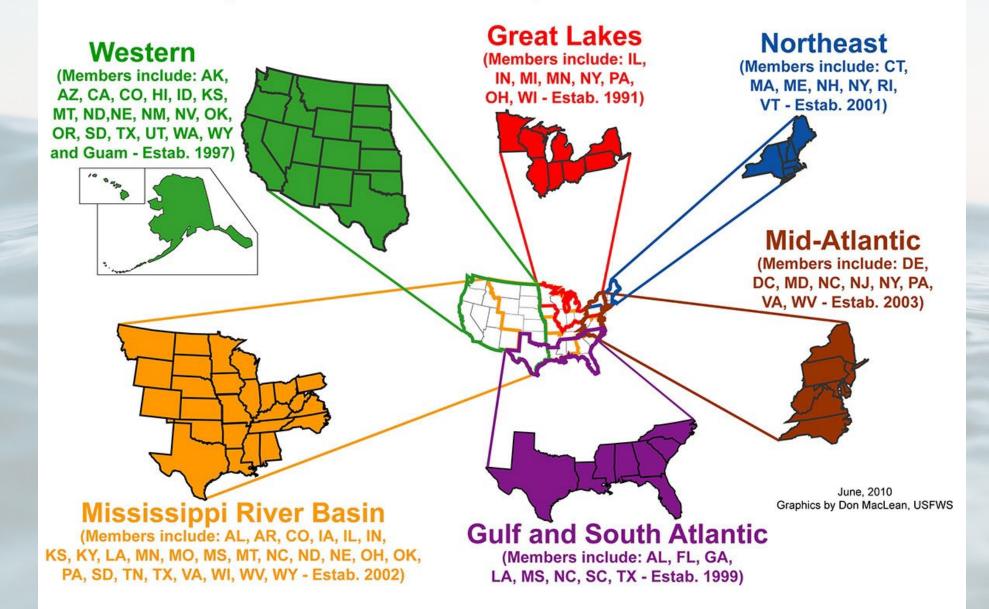
Pathogens/Disease/ Parasites – 2

Algae/Diatoms

Jury is still out on Didymo



#### The Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force



EST. 1981 WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

### MAPAIS

- Coordinates AIS management, policy, education, and outreach initiatives at a regional level
- Meetings twice per year
- Funds AIS research, education/outreach, innovative management projects, & state AIS plan development
- In 2022, NJ received \$20,000 in funding from MAPAIS for AIS management plan development!

# Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

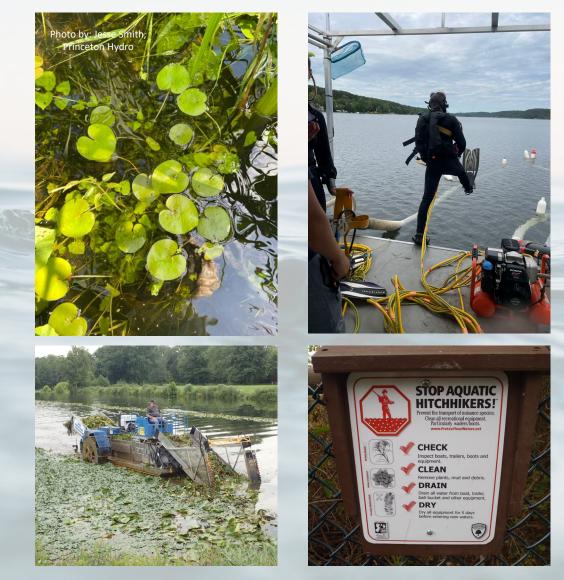
### NJ representatives:

- Chris Smith, NJ Fish & Wildlife
- Heather Desko, NJ Water Supply Authority
- Dr. Julie Lockwood, Rutgers University



### Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

- Coordinate statewide AIS management efforts, priorities, and needs
- Guide monitoring and response efforts statewide
- Evaluate opportunities for AIS prevention
- Establish & maintain funding sources for spread prevention, control, eradication
- An approved plan allows for states to apply for federal funding for implementation



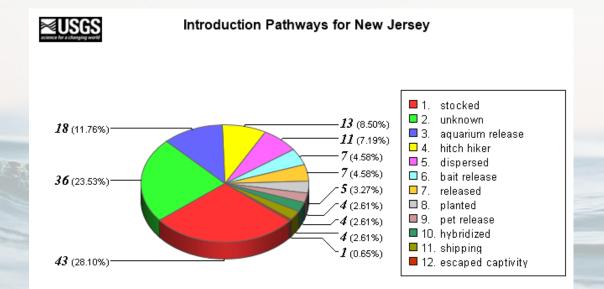
### Status of State ANS Management Plans (45 Approved Plans - 42 State, and 3 Interstate)

St. Croix Natural **Scenic Riverway Interstate** Lake Champlain **Management Plan Basin Interstate Management Plan** Lake Tahoe Interstate Management Plan 10 **States with Approved Plans States with Plans under Development Approved Interstate Plans** November, 2021 Graphics by Don MacLean, USFWS

NEW JERSEY

### AIS Management Plan Background

- Identify status of AIS species in NJ
- Identify pathways of introduction for existing & potential AIS
- Review ongoing/completed management and control efforts
- Review existing AIS-related regulations in NJ and other states



(graph created: 9/27/2022 2:45:38 PM by the United States Geological Survey)



### Statewide Management Priorities & Needs

- Intra- and interstate coordination
  - State AIS coordinator position
- Ecological Risk Assessments & prioritization
- Prevention and educational opportunities







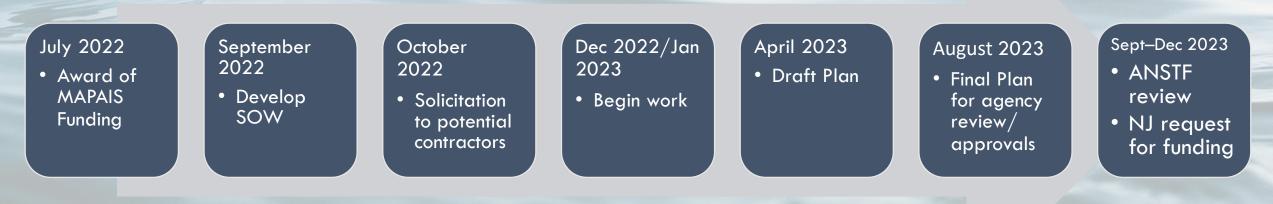
### Monitoring, Detection, & Response

- Establish monitoring programs
- Statewide reporting
- Rapid Response Plan
- Citizen science programs/challenges





### NJ AISMP Timeline





### How Can You Participate?

- Report AIS sightings, especially emerging, Stage 0-1 species
- Submit AIS management, monitoring, and/or outreach projects
- Provide AIS expertise in plan development
- Review plan during public comment period





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