



EUROPEAN FROG-BIT COLLABORATIVE

# Regional Strategy 2024 – 2026

**MISSION**

Our mission is to minimize impacts of EFB within the Great Lakes ecosystem and economy through EFB prevention, detection, and control efforts and by identifying research needs. The Collaborative will work to strengthen interjurisdictional coordination and collaboration among stakeholders and build consensus on next steps for European Frog-bit detection, prevention, management, and research.

**TIMELINE**

Regional strategy developed for January 2024 – December 2026. Objectives to be completed by the end of the implementation period unless otherwise stated.

FOCUS AREA	REGIONAL COORDINATION & COLLABORATION			BEST MANAGEMENT PLANNING		RESEARCH & INFORMATION NEEDS	
<b>APPROACH</b>	Delimit EFB infestations to improve our understanding of EFB distribution in the Great Lakes region	Educate stakeholders about EFB to reduce spread and improve management capacity	Host and maintain a forum and network for sharing and accessing EFB information	Assess ongoing EFB eradication and control efforts to inform current Best Management Practices for EFB control	Promote EFB monitoring, containment, and mitigation activities to protect high-value sites	Assess and prioritize critical information needs and research gaps to advance EFB management	Facilitate researcher and manager collaboration
<b>OBJECTIVE INTERNAL TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COLLABORATIVE GROUPS: STEERING COMMITTEE WORK GROUPS SUPPORT STAFF</b>	<p>Maintain a delimitation survey protocol and centralized data management system</p> <p>Identify occurrences of EFB in high-value Great Lakes coastal wetlands and inland waters/wetlands</p> <p>Annually share delimitation data with the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN)</p>	<p>Increase manager awareness of EFB</p> <p>Increase public knowledge and reporting opportunities</p> <p>Provide resources and tools to increase opportunities for EFB management and monitoring within the region</p> <p>Develop regionally applicable EFB education and outreach tools and resources</p> <p>Develop guidance documentation for managers when EFB is detected in a new location</p>	<p>Maintain an EFB Collaborative website</p> <p>Facilitate an EFB Collaborative listserv</p> <p>Assess regional needs and expand the Collaborative to meet the identified regional needs</p> <p>Host webinars on priority topics</p> <p>Organize conference session at UMISC in 2024</p>	<p>Develop a collaborative-vetted pre- and post-treatment monitoring protocol and optimize for implementation by 2024</p> <p>Reach consensus on a 'terms of reference' document that includes standard pre- and post-treatment monitoring</p> <p>Identify, document, and annually update Best Management Practices for EFB control</p> <p>Establish standardized EFB monitoring and assessment protocols</p>	<p>Identify priority metrics and develop tools to aid identification and prioritization for EFB management and asset protection</p> <p>Provide tools to assist with response detection activities including planning and implementation</p> <p>Annually predict EFB habitat suitability using current distribution data</p>	<p>Annually identify, evaluate, and prioritize critical information needs for EFB management and treatment efficacy</p> <p>Document critical information needs related to impacts of EFB on wetland ecosystems</p> <p>Develop an EFB research agenda to inform future research</p>	<p>Provide a forum for researchers and managers to collaborate</p> <p>Share current research regarding EFB biology and ecology, spread, control, and ecosystem impacts</p>
<b>OBJECTIVE EXTERNAL FOR COLLABORATIVE MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>Utilize</b> delimitation tool for all EFB monitoring activities within the region	<b>Utilize and contribute</b> Collaborative education and outreach materials across jurisdiction(s)	<b>Participate and share</b> relevant information through Collaborative-supported information networks	<b>Contribute</b> pre- post-monitoring data following Collaborative protocols	<b>Utilize</b> Collaborative-developed tools when planning and implementing EFB control and EDRR	<b>Share</b> identified knowledge and research gaps	<b>Share</b> novel EFB learning

