

# Report Recommendations

1. At the present time, CPLM analysis should be used as the primary approach for early detection of *Dreissena* spp. larvae. All potential detections should be documented with high quality photomicrographs.
2. Develop a comprehensive CPLM training program and expand current microscopy capacity and expertise.<sup>1</sup>
3. Establish a small group of certified experts who are capable of reliably identifying *Dreissena* spp. larvae from good quality micrographs.
4. Fund research to improve accuracy of IFC as a routine method for detecting and enumerating *Dreissena* spp. larvae, especially when larvae are at very low concentrations. Focus should be on sample concentration and delivery to flow stream protocols.
5. In association with laboratories currently utilizing IFC, routinely conduct CPLM analysis to facilitate cross-comparison between these methods.
6. Conduct technical workshops to discuss the results of this study and a broader review of PCR diagnostic methods. The product of such workshops should be the development of specific research recommendations.<sup>1</sup>
7. Fund research to identify the exact causes of variability in PCR methods. Conduct a methods “cook-off” study involving the most experienced PCR laboratories to evaluate all currently available methods.
8. Establish a laboratory certification standard for all types of detection methods for *Dreissena* spp. larvae.
9. Utilize certified laboratories to confirm findings by non-certified laboratories when they occur.
10. Because all methods have error associated with them, multiple (at least two) independent analyses should be used to confirm the presence of *Dreissena* spp. larvae, especially if it is the first report of dreissenids in a body of water.

---

<sup>1</sup> Projects are currently underway to address these recommendations.