

Thank you for your comment, Mike Ripley.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRISANS50015.

Comment Date: February 7, 2012 09:48:12AM

GLMRISANS

Comment ID: GLMRISANS50015

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment: CORA GLMRIS 2012.pdf

Comment Submitted:



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

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February 6, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
GLMRIS ANS Control Comments
111 North Canal St.
Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60606

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), I am writing to submit comments on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) for the Inventory of Available Controls for Aquatic Nuisance Species of Concern – Chicago Area Waterway System (ANS Control Paper). CORA and its constituent Tribes are very concerned about the potential ecological damage that will occur should Asian Carp become established in the Great Lakes. Due to the urgency of this situation, CORA believes that the Corps should focus on restoring the permanent, natural ecological and physical separation of the watersheds in the Chicago area.

CORA represents five Tribes in Michigan with regard to the Tribes' commercial and subsistence fisheries in the 1836 treaty-ceded waters of Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior. The Tribes which are party to the 1836 Treaty are the Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The ANS Control Paper presents many different control measures, most of which involve chemical, physical or biological means that could be risky to the environment or ultimately prove to be ineffective at preventing the spread of Asian Carp to the Great Lakes. When compared in the matrix included as Appendix B of the ANS Control Paper, it is apparent that the option of hydrologic separation is by far the most effective method to prevent the migration of ANS in either direction especially since the Great Lakes and Mississippi were separated by a natural geographic divide before it was intentionally breached at the beginning of the 20th century.

As stated in the ANS Control Paper, evaluation of the feasibility of the control measures listed is not included in this report but will be completed in the final report. However, the option of hydrologic separation is currently presented in the Great Lakes

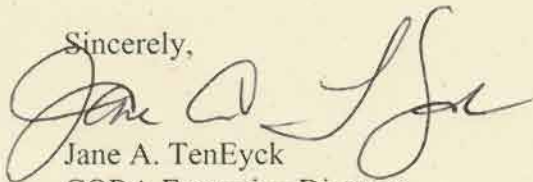
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Commission/Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative study. A report titled "Restoring the Natural Divide: Separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System" released on January 31, 2012, gives detailed analyses of several options to accomplish the hydrologic separation of the basins including economic costs and benefits for each option.

Due to the urgency of preventing Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes through the CAWS and the anticipated lengthy timeline for the GLMRIS study, CORA urges the Army Corps to work with the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to garnish support and ultimately complete an hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mike Ripley at (906) 632-0043 or via email jteneyck@chippewaottawa.org or mripley@sault.com.

Sincerely,



Jane A. TenEyck
CORA Executive Director

Cc: CORA Board