



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Environment

Suzanne Malec-McKenna
Commissioner

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: GLMRIS Scoping
111 North Canal, Suite 600
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To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Chicago is deeply concerned by the spread of Asian carp through the Mississippi River Basin. The *Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study* (GLMRIS) is a key step towards ensuring that the carp do not establish a population in the Great Lakes. To that end, the City offers the following comments:

- We applaud the decision to prioritize the Chicago Area Waterway System as a focus area within the context of GLMRIS.
- The proposed timeline for the study is too long. The threat of Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes has been known for more than a decade. It is not acceptable to wait another 5 years for solutions. We urge the Corps to speed up this timeline to every extent possible.
- Along similar lines, we urge the Corps to collaborate with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Great Lakes Commission as they proceed with their *Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterway System for the 21st Century* study. We also urge the Corps to incorporate, where possible, conclusions and work done in support of the GLSLCI/GLC study, in particular where using that work will allow the Corps to complete GLMRIS in a more timely manner.
- Lastly, we encourage you to consider solutions that provide multiple co-benefits beyond the aquatic invasive species issue, especially for the Chicago region. This is a unique opportunity to positively affect change around long-standing issues related to flooding, stormwater management, ecological degradation, transportation and navigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Malec-McKenna
Commissioner

