

# GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

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First Name(required): RAY Last Name(required): ANTEL

Organization/Tribe (Official Representatives only): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (required): 49617

Public Scoping Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment Number: \_\_\_\_\_



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

January 26, 2011

Mr. Dave Wethington, GLMRIS^ project manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Public Meeting; Hagerty Center,  
715 E. Front St., Traverse City, Michigan 49635

Dear Mr. Wethington:

I thank you for the opportunity of participating in this GLMRIS forum relative to identifying and evaluating ways to prevent the transfer of exotic species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

It's my understanding that this meeting is to obtain public input relative to identifying ideas to prevent the spread of exotic species (e.g. Asian Carp) from entering the Great Lakes and/or the Mississippi River Systems via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that links the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

Historically the ecosystems of the Great Lakes, with there geographically limited watersheds, were protected from the invasion of exotic species by the Niagara Falls. This was breached with the building of the Welland Canal and later the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Now there are two routes for exotic species to enter and exit the Great Lakes. It is suggested that the sea lamprey was introduced into the Great Lakes via the Welland Canal.

Because of the increase in International Ships plying the waters of the Great Lakes, especially from the Eastern Mediterranean and Asian waters, exotic species carried in the ship's ballast tanks are dumped into the Great Lakes. This is a major source of exotic species being introduced into the Great Lakes and potentially the Mississippi River. It would seem to be a relatively simple solution to have the Coast Guard or other agency board each incoming vessel to insure the treatment of that ships ballast tanks with an appropriate substance to kill any exotic species contained therein.

With common-sense and due diligence by the appropriate Federal and State governmental agencies exotic species (e.g. Asian Carp) should not have been permitted into the United States unless, after careful and extensive study relative to the potential harm they may cause ecosystems if they are inadvertently or purposefully released into the wild, they are deemed harmless. These exotic species have been kept from our waters by the barrier oceans and now we, with lack of proactive measures, introduce them into our ecosystems. Let's be proactive and not reactive. This forum today is reactive and had due diligence been exercised before Asian Carp were introduced into the United States this problem would not exist today.

With the current Great Lakes topic of the Asian Carp escaping pond(s) in the South and entering into tributaries of the Mississippi River Basin and ultimately the threshold of the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal my suggestion is to immediately and permanently physically block the entrance and egress from the Great Lakes (Lake Michigan) by dam or other means but allow the current water flow into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The ship/barge freight from the Lake Michigan ships/barges would have to be transferred to ships/barges on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Side of the physical barrier unless other modes of transport such as truck or train were utilized.

It is also my suggestion that the exotic species (e.g. Asian Carp) must be kept out of the Great Lakes to prevent the disruption of the current Great Lakes ecosystem which supports a financially successful and necessary sport-fishing industry for all of the Great Lakes States and Canada. In addition, if the Asian Carp were to enter the Great Lakes, ultimately they would also gain access to all of the Great Lakes tributaries including those of the St. Lawrence River out too the Atlantic Ocean tidal basin, the potential financial harm is enormous. In addition, since the Asian Carp are already in the Mississippi River Watershed these fish, potentially, could be found in the Mississippi River Tributary System from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Appalachian Mountains in the East, save for dams blocking there passage.

If these fish have merit as animal food and/or for human consumption then I would suggest that Federal and/or State seed monies be provided to develop a fishing industry that would in turn develop a United States or International market which would also control or eradicate these fish in there existing habitats.

If anyone in the world had a desire to wreck mischief on the United States they certainly would have access through our porous water borders.

Thank You,



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^Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)