

# GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

## GLMRIS NEPA Scoping Document Submittal Form

Complete this form, and attach it to your document. Turn this form in with your document when you go to speak or at the welcome desk.

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Please note, all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

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First Name(required): JOHN Last Name(required): MCNABB

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

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

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

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

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

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



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to such an influential audience on a subject that is very dear to my heart. I am not a specialist by any means, but, because of a background as an industrial gas specialist, I have worked with virtually every fish hatchery in the state, private, State Run and Federal Hatcheries. Also, because of a deep and abiding love for our Great Lakes and a sincere belief that they are one of the greatest natural resource of the United States I thank you for hearing my viewpoint.

**The world needs fresh water and we have it.**

On a hot August 9<sup>th</sup> 1957, Ralph & Clarice McNabb gathered their 5 children for a picnic on West End Beach of the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. As I heard my Brothers & Sisters laughing splashing and playing, I let my mother know that it was time & she strolled across the street to what is now the Traverse City Elks Lodge (it was an Osteopathic Hospital in those days) & I was born. Over the years, all of my brothers & sisters became life guards and swimming instructors on the beaches of Traverse City. The shores of the bays and Lake Michigan were my childhood paradise.

In the -1960's at the age of 6 or 7, I knew what "Invasive Species" were and can still remember the smell of the Alewife Die-Offs along the beaches and the devastation of our forests from Dutch Elm disease. By 1965 our family home was on the hill across from what is now Meijer's and Kids Creek was my playground. I remember the lake-run salmon and steelhead and brown trout that virtually destroyed that stream for the Brook trout we used to catch in the "Kids Creek Derby" every year.

In 1971 my family moved to Cleveland Ohio not long after the last time the Cuyahoga River had caught on fire and burned and I learned what pollution was all about while shooting rats as they ran across the surface of the waters at a friends family cottage on Lake Erie. Time and luck and 6 years in the military have allowed me to live all over the country and travel the world. I've lived in Hawaii, Florida, Alabama, New York, Texas and Ohio. But more importantly, I've lived in Traverse City for 16 years, the Sleeping Bear Wilderness for 8 years and Charlevoix Michigan for the last 10 years. I am a fisherman, scuba diver, recreational boater, and am a Petoskey Stone fanatic. Few people spend more time on, in or around Lake Michigan than I have the privilege to do.

In the last 15 years I've witnessed the Zebra and Quagga mussel invasions, noted the disappearance of the Diporeia and invasion of the Gobies and became painfully aware of the dramatic changes in our fisheries. Along our shorelines I've noted clouds of green sludge along the beaches from Pyramid point to Christmas Cove, Suttons Bay, Fishermans Island, Charlevoix, Petoskey, and Harbor Springs. The rocks are coated with a sludge that won't even scrape off and Phragmites grasses are beginning to clog our shores as Emerald Ash Borers again devastate our forests. Evolutionary changes are happening at Jet speed instead of in geologic time frames. Studies I have read put the annual cost of invasive species in the U.S. at \$140 Billion Dollars.

Now you tell us that a voracious and seemingly unstoppable species that averages 3-10 pounds but can reach 50 lbs might be here or on its' way. You tell us they will destroy our fisheries and because of their nasty habit of leaping in the air at approaching boats, they could destroy recreational boating as we know it.

I commend you for your study, but the point should be simple...No further studies should be needed. We must be proactive instead of re-active. For once, in my life-time, please, please, stop an invasive species before it gets here. Winston Churchill said it best; "You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing...After they have exhausted all other possibilities". Don't bail out one more single bank before you bail out and protect what I believe will prove to be one of our nations greatest long term natural

resources. What we have is incredibly precious. To watch it destroyed is not just wrong, it is a crime against future generations and is unforgiveable.

Remember: The world needs fresh water and we have it.

My name is John McNabb  
And I am a 99'er