



WISCONSIN LAKES

Conserve ~ Enhance ~ Restore

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March 28, 2011

GLMRIS Scoping
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal Street, Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60606

RE: Comments on GLMRIS Scoping Effort

On behalf of the Wisconsin Lakes, please consider the following comments regarding the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) scoping effort.

The Wisconsin Lakes is a 501(C)3 organization representing individuals, lake associations, and lake districts across Wisconsin with the mission to conserve, enhance, and restore Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes. Our organization is a partner in the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership and together we have been combating aquatic invasive species (AIS) in an effort to maintain sound ecological conditions within Wisconsin's inland lakes for the enjoyment of our citizens.

The introduction of other AIS such as the Asian Carp will significantly put our lake resources at risk, while "an ounce of prevention" at this time could significantly reduce the risk of this AIS species from entering Wisconsin lakes and waterways.

The nexus of our comments today is to urge the federal government, through the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to act swiftly and decisively to prevent the spread of Asian Carp and other AIS found in the Mississippi River from entering Lake Michigan and Wisconsin's inland lakes, and conversely, to prevent the spread of AIS from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River.

The most-effective approach to prevent the interchange of AIS between these two systems is impose complete hydrological separation, not only at the Chicago Area Waterway system, but at the numerous other points of potential interchange as identified in the November 9, 2010 Report "*Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Other Pathways Preliminary Risk Characterization*".

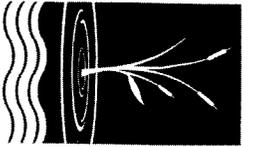
Wisconsin Lakes urges that immediate hydrological separation of these systems be instituted. We cannot afford to delay any longer, and we strongly recommend immediate, definitive preventive measures to arrest further spread of these invasives.

Thank You for this opportunity to comment on the GLMRIS scoping effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl L. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Earl L. Cook
Board President
Wisconsin Lakes



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