

Thank you for your comment, Jay Siegel.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50042.

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GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50042

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Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Asian carp is an invasive fish species that will devastate the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes unless it's migration into those bodies of water is stopped immediately.

These fish are voracious filter feeders. The bighead carp can consume 40% of its body weight each day, while the silver carp's tendency to jump out of the water when startled makes them a hazard to boaters.

Their entry into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River would cause irreversible harm by consuming large quantities of algae and zooplankton, thus muscling out native fish populations. The estimated impact to the recreational and commercial Great Lakes fisheries would reach over \$4.5 billion.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are collecting public comments through March 31st on their Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin Interbasin Feasibility Study (GLMRIS). Despite its bureaucratic name, this study is critical because its focus will determine if we implement permanent solutions to stop the Asian carp!

The situation is urgent, and cannot await the plodding bureaucracy of the proposed Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin Interbasin Feasibility Study (GLMRIS). There are two major problems with the study:

1 - The Corps was mandated to study ways to "prevent" invasive species movement between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Deplorably, the Corps has decided to spend precious time and resources also to study ways to "reduce the risk," not just prevent it. This was not authorized by Congress nor is it a credible strategy that will protect our Great Lakes. Only options that will "prevent" invasive species movement and stop the Asian carp should be studied.

2 - The Corps study will take too long. The Chicago portion of the study is not predicted to be complete until mid-2015, or nearly five years from now. The Corps must acknowledge the urgency of finding a permanent solution, condense the timeline and produce final results for the Chicago portion of GLMRIS within 18 months rather than mid-2015.