

Thank you for your comment, Heather Voris.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50620.

Comment Date: March 31, 2011 23:00:45PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50620

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Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Rather than focusing on the numerous issues I would prefer to focus on the potential solutions to these issues. In my opinion the nonprofit sector has the capacity to intervene in this situation in a manner that has greater flexibility than the public sector, while also providing much needed services to the community.

A potential nonprofit could be developed in order to focus the energies of concerned stakeholders (i.e., sportsmen, commercial fishermen, recreationalists, public officials) to begin to reduce the populations of these fish. The region of the Great Lakes has suffered through the economic recession with increased unemployment and an increased demand for food. My suggestion would be that this potential nonprofit could develop programs to catch these fish and provide a distributable product (whether frozen filets, canned or processed products) to local agencies providing food to those in the region. (These products could even be processed through companies already engaging in these markets.) Targeted distribution to hunger-based organizations would also mitigate the concerns regarding creating a demand for this product within a commercial realm.

In addition to providing food to those in need, the by-products of the processing have the potential to produce fertilizers, stock (bouillon), and bio-gas. The nonprofit can also utilize the expertise of current sportsmen to test and develop methods for capturing these fish. This nonprofit would also be committed to educating the public (youth and adult) of the dangers of invasive species while also giving them an outlet to participate in minimizing the numbers of the carp.

The nonprofit sector has the ability to bridge the desire of the public to act with more flexibility than the public sector; it can also operate at a lower cost than a governmental-led endeavor. My thought is that this potential nonprofit would not exist in the long-term (over five years) but would provide the means in which concerned citizens could positively contribute to this issue in the short term while long-term goals, strategies and tactics are realized and implemented.

We can all play a part in this solution; we just need the venue(s) in which to operate. In my opinion a nonprofit could fill this need while providing services, products and knowledge to our region.