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Contact: Sarah Gross 312-846-5334
Sarah.d.gross@usace.army.mil

Corps of Engineers releases report on non-cargo lock traffic as an interim product of GLMRIS

CHICAGO – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, today, released the Baseline Assessment of Non-Cargo Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS) Traffic, an interim product of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS). The report is available on the GLMRIS Web site at www.glmris.anl.gov.

This document serves as a baseline assessment of lock traffic by commercial passenger, recreation, and governmental vessels that includes an appraisal of historical traffic through the locks and a description of the lock operations. The assessment only includes non-cargo-related traffic, because cargo-related traffic will be identified through a separate report. This effort serves as a basis from which to compare potential impacts to waterway uses in the consideration of alternative aquatic nuisance species (ANS) controls.

Additional information and analysis will be included in a subsequent report entitled “Economic Evaluation of Non-Cargo CAWS Traffic,” which is expected for release in winter 2012.

The Baseline Assessment of Non-Cargo CAWS Traffic is the third GLMRIS interim product released this year by the Corps. In July, the Corps released the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) White Paper, which catalogues potential non-native species within the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins and identifies high-risk species. The second product, the NEPA Scoping Summary Report, released by the Corps earlier this month, documents the methods and procedures followed during NEPA Scoping process, as well as summarizes the public comments received.

During the GLMRIS process, the team will continue to compile and produce intermediate products, as appropriate. As with most complex studies, it is expected that many of the reports will be generated from the data-gathering phase. The Corps will ensure all interim products be made available to the public as they are completed.

The Baseline Assessment of Non-Cargo CAWS Traffic Report is available in PDF format at: http://glmris.anl.gov/documents/docs/GLMRIS_Baseline_NonCargo.pdf

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Chicago District 111 N. Canal, Ste. 600 Chicago, IL. 60606

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