

GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

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First Name(required): Paul Last Name(required): Schumacher

Organization/Tribe (Official Representatives only): Clerk Lake Advancement Association

Street Address: 5530 Butte Rd.

City: Sturgeon Bay State: WI Zip Code (required): 54235

Public Scoping Meeting Location: Green Bay, WI

Date of Comment: 1-25-11

Comment Number: 1



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**

COMMENTS AT JANUARY 25 NEPA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY

- THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY, WHICH IS EVALUATING CONTROLS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES BETWEEN THE GREAT LAKES AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- I AM PAUL SCHUMACHER, A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND SCIENTIST REPRESENTING THE CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AS THEIR PRESIDENT.
- CLARK LAKE IS A 900 ACRE LAKE IN DOOR COUNTY WISCONSIN WHICH IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO LAKE MICHIGAN THROUGH THE WHITEFISH BAY CREEK.
- WE HAVE BEEN AT THE MERCY OF A VARIETY OF INVASIVE SPECIES FROM LAKE MICHIGAN, INCLUDING ZEBRA MUSSELS AND PHRAGMITES, AND RECENTLY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A "VHS SUSPECT" LAKE DUE TO THE MIGRATION OF A TROUT FROM LAKE MICHIGAN INTO OUR LAKE. WE ALSO HAVE ROUND HEAD GOBIES FOUND IN WHITEFISH BAY CREEK LITERALLY "KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR" TO GET INTO THE LAKE.
- MY COMMENTS ARE ON BEHALF OF CLARK LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED, INCLUDING LOGAN CREEK, A CLASS ONE TROUT STREAM, AND DNR OUTSTANDING WATER RESOURCE, AND LOST LAKE, A CONNECTED WILD AND SCENIC 100 ACRE LAKE.
- THE THRUST OF MY COMMENTS TODAY IS TO URGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TO ACT SWIFTLY AND DECISIVELY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ASIAN CARP AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FOUND IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FROM ENTERING LAKE MICHIGAN, AND CONVERSELY, TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES FROM LAKE MICHIGAN INTO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- THE ASIAN CARP SPECIES, INCLUDING THE SILVER AND BIG-HEAD CARP, ARE MOVING TOWARDS AND INTO LAKE MICHIGAN AS WE SPEAK. EVIDENCE MOUNTS THROUGH CAPTURE OF FISH AND THROUGH PRESENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DNA THAT A LIMITED NUMBER OF FISH HAVE MOVED PAST THE ELECTRIC DISPERSAL BARRIERS ON THE DES PLAINES RIVER AND INTO POSSIBLE "STAGING" AREAS SUCH AS LAKE CALUMET FOR EVENTUAL MOVEMENT INTO LAKE MICHIGAN.

ONCE IN THE LAKE, THEIR MOVEMENT TOWARDS DOOR COUNTY IS INEVITABLE, AND IN SHORT TIME, THEY WILL MOVE INTO CLARK LAKE AND OTHER DIRECTLY CONNECTED LAKES AND STREAMS. ONCE IN THESE WATER BODIES, THESE FISH WILL DAMAGE THE ECOSYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY PLANT LIFE WHICH NATIVE FISH SPECIES DEPEND ON.

- WE REQUEST A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE ACTIONS OF THE CORP AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THIS REAL THREAT.

- I HAVE REVIEWED THE STUDY, AND FIND IT VERY THOROUGH, BUT WITH A TARGETED COMPLETION DATE WHICH WILL NOT PROVIDE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THIS NEW INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ESTABLISHING ITSELF IN LAKE MICHIGAN.
- BASED ON REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM AND THE GLMRIS STUDY, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:
 - FIRST AND FOREMOST, FOCUS ACTIONS ON THE DIRECT PATHWAY TO LAKE MICHIGAN AFFORDED BY THE DES PLAINES RIVER BY TAKING IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY ACTION TO ACHIEVE ECOLOGICAL SEPERATION OF THE TWO SYSTEMS TO PREVENT THE CARP FROM ENTERING LAKE MICHGAN THROUGH CLOSURE OF APPROPRIATE LOCKS AND OTHER FLOW CONTROL DEVICES.
 - CONTINUE THE STUDY AS PRESENTLY SCOPED AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AS APPROPRIATE. AT THAT TIME, REVIEW THE NEED FOR CONTINUED LOCK CLOSURE.
 - CONTINUE TO REVIEW AQUATIC PATHWAYS FOR FOCUS AREA 2 AND ISOLATE THESE PATHWAYS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- TO DEPART FROM THESE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND TO CONTINUE THE STUDY WITHOUT TAKING IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL SURELY ENABLE ASIAN CARP MOVMENT INTO LAKE MICIGAN AND CONVERSELY, MOVEMENT OF INVASIVES FROM LAKE MICHIGAN INTO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
- THANKS AGAIN FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.