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Comment Date: January 8, 2011 20:40:29PM

GLMRIS

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Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Organization:

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The Great Lakes have enough problems. Asian Carp will only amplify these problems exponentially. The impact that the migration of these species will have on the ecology and economy will be devastating. As a life long recreational user of these waters and rivers, I have seen first hand the effects of invasive species (Gobies and Lamprey to name a few). In just a few short years, I've seen the Goby population explode and more and more sought after fish have huge wounds from the Lampreys. As a result, the quality of fishing has dramatically decreased. Fish are dying from Lamprey wounds and consumption of native fish eggs from invasive species has reduced total populations dramatically. In addition, indigenous species now have to fight harder than ever to find dwindling food supplies being taken up by invasive species. While Asian Carp do not consume fish, they do consume the algae which the bait fish feed on. It's a downward spiral we need to stop.

While fishing is great sport, it is not why I am writing. Fishing has allotted me the opportunity to witness the changes going on. Commercial and recreational fishing are in jeopardy, boating is in jeopardy, economic impacts including the purchase of equipment to use these water sources is in jeopardy, along with countless other endeavors which rely on the health of these waters. Millions if not Billions over the years are at stake if you want to look at it through a purely economic impact. If we already have issues, and have we have the means to stop another one which is potentially thousands of times worse, I'm not sure why we are dragging our feet or why there even needs to be a drawn out study? Intervention and prevention must happen asap. Rather than just be a person who writes to speak my mind, I am also willing to help in any way I can. And I'm sure I'm not alone. Thank you.