

Thank you for your comment, Tom Alvey.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50252.

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GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50252

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Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Sirs,

I am concerned that the Asian Carp and other exotic species will get into the Great Lakes. I am also concerned that invasive species from the Great Lakes may start moving into the Mississippi River Water Basin through the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal, Eagle Marsh and other flood plains that may afford temporary access from one water shed to another.

I believe that closing the locks and putting electric barriers in the canal is not enough of a deterrent to stop the movement of these carp species. I believe that individual fish with small surface area will not be as affected by the electric barrier as adult fish. I also think that once the fish is in the electrified field the electric current will actually encourage them to swim through it faster, especially if the Coast Guard keeps changing the current or voltage levels.

It is my belief that the CSSC, Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal, should be filled in so as to eliminate any possible movement of aquatic species into or out of the GLWB, Great Lakes Water Basin.

In the meantime, Pleasure Boats, Ships and Barges should not be allowed to cross any electric barrier, so the current can be maintained at an optimum level to stop any fish movement. Boats can be lifted out of the water, cleaned of aquatic hitch hikers and placed on the other side of the electrified barrier. Ships and Barges traffic must not be allowed between the Mississippi and Great Lakes Basins in either direction. Cargo should be containerized which will allow easier transfer to water basin specific ships and barges or to railroad cars.

Failing the best and most reasonable solution and IF you believe the electrified barriers do work, there should be no fish in the gaps between the three established barriers. Since you DO find carp in the gaps, the electrified barriers are not working and at best are only slowing down the spread of the fish. However, you may be able to use the gaps as kill zones in which the fish could be netted, or trapped.

I also suggest creation of netting ponds off of the canal, in the kill zones. These ponds should be built anywhere industry or electric plants use clean water for cooling. The fish will be attracted to the warmer pond water and because of its design, they will be easier to net out. The captured fish could be sold as animal feed, or to rendering plants. This would allow the city of Chicago to recapture the construction cost and hopefully slow the lakeward movement of the carp. In addition they can be built along the Mississippi River, Wisconsin River, the Des Plaines River and other creeks and streams to help stop the movement of the fish and reduce their population.

Again, it is my belief that any accessible area must be permanently closed so that water and aquatic species can not move across water basins -- and it must be done quickly.

Thank you,

Tom Alvey

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