

Thank you for your comment, Patrick Kochanny.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50293.

Comment Date: March 17, 2011 16:19:37PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50293

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing today representing the National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited. The Great Lakes are a body of water that is a true treasure and we the citizens of this country need to take every precaution and protection measure possible to ensure that they remain the treasure that they are. Number one on that protection measure is to ensure that foreign invaders like Asian Carp, and other non-native species stay out of their waters.

The current pace that we are taking to examine the effects that introduction of Asian Carp could have on the Great Lakes is unacceptable. The timetable must be stepped up. The completion date of 2015 is not feasible. We need to take action to prevent any foreign invaders before it is too late. Hydrologic separation needs to occur now while we are examining feasible options. The electrical barriers must be strengthened including construction of physical barriers at all potential breach sites for Great Lakes access. We must have continued suppression of Asian Carp populations below the barriers. Continued surveillance, physical & eDNA, above the barriers. Comprehensive bait sales monitoring of all registered bait retailers in the Great Lakes region. We need Assurance that availability of operational funding for this study will be continued in light of congressional budget cutting.

Please consider the critical economic importance of the Great Lakes specific to the recreational fishing industry. In Michigan alone, over 4 million dollars is spent by anglers pursuing salmon, trout, walleye, northern pike and numerous freshwater species each year. Asian Carp, if allowed into the Great Lakes would destroy the economy of all the great lake states. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kochanny

Trout Unlimited, National Leadership Council, Michigan