

Thank you for your comment, michael toombs.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50407.

Comment Date: March 25, 2011 14:45:54PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50407

First Name: michael

Middle Initial:

Last Name: toombs

Organization: mcgregor bay association

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Attachment: talking points condensed.doc

Comment Submitted:

sir/madam,

please stop the Asian carp from ever getting into the great lakes and establishing breeding populations there. they would destroy the native fish populations in a generation and with global warming even sooner.

michael and jackie toombs

cincinnati

Dear Sir,

Even though there are public and commercial interests involved in closing the Chicago Locks to keep the Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes watershed, the Great Lakes belong to all of us, Canadians and Americans alike not just the lucky few who live and work in Chicagoland.

These fish have already devastated the Mississippi River watershed and decimated 80% of its native fish stocks. If they get into the Great Lakes, McGregor Bay and all of the Great Lakes will be turned into "giant carp pools" in a generation. While they eat only plankton and other small organisms at the bottom of the food chain, one of their kind has no stomach and must eat constantly to survive. And some are getting in! There is a sustaining population of them--recently discovered (using the newest eDNA data from Notre Dame) in the "Eagle Marsh" area of northern Indiana near Chicago which fortunately is being temporarily confined.

My wife and I urge you to do everything that it takes to temporarily stop whatever carp are getting through the Chicago River waterways now, and only then to work out the details for permanently separating the watersheds so they can never get in and to communicate a sense of urgency about getting the entire job done as soon as humanly possible. Everybody involved realizes that this is a very serious situation. The city of Chicago has even started sending its top administrator in charge of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to the most recent series of Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study meetings. We suggest that America use some of the Recovery Act Monies to help pay for the work that must be done now and until hydrologic separation is achieved.

These fish have been devastating the Mississippi River watershed for 30 years and if they are allowed to establish breeding populations in the Great Lakes watershed, they will do the same there. As to whether they can arise in the Great Lakes because of the cold? These Asian carp arise in China at the same temperate latitudes as the Great Lakes and with global warming ever pushing our "temperate" zones further north, they will flourish there. When we are gone and our children's children's children see what we did not do to stop them, may we hope for their forgiveness.

Michael and Jackie Toombs/Cincinnati