

Thank you for your comment, Tom Quail.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50431.

Comment Date: March 26, 2011 14:07:29PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50431

First Name: Tom

Middle Initial:

Last Name: Quail

Organization: Michigan Trout Unlimited

Address:

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: Lake Orion

State: MI

Zip: 48360

Country: USA

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

Attachment: Major General John Peabody 3-20-11.docx

Comment Submitted:

Major General John Peabody,

The Great Lakes Watershed and the Mississippi River Watershed basins are two very diverse ecosystems. Both watersheds are under significant stress from current aquatic invasive species (AIS) and threatened by many new, known and unknown, AIS. One of these known AIS threatening the Great Lakes is Asian carp.

It is widely accepted that hydrologic separation is the only viable long-term solution to keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. This includes not only permanently closing the Chicago Area Waterway System but all other gateways threatening the Great Lakes.

Currently, the GLMRIS is scheduled for completion in 2015, or later. This is much too long. This timeline must be shortened significantly. Utilizing the study data from the Great Lakes Commission's (GLC), *Chicago Waterway Study*, when completed, is one way to shorten the timeline for the GLMRIS recommendations. Another way to speed this process is to eliminate time consuming redundancy and unnecessary investigations.

I suggest the following short term and on going remediation actions:

- Strengthening the electrical barriers.
- Constructing physical barriers at all potential breach sites for Great Lakes access.
- Continued suppression of Asian carp populations below the barriers.
- Continued surveillance, physical & eDNA, above the barriers.
- Comprehensive bait sales monitoring.
- Encourage other Great Lake states to develop a control plan similar to Michigan's.
- Assurance that availability of operational funding for this study will continue in light of congressional budget cutting.

Finally, answers to the following questions need to be provided:

- When and where will additional meetings and updates be held as to the study's progress?
- How will the economic factors like the economic value of recreational fishing on the Great Lakes and its connecting waters be factored into the study?
- What are the expected outcomes and next steps of the study going to be so the study leads to corrective action?

I urge you to significantly speed up the completion of this study and the announcement of recommendations. The lives of two irreplaceable watersheds are depending on our actions as resource stewards.

Respectfully,
Tom Quail
Conservation Chair
Michigan Trout Unlimited
President
Vanguard Chapter Trout Unlimited
Staff
Clinton River Watershed Council