

Thank you for your comment, Michael Snider.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50577.

Comment Date: March 30, 2011 23:45:58PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50577

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Attachment: Comment.doc

Comment Submitted:

March 31, 2011

Mr. David Wethington□
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers□
111 North Canal Street, 6th Floor□
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Scope of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)

Dear Mr. Wethington,

If the Corp does not immediately address the potential invasion of Asian Carp from the Mississippi River via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, it may be too late to **prevent** the introduction of ANS including Asian Carp to the Great Lakes as mandated by congress.¹ The academic and experimental focus of the current plan, including the goal of “risk reduction,” is not acceptable, and is contrary to what congress ordered. Any time and resources spent on long-term risk reduction would be wasted if even a few Asian Carp were able to get through the Canal and reproduce. This imminent threat to our Great Lakes must be treated as an emergency and not a science experiment.

Hydrologic separation is the only immediate, foolproof solution, and should be implemented. As you are aware, the current electric barrier in the Canal is not a sufficient deterrent to all sizes of Asian Carp. As reported by the Corp itself, the current electric barrier in the Canal is too weak to repel juvenile Asian carp.² The voltage cannot be increased to its full capacity because of the threat posed to barge operators transporting flammable materials.³

Moreover, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that juvenile fish are likely living as close as 25 miles downriver.⁴ To solidify the threat, Asian Carp DNA has been detected upstream from the barrier for over a year, and fishermen reeled in an actual Asian Carp past the barrier, only a few miles from the waters of Lake Michigan.⁵ As a result, a protracted field study that is expected take up to four or five years to complete could be obsolete long before the GLMRIS deadline, and before the Great Lakes fishing industry is eliminated.

We urge the United States Army Corp of Engineers to implement the only practical solution, hydrologic separation. Midwest Environmental Advocates shares the concerns expressed by the other organizations, and has signed on to the comments of Great Lakes United, NRDC, NWF, and Prairie Rivers Network.

¹ Water Resources Developing Act of 2007, H.R. 1495, 110th Cong. §3061(d) (2007).

² Dan Egan, Corps acknowledges fish barrier won't repel all Asian Carp, Milw. Journal Sentinel, March 26, 2011 accessed online at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/118657619.html>.

³ Egan.

⁴ Egan.

⁵ Egan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for acting expeditiously in hopes of preventing a catastrophe.

Sincerely,

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