

Thank you for your comment, Paul Schumacher.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50579.

Comment Date: March 31, 2011 06:58:49AM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50579

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

Attachment: GLMRISCouncilcommentsMarch 28.docx

Comment Submitted:

Please see attached.

March 31, 2011

GLMRIS Scoping  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
111 N. Canal Street. Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois. 60606

RE: Comments on GLMRIS Scoping Effort

Colonel Quarles:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council (Council), please consider the following comments regarding the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) scoping effort. Our Council is charged with providing recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on invasive species (IS) classification and allocation of funds for invasive species control, and conducting studies of issues related to controlling invasive species.

Wisconsin, like many other Midwest states, is challenged with preventing the introduction of new IS and with controlling and eradicating existing IS to minimize the financial and ecological impacts of IS on Wisconsin's lakes, forests and fields. The introduction of new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) such as the Asian Carp will significantly put our aquatic resources at risk, while quick actions at this time could significantly reduce the risk of this AIS from entering Wisconsin lakes and waterways. In addition, fishing tournaments held across Wisconsin would be negatively impacted by the introduction of more AIS. Fishing tournaments are a key component in our tourism and state's economy.

The central focus of our comments today is to urge the federal government, through the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to act swiftly and decisively to prevent the spread of Asian Carp and other AIS from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan and Wisconsin's inland waters, and to prevent the spread of AIS from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River.

Given that Asian Carp are approaching Lake Michigan, a heightened sense of urgency is appropriate in our actions. Hydrologic separation of these two systems at the Chicago Area Waterway system and at the eight identified points of potential interchange (November 9, 2010 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Other Pathways Preliminary Risk Characterization Final Report) should prevent the interchange of Asian Carp and other AIS between these aquatic systems.

We are confident that the results of the GLMRIS study will also come to this conclusion, but at a date at least 5 years in the future, after Asian Carp and other AIS have spread across the two systems. Actions taken today to prevent the spread of AIS across these systems could be modified in the future in response to the outcomes of the study.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the GLMRIS scoping effort.

Sincerely,

Paul Schumacher  
Chair  
Wisconsin Invasive Species Council  
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