

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of October 8, 2012 is included below. All data presented in this summary are preliminary and subject to revision.

Bottom Line: Monitoring occurred in the Chicago Area Waterway System and upper Illinois Waterway upstream and downstream of the dispersal barrier. NO BIGHEAD OR SILVER CARP were reported captured or observed upstream of the electric barrier, nor were any found in new locations downstream of the barrier. Four large bighead carp were removed from isolated urban fishing ponds that were located away from and with no connection to the CAWS or Lake Michigan.

Fish Behavior Study at the Barrier

With assistance from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, crews from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office recorded behavior data for gizzard shad, common carp and freshwater drum held in cages alongside a steel hulled barge passing through the barrier. A total of 33 caged and loose-fish trial runs were made through the barrier.

Asian Carp Monitoring in Small Ponds

Crews from Illinois Department of Natural Resources electrofished and netted in Chicago area urban fishing ponds to sample for any bighead carp that may have been unintentionally stocked as contaminants in shipments of channel catfish made during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Sampling occurred in Jackson Park, Riis Park, Humboldt Park, and Washington Park lagoons and in Tampier Lake, Joe's Pond, and Horsetail Pond. Crews removed three large bighead carp from Humboldt Park Lagoon and one large bighead carp from Joe's Pond. All of the captured carp were over 45 pounds. No bighead carp were captured or seen in the other ponds sampled this week, nor were any silver carp observed in any sampled ponds. The Humboldt Park bigheads were transported live to Shedd Aquarium for use in their invasive species display. Additional sampling will occur in Chicago Park District and Cook County Forest Preserve District ponds later this fall.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A crew from USACE downloaded VR2W receivers and mobile tracked fish in Lockport, Brandon Road and Dresden Island pools. Preliminary analysis shows no tagged Asian carp north of Harborside Marina in Dresden Island Pool (RM 273.5) and no fish crossing the barrier in either direction.

Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts

A crew from SIUC completed down- and side-looking hydroacoustics surveys within the main channel and associated backwaters in the Peoria Pool of the Illinois River, and began surveys in the LaGrange Pool. Survey data will be used to quantify abundance, size distribution and biomass of Asian carp and other fishes in the river.

Gear Evaluation Study

Crews from Illinois Natural History Survey and IDNR successfully redeployed two large pound nets at the entrance to Lake Calumet. The nets will be checked, emptied and reset weekly through October.