

April Summary

Bottom Line: Monitoring occurred in the CAWS and upper Illinois Waterway upstream and downstream of the Dispersal Barrier. NO BIGHEAD OR SILVER CARP were reported captured or observed upstream of the Barrier, nor were any found in new locations downstream of the Barrier.

Due to record April flooding in the CAWS and Illinois Waterway much of the scheduled Asian carp sampling was postponed, delayed, and/or modified. The Des Plaines-CAWS fence was not over topped and the electric barrier array maintained operational status throughout flooding. Sampling has resumed as water levels receded. There were no new detections of Asian carp in the CAWS above the Dispersal Barrier or immediately below.

Fixed and Random Site Sampling Upstream of the Dispersal Barrier

Site 1: Lake Calumet

Site 2: Little Calumet River

Site 3: Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Western Ave. and South Branch Chicago River

Site 4: North Branch Chicago River and North Shore Channel

Site 5: North Shore Channel

Area 1: Lake Calumet Connecting Channel and Calumet River above O'Brien Lock

Area 2: Calumet-Sag Channel

Area 3: Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Western Ave. to Dispersal Barrier

Area 4: North Shore Channel, North Branch Chicago River and Chicago River

Two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 6.1 miles of net (54 sets) at the five fixed sites and 4.2 miles of net (37 sets) at random sites upstream of the Barrier. No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen above the Barrier.

Fixed and Random Site Sampling Downstream of the Dispersal Barrier

Site A: Lockport Pool – Lockport Lock and Dam to Electric Barrier

Site B: Brandon Road Pool – Brandon Road Lock and Dam to Lockport Lock and Dam

Site C: Dresden Island Pool – I-55 Bridge to Brandon Road Lock and Dam

Site D: Marseilles Pool – Rt. 47 Bridge (Morris) to Dresden Lock and Dam

Crews from IDNR and USACE completed 28 15-minute electrofishing runs at fixed locations (7 hours total) and 28 15-minute runs at randomly selected locations (7 hours total) in the Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles pools downstream of the Barrier. No Bighead Carp were reported captured or seen. Four Silver Carp were captured in the Marseilles pool.

In addition two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 1.8 miles of net (16 sets) at the four fixed sites and 1.8 miles of net (16 sets) at random sites within the four pools downstream of the Barrier. No Bighead or Silver Carp were captured at Sites A, B, and C, nor were any captured at new locations at Site D.

Rock Run Rookery Preserve Lake

Contracted commercial fishing crews were allowed to fish the Rock Run Rookery Preserve Lake in Will County by the Will County Forest Preserve. The 84 acre lake is

located on the west side of the Illinois River and just North of Interstate 55. The lake is connected to the river with a shallow ditch. Below is a quick summary of activities in the Preserve Lake in April and update totals since sampling was initiated in the lake.

QUICK SUMMARY	April Sampling	Grand Total to Date
Number of Days Fished	1	6
Number of Net Crews	13	52
Yards of Net Fished	3700	21450
Miles of Net Fished	2.1	12.3
Bighead Carp	114	418
Silver Carp	6	54
Grass Carp	0	3
Total Asian Carp	120	475
Tons of AC	1.3	5.5
CPUE: AC/1000 yards of net	30.83333333	45.15789474

The Preserve Lake was only sampled once during April due to flooding conditions within the pool. IDNR will continue to monitor the lake throughout the summer. Similar areas (mildly isolated lakes of Dresden Island Pool) will be identified and investigated during 2013.

Barrier Defense

2013 Barrier Defense commercial fishing resumed the Week of March 11. Seventeen barrier defense weeks have been schedule for 2013. Below is a quick summary of the activities for 2013.

QUICK SUMMARY:		
Number of Days Fished	12	days
Number of Net Crews	56	crew-days
Miles of Nets Fished	56.6	Miles
Number of Bighead Carp	1868	Fish
Number of Silver Carp	8851	Fish
Number of Grass Carp	60	Fish
Number of Asian Carp (AC)	10779	Fish
Tons of AC Harvested	57.6	Tons
CPUE: Number of Asian Carp/ 1,000 yards net	108	Fish

Fish Behavior Study at the Barrier

In April USFWS crew from Carterville office performed one complete scan of the barrier system before a temporary shutdown during backup generator testing and three complete scans of the barrier system after the temporary shutdown, A scan of Lockport Pool from the Lock to the arched pipeline above the barrier system was also performed.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

Telemetry mobile tracking was completed in the Dresden Island Pool on 23 April (post-flood) to track response of recently tagged Asian carp from Rock Run Rookery (20 Bighead, 3 Silver, 2 Hybrid all tagged on 12 April). Only 7/25 AC were tracked within the pool and all below the release points. The majority of detections occurred near the mouth of the Kankakee. The remaining fish may have moved into the Grant Creek Cutoff, further up the Kankakee River or downstream into the Marseilles Pool.

A supplemental mobile track was attempted via kayak up the DuPage River and 3 tagged Bighead carp were detected at the mouth as it connects with the Des Plaines just south of Big Basin Marina in the Dresden Island pool. This area is usually too shallow for our motor boat and this is the first time we have identified this location as a holding point for our tagged fish.

Flood Response monitoring was also completed along the Des Plaines bypass fence on 20-22 April in cooperation with USFWS (Lacrosse; Nick Bloomfield). Common carp were collected via trammel net overnight sets near two areas of overflow. Backpack electrofishing revealed the presence of several minnow species including bluntnose minnow, emerald shiner and sand shiner.

No Bighead or Silver carp were captured or observed during April monitoring activities upstream of previously known invasion front.

Gear Comparison and Larval fish and Productivity Sampling

INHS staff was able to complete gear comparison work on the two CAWS sites (Western and Obrien) the week of April 29-May 3. INHS staff was unable to sample additional sites in April due to high water and boat ramp closures. Larval fish and productivity sampling was completed in the same week. Few sites were accessible due to ramp closures. Larval fish were collected in the Dresden Pool, Brandon Road Pool, and The CAWS. Samples are being processed.

Upper Des Plaines River Sampling

With assistance the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the La Crosse FWCO completed 4.57 hours of electrofishing and 14 gill net sets (1400 yards) the week of 4/15/13 in the vicinity of Willow Springs, Lemont, and Romeoville. Sampling near Riverside was postponed due to flooding. No bighead or silver carp were captured or observed. Three grass carp were transported to the La Crosse Fish Health Center for diploid testing.

During the flood event, 5 trammel net sets (167 yards) were fished near the barrier fence separating the CSSC from the Upper Des Plaines River. No bighead or silver carp were captured or observed.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Asian Carp Surveillance Program

Grass Carp Detection

- A Grass Carp (18.5kg, and 110cm long) was caught by a recreational angler in the Grand River (tributary of Lake Erie) on Saturday April 27th. Species

identification was confirmed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Testing conducted by the Whitney Genetics Laboratory at the USFWS confirmed that the fish was triploid.

- The detection of an Asian carp species in Ontario waters, prompted implementation of response actions outlined in Ontario's Framework for Asian Carps Surveillance and Communications.
- DFO and MNR worked together to conduct surveillance on the Grand River, including both eDNA surveillance and electro-fishing targeted in suitable habitats and the area of capture. No additional Asian Carp were detected and there were no positive eDNA detections.
- A joint news release by DFO and MNR was issued to communicate information on the grass carp capture to the public.
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@homepage/documents/document/stdprod_104618.pdf

Great Lakes Surveillance

- The Lake Erie Management Unit's regular sampling programs are under way including
 - A full Port Officer presence in the commercial fishery
 - Commercial catch sampling program
 - In late April, LEMU began trawling in the Central and Western Basins of Erie for yellow perch.
 - No Asian Carp have been detected through these activities to date.
- MNR will initiate eDNA surveillance in mid to late May within the Lake Erie, St. Clair and southern Lake Huron basins – 85 sites will be sampled between May and mid-July. Sites will target suitable habitats in tributaries identified in the DFO Ecological Risk Assessment on Bigheaded Carps.
- MNR's surveillance activities are being conducted in coordination with the DFO.

Alternate Pathway Surveillance in Illinois - Law Enforcement

- January- The newly formed Invasive Species Unit (ISU) investigated the possession of live injurious species. They met in Rosemont with Special Agent from USFWS for operation planning.
- February - ISU sent intelligence of possible aquatic life transporter to Wisconsin investigation unit.
- March- ISU Obtained records/evidence for out of state illegal bait dealer investigation and a covert operation and surveillance was initiated
 - ISU completed PowerPoint presentation for Invasive Species Unit as training material for other Conservation Police Officers and additional law enforcement
 - VHS detail planned
- April - ISU initiated a surveillance and intelligence operation gathering information on two businesses.