

## 2018 December Summary

**Bottom Line:** Multiple agencies participated in monitoring Asian Carp (Bighead Carp, Black Carp, Grass Carp, and Silver Carp) in the upper Illinois Waterway downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier during December. **NO LIVE BIGHEAD CARP, BLACK CARP, GRASS CARP OR SILVER CARP were found in any new locations immediately downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier.**

### Asian Carp Removal Project

Removal takes place specifically in the Marseilles and Starved Rock Pools. Below is a summary of all Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Barrier Defense activities through December 2018, along with the same time period in 2016 and 2017 for comparison:

#### *Overall*

	2016	2017	2018
Number of Days Fished	99	96	89
Number of Net Crew Days	714	716	616
Yards of Net Fished	514,825	448,060	399,000
Miles of Nets Fished	292.5	254.6	226.7
Number of Pound Net Nights	67	74	22
Number of Hoop Net Nights	768.7	987.2	1628.8
Number of Bighead Carp	7,985	2,652	3,045
Number of Silver Carp	146,501	163,786	149,654
Number of Grass Carp	682	1169	1441
Number of Asian Carp (AC)	155,168	167,607	154,140
Tons of AC Harvested	541.4	564.4	565.2
AC/1000 yds of gill net	249.4	338.4	372.0

#### *Marseilles Pool*

	2016	2017	2018
Yards of Net Fished	358,975	247,160	152,300
Miles of Nets Fished	204.0	140.4	86.5
Pound Net nights	67	74	22
Hoop Net nights	144.2	98.0	279.2
Mini Fyke Net Nights	29.4	28.0	27.6
Electrofishing Runs	156	132	156
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	39.0	33.0	39.0
Bighead Carp	5,957	1,538	1,399
Silver Carp	63,573	42,410	32,567

<b>Grass Carp</b>	110	70	44
<b>Total Asian Carp</b>	69,640	44,018	34,010
<b>Tons of AC Harvested</b>	302.3	192.8	157.5
<b>AC/1000 yds of gill net</b>	194.0	178.1	223.3

*Starved Rock Pool*

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Yards of Net Fished</b>	155,850	200,900	246,700
<b>Miles of Nets Fished</b>	88.6	114.1	140.2
<b>Hoop Net nights</b>	683.1	938.6	1403.7
<b>Bighead Carp</b>	2,048	1,123	1,648
<b>Silver Carp</b>	83,859	121,842	117,287
<b>Grass Carp</b>	606	1,118	1406
<b>Total Asian Carp</b>	86,513	124,083	120,341
<b>Tons of AC Harvested</b>	243.0	373.6	363.8
<b>AC/1000 yds of gill net</b>	456.8	617.6	487.8

### **Using Long-term Asian Carp Abundance and Movement Data to Reduce Uncertainty of Management Decisions**

Data from mobile hydroacoustic surveys collected throughout the Illinois River (Alton – Dresden Island pools) in October and November 2018 were being analyzed. These data will be used to determine long-term (2012-2019) trends in bigheaded carp densities, as well as changes in densities in Dresden Island Pool following the fall Unified Method bigheaded carp harvest.

Bigheaded carp telemetry data were downloaded from acoustic telemetry receivers in Alton – Dresden Island pools were also being processed for quality assurance/ quality control (QA/QC), number of upstream and downstream lock and dam passages throughout the river, and movements in Dresden Island Pool during the October Unified Method. All fish movement data occurring in 2018 were also extracted from the database for inclusion in the USGS FishTracks database. Telemetry data collected before, during, and after the Dresden Unified Method has also been identified and will be combined with other agencies' telemetry data and information on boat movements to examine fish responses to Unified Method herding. Upstream passages did occur at two upper Illinois River dams in 2018. One Bighead Carp passed upstream through the lock at Dresden Island Lock and Dam in fall 2018 (between 8/10/18 and 10/19/18). This same individual also passed upstream through Dresden Island Lock and Dam in 2017 before returning downstream through the dam in late 2017 or early 2018. One Silver Carp passed upstream through the lock at Starved Rock Lock and Dam on 6/2/18. No upstream passages were recorded at Marseilles Lock and Dam in 2018.