

GLMRIS STUDY AREA MAP

GLMRIS Study Area

The GLMRIS Study Area includes portions of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins that fall within the United States. Potential aquatic pathways between the basins exist along the basins' shared boundary (---), which is the primary concentration of the study.

USACE defined a *Detailed Study Area* to include the regions where the largest economic, environmental and social impacts from alternative plans are anticipated to occur. The *Detailed Study Area* consists of the Upper Mississippi River and Ohio River basins (■) and the Great Lakes Basin (■).

Future ANS may transfer beyond the *Detailed Study Area*; this pattern was observed by the spread of the Zebra mussel, which originated in the Great Lakes and spread throughout the Mississippi River Basin. Therefore, the *General Study Area* encompasses the Lower Mississippi River, Missouri River and Arkansas River basins (■). While the majority of GLMRIS tasks will be completed within the *Detailed Study Area*, USACE will consider specific ANS impacts into the larger *General Study Area*.

GLMRIS Authority

GLMRIS was authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and is 100 percent federally funded. In June 2009, USACE received appropriations to begin the Planning Process.

Other ANS Efforts

USACE operates and maintains the Electric Dispersal Barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

USACE is maximizing the efficacy of the Electric Dispersal Barriers through analyses of various technical, operational, environmental and biological factors.

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, which includes USACE, is using a variety of tools to continuously monitor the CAWS for the presence of Asian carp.

Additional Information

For additional information about GLMRIS, visit the Web site at www.glmris.anl.gov, or e-mail the Chicago District at glmris@usace.army.mil.

For information about USACE, Chicago District, or to obtain information regarding other projects related to ANS and Asian carp, please visit lrc.usace.army.mil, or call the Public Affairs Office at 312-846-5330.

For information about the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, visit www.asiancarp.org.



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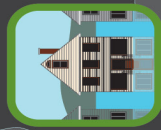
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GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY



WATER USE



FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT



RECREATION



NAVIGATION



ECOSYSTEMS



AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

GLMRIS Study Scope

As a result of international commerce, travel and local practices, aquatic nuisance species (ANS) have been introduced and spread throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Connected primarily by man-made channels, ANS transfer was impeded historically by the poor water quality of those waterways. Recent water quality improvements have lessened that impediment making it more likely for ANS transfer between the two basins to occur.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in consultation with federal agencies, Native American tribes, state agencies, local governments and non-governmental organizations, is conducting the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, (GLMRIS). In accordance with the study authorization, USACE is evaluating a range of options and technologies (collectively known as "ANS controls") to prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins via aquatic pathways. As part of this study, USACE is conducting a detailed analysis of various ANS controls, including hydrologic separation.

Specific Tasks of GLMRIS:

- Inventory current and forecast future conditions within the study area
- Identify aquatic pathways that may exist between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins
- Inventory current and future potential aquatic nuisance species
- Analyze possible ANS controls to prevent ANS transfer, to include hydrologic separation of the basins
- Analyze the impacts each ANS control may have on significant natural resources and existing and forecasted uses of the lakes and waterways within the study area
- Recommend a plan to prevent ANS transfer between the basins. If necessary, the plan will include mitigation measures for impacted waterway uses and significant natural resources

What Is An Aquatic Nuisance Species?

GLMRIS draws from Section 1003(2) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to define an ANS as a non-indigenous species that:

- threatens the diversity or abundance of native species;
- threatens the ecological stability of infested waters; or
- threatens the commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities dependent on such water.

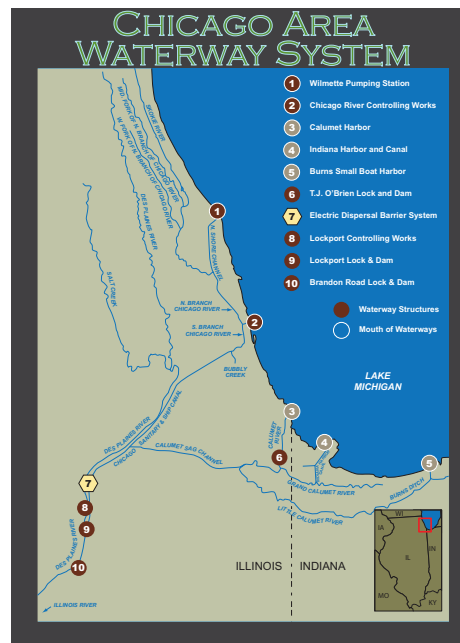
Explore the 39 High-Risk Species that are poised to potentially transfer between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the CAWS on the GLMIRS Web site.

The Study Plan

GLMRIS follows the USACE Planning Process, a structured approach to problem solving, which provides a rational framework enabling sound decisions to be made. To gain efficiency, USACE is conducting GLMRIS along two concurrent tracks: Focus Areas I and II.

Focus Area I addresses ANS transfer via the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS). The CAWS is a highly utilized continuous connection between the basins and represents the greatest potential risk for ANS transfer.

Focus Area II addresses other aquatic pathways between the basins outside of the CAWS. USACE has conducted screening-level assessments to characterize these other pathways in terms of types of ANS which may transfer through them, as well as the risk of that transfer occurring.



Issues to Consider

Issues associated with GLMRIS are likely to include:

- significant natural resources such as ecosystems and threatened and endangered species;
- commercial and recreational fisheries;
- recreational uses of the lakes and waterways;
- effects of potential ANS controls on waterways uses such as: flood risk management, commercial (commodity and passenger) and recreational navigation, recreation, water supply, hydropower production, conveyance of effluent from wastewater treatment plants, other industrial dischargers;
- statutory and legal responsibilities relative to the effected waterways

How GLMRIS Differs From Other Studies

GLMRIS differs from most other studies in its magnitude and breadth. GLMRIS is not solely focused on the CAWS or Asian carp.

GLMRIS:

- covers the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins: a broader geographic region than has previously been addressed;
- considers all ANS, not targeted species;
- considers all potential ANS controls or their uses in combination rather than a single predetermined solution;
- considers impacts of ANS controls on waterway uses and significant natural resources in accordance with law and policy.

The Study Timeline

With sufficient funds, a final recommended plan for Focus Area I could be completed in 2015. Additional Congressional authorization and funding is required for USACE to implement any ANS controls recommended in GLMRIS.

Stay Involved

Pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), USACE hosted 12 public scoping meetings throughout the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins.

USACE greatly values the interest and comments received during the comment period, which opened on November 16, 2010 and closed on March 31, 2011. Input was obtained from a variety of stakeholders. Over 900 comments were received orally at the public scoping meetings and via electronic submittal through the GLMRIS Web site, mail and hand-delivery.

The NEPA Scoping Summary Report is available through the GLMRIS Web site. This report documents the methods and procedures followed during the scoping process and summarizes the comments received throughout the scoping period. The report helps to assess topics of interest in order to refine the scope of GLMRIS to focus on significant issues, as well as eliminate issues that are not significant from further detailed study.

For opportunities for public involvement, new documents and other important news and events, please visit the Stay Involved page on the GLMRIS Web site. GLMRIS newsletters will be published periodically to keep interested parties informed of the study progress. To subscribe to the GLMRIS e-mail list, please visit the GLMRIS Web site at glmr.is.anl.gov.