

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of July 30, 2012 is included below. All data presented in this summary are preliminary and subject to revision.

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.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A crew from USACE completed mobile tracking from Bubbly Creek to Dresden Island Lock and Dam and downloaded VR2 receivers from the telemetry fixed-station receiver network. Preliminary analysis indicated that no tagged fish crossed the Dispersal Barrier in the upstream or downstream direction. In addition, mobile tracking showed that all tagged bighead carp from the Dresden Island Pool were located in the lower pool downstream of Moose Island.

Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts

A crew from SIUC measured river discharge with an acoustic Doppler current profiler at three sites along the Illinois River and replaced a malfunctioning VR2W telemetry receiver near Grafton, IL. In addition, crews prepared boats and sampling equipment for standardized sampling in the Illinois River tentatively scheduled to begin the week of August 6.

Gear Evaluation Study

A crew from INHS sampled with multiple gears in the LaGrange Pool of the Illinois River at Lilly Lake Backwater (River mile 83-84) and downstream from the Peoria L&D (River mile 154 – 157.5). In addition to the standard gears, 6-foot diameter hoop nets (set for two net nights) and surface to bottom gill nets (two sets) were evaluated at the Peoria site. This sampling completed the summer evaluation of sampling gears in the Illinois Waterway and CAWS. Gears and effort are shown in the table below. Results will become available after data have been entered into a database, checked for accuracy and analyzed.

Gear/Method	Effort	Gear/Method	Effort
DC electrofishing	6 x 15-min. runs	Mini-fyke net	8 net-nights
Trammel net w/ pounding	4 sets	Small mesh purse seine	4 hauls
Small mesh gill net-sinking	4 x 4-hr. sets	Large mesh purse seine	4 hauls
Small mesh gill net-floating	4 x 4-hr. sets	Beach seine	4 hauls
Large mesh gill net-sinking	4 x 4-hr. sets	Cast Net	4 throws
Small mesh hoop net	8 net-nights	Midwater trawl	4 x 5 min. tows
Large mesh hoop net	8 net-nights	Hydroacoustics	15 min. runs
Trap net	8 net-nights		

The MRRWG has determined that the two pound nets set at the entrance to Lake Calumet will remain in place for an extended period of time to increase the chance of capturing any Asian carp that may be present in the area. While checking and emptying the nets, a crew from INHS discovered that one of the nets was vandalized. This damaged net had to be removed for repairs and will be reset as soon as possible (likely later this month). The other net continues to sample fish and is being checked and emptied at regular intervals (every 2-3 days). All captured fish were measured, weighed and released in the direction that they were traveling (i.e., into or out of the lake). No Asian carp have been captured in the Lake Calumet pound nets to date.