

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of November 5, 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.

Fixed and Random Site Sampling Upstream of the Dispersal Barrier

Site 1: Lake Calumet	Area 1: Lake Calumet Connecting Channel and Calumet River above O'Brien Lock
Site 2: Little Calumet River	Area 2: Calumet-Sag Channel
Site 3: Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Western Ave. and South Branch Chicago River	Area 3: Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Western Ave. to Dispersal Barrier
Site 4: North Branch Chicago River and North Shore Channel	Area 4: North Shore Channel, North Branch Chicago River and Chicago River
Site 5: North Shore Channel	

A crew from the USFWS – Columbia FWCO completed 30 15-minute electrofishing runs at five fixed sites (7.5 hours total) and 10 15-minute runs at randomly selected locations in the four random site areas upstream of the Dispersal Barrier (2.5 hours total). In addition, two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 3.1 miles of net (27 sets) at the five fixed sites and 2.1 miles of net (19 sets) at random sites upstream of the Barrier. No bighead or silver carp were reported captured or seen above the Barrier.

Additional Netting Downstream of the Dispersal Barrier

Two net crews from IDNR sampled for Asian carp in the Lockport Pool downstream of the Barrier with standard (height = 10 feet) and deep-water (height = 30 feet) gill nets. Standard nets were set for 3-4 hours in off channel areas, whereas deep-water nets were set across the channel for short durations (15-20 minutes; fish driven toward nets with noise from plungers, pounding on boat hulls and revving tipped up motors). A total of 1600 yards of standard net (8 sets) and 1600 yards of deep-water net (16 sets) were deployed over two days. Catches were low (18 fish) and included mostly common carp. No Asian carp were captured or seen.

Two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 0.9 miles of net in Brandon Road Pool 5-10 miles downstream from the Dispersal Barrier. No Asian carp were captured or observed during this sampling.

Fish Behavior Study at the Barrier

Crews from USFWS-Cartrville and Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices completed 74 DIDSON surveys at sites in the CSSC within and near the Barrier for a total of 740 minutes (12.3 hours) of DIDSON footage.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A biologist from USACE – Chicago District continued data downloads of VR4 receivers located at the Barrier in the CSSC near Romeoville. A second 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. This concludes mobile tracking in the upper Illinois Waterway for the 2012 field season.

Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts

A crew from SIUC, with assistance from Missouri DNR surgically implanted acoustic telemetry transmitters in Asian carp near the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. This concludes acoustic tagging of Asian carp for the 2012 field season.