

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of September 3, 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, including several Chicago area urban ponds. 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.

Asian Carp Monitoring in Small Ponds

Crews from IDNR electrofished and netted in Chicago area urban fishing ponds to sample for any bighead carp that may have been unintentionally stocked as contaminants in shipments of channel catfish made during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Sampling occurred in Commissioners Pond (Alsip), Saganashkee Slough (drains into the Calumet-Sag Channel), Community Park Pond (Mundelein), and Lake Owen (Hazel Crest). No bighead or silver carp were captured or seen. Chicago Park District Ponds will be sampled later this fall.

eDNA Calibration Project (ECALS)

A crew from USACE ERDC with assistance from IDNR sampled for Asian carp eDNA on an island cormorant roost in Harborside International Lake. The roost is located near where a positive silver carp eDNA hit was found during sampling for a previous Lake Calumet Level 1 Response. The samples will be analyzed at the ERDC lab in Vicksburg, MS and results will be reported in a future ECALS Vector summary report.

Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts

Crews from SIUC continued to evaluate hydroacoustics target strength and air bladder volumetric measurements with bighead and silver carp at an on-campus facility. Experiments this week evaluated target strength with newly acquired 70 kHz transducers. These data will be compared to previous experiments that examined target strength with 200 kHz transducers. The lower frequency 70 kHz transducers will be less susceptible to air bubble interference and will be used in upcoming hydroacoustics surveys estimating Asian carp abundance in the lower, middle, and upper Illinois Waterway.

Gear Evaluation Study

Crews from the INHS checked the large pound nets set in an Illinois River backwater near Morris and at the entrance to Lake Calumet. The two Illinois River nets were emptied and reset. They successfully captured bighead and silver carp, and a variety of other species. Differing circumstances resulted in the removal of pound nets from Lake Calumet. The net set last week was again damaged by vandals and had to be removed for repair. The other net in place since early July became fouled with zebra mussels and had to be removed for cleaning. The young mussels formed golf ball sized colonies at each knot in the netting eventually causing the net to collapse enough so that it no longer was fishing properly. Plans are to dry, clean and repair the nets. They will then be reset in Lake Calumet sometime later this fall.

Larval Fish, Zooplankton, and Productivity Monitoring

Two crews from INHS completed sampling for fish eggs and larvae, zooplankton, and phytoplankton productivity at the stations listed in the table below. Effort included four 5-minute tows for fish eggs and larvae with a 0.5-meter diameter ichthyoplankton push net, filtering 100 L of water for zooplankton, and taking water samples with an integrated tube sampler for productivity estimates. Samples are currently being processed.

Larval Fish Monitoring (continued)

Pool and Station	River Mile	Pool and Station	River Mile
CAWS		Peoria Pool	
Lake Calumet	327	Hennepin	~207-208
Little Calumet River	322	Henry/Lacon	189-197
Western Avenue	~320-321	Chillicothe	~178-180
Calumet-Sag Channel	~319	Upper Peoria Lake	~170-175
Worth Street	~311	LaGrange Pool	
Brandon Road Pool		Peoria Dam Tailwater	155-157.7
Lockport Tailwater	~289-291	Havana	119-122
Des Plaines River/CSSC confluence	~290	Bath Chute	107-113
Dresden Island Pool		Fredrick Main Channel	~97-98
Treats Island/I-55	277-279.5	Treadway Lake Backwater	~93.5
Marseilles Pool		Lilly Lake Backwater	83-84
Morris	262-265	Lilly Lake Main Channel	83-84
Starved Rock			
Ottawa	239.5-241.5		