

## Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of November 12, 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 at and downstream of the Dispersal Barrier. NO BIGHEAD OR SILVER CARP were reported captured or observed at the Barrier, nor were any found in new locations downstream of the Barrier. A fish clearing action at the Barrier with conventional gears resulted in the capture and removal of five common carp and a Skamania steelhead (rainbow trout), all >12 inches long and located between Barrier 1 and 2B.

### Fish Clearing Action at the Barrier

Crews from IDNR, USFWS, USACE and SIUC with project support from MWRD completed a safe and successful conventional gear fish clearing operation at the Barrier on November 14, 2012. The operation included two electrofishing boats (one surface and one deep-water shocker), two remote sensing boats with split-beam hydroacoustics, side-scan sonar and DIDSON imaging sonar, a gill net boat, and a safety/rescue boat. A stationary surface-to-bottom gill net caught five common carp >12 inches long (range = 16.7-23.0 inches) and the surface electrofishing boat caught a Skamania steelhead (rainbow trout) that measured 27.6 inches. All of the captured fish >12 inches long were removed from the waterway. Numerous small-bodied fish ( $N = 82$ ; mean total length = 3.0 inches) were sampled between the barriers by electrofishing, including young-of-year gizzard shad ( $N = 61$ ), pumpkinseed (9), bluegill (5), green sunfish (2), mosquitofish (1), round goby (1), bluntnose minnow (1) and State-threatened banded killifish (2). Two fish targets were identified between the barriers in the final remote sensing surveys. These targets were estimated to be 13-15 inches long and were located within 2.5 meters of the water surface. The targets were thought to be an adult gizzard shad that was observed during an earlier electrofishing run, but not captured. A recommendation has been made that the barrier zone be considered bighead and silver carp free at this time, requiring no further clearing activities until the next maintenance cycle or unplanned barrier outage.

### Fixed Sites Downstream of the Dispersal Barrier

**Site A:** Lockport Pool – Lockport Lock and Dam to Electric Barrier

**Site B:** Brandon Road Pool – Brandon Road Lock and Dam to Lockport Lock and Dam

**Site C:** Dresden Island Pool – I-55 Bridge to Brandon Road Lock and Dam

**Site D:** Marseilles Pool – Rt. 47 Bridge (Morris) to Dresden Lock and Dam

Crews from IDNR and USACE – Chicago District completed four 15-min electrofishing transects at each downstream fixed site (4.0 hours total). No bighead or silver carp were captured at Sites A and B, nor were any captured at new locations at Sites C and D. Contracted commercial net sampling at downstream fixed sites will occur during the week of November 19.

### Telemetry Monitoring Project

A crew from USACE captured and implanted acoustic transmitters in 5 common carp sampled from Dresden Island Pool during fixed site electrofishing. In addition, a biologist working from shore continued downloading data from VR4 receivers located in the CSSC at the Barrier near Romeoville.

### Barrier Defense Asian Carp Removal Project

**Dresden Island Pool:** 10-24 miles downstream from Dispersal Barrier

**Marseilles Pool:** 24-51 miles downstream from Dispersal Barrier

**Starved Rock Pool:** 51-65 miles downstream from Dispersal Barrier.

Contracted commercial fishers and assisting IDNR biologists set 20.0 miles of net in the Starved Rock, Marseilles and Dresden Island pools of the upper Illinois Waterway and removed 348 bighead carp, 2337 silver carp and 19 grass carp. A cumulative summary of the 2012 removal effort to date is shown in the table below.

**Barrier Defense (continued)**

<b>QUICK SUMMARY THROUGH: 16 November 2012</b>		
<b>Number of Days Fished</b>	60	days
<b>Number of Net Crews</b>	295	crew-days
<b>Miles of Nets Fished</b>	254.4	miles
<b>Number of Bighead Carp</b>	16,068	fish
<b>Number of Silver Carp</b>	23,499	fish
<b>Number of Grass Carp</b>	226	fish
<b>Number of Asian Carp (AC)</b>	39,793	fish
<b>Tons of AC Harvested</b>	257.5	tons
<b>CPUE (N/1,000 Yards of Net)</b>	89	fish