

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of October 22, 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.

eDNA Monitoring Project

Two crews from IDNR obtained 87 water samples for eDNA analysis from the Lake Calumet and Little Calumet River sampling stations on Monday, October 22. Inclement weather prevented the entire set of targeted samples ($N = 114$) from being collected this week. Samples were filtered at the USEPA lab in Chicago and forwarded to ERDC in Vicksburg, MS for analysis. Results of eDNA analysis will be reported on the USACE web site listed below as they become available. This was the last scheduled eDNA sampling event for the 2012 field season.

<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorksProjects/ANSPortal/eDNA.aspx>

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	

Two crews from the IDNR 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 0.9 miles of net (7 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 contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 0.9 miles of net in Marseilles Pool >25 miles downstream from the Dispersal Barrier. No Asian carp were captured or observed in new locations during this sampling.

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

Contracted commercial fishers and assisting IDNR biologists set 1.8 miles of net (16 sets) at the four fixed sites downstream of the Barrier. No bighead or silver carp were captured at Sites A and B, nor were any captured at new locations at Sites C and D. Electrofishing at downstream fixed sites took place during the week of October 15.

Distribution of Small Asian Carp Study

A crew from the USFWS-Carterville FWCO completed 10 15-minute electrofishing runs in the Marseilles Pool of the Illinois River and 17 runs in the Dresden Island Pool (6.75 hours total). No small Asian carp <12 inches long were reported captured or seen during this sampling effort.

Fish Behavior Study at the Barrier

Crews from USFWS-Carterville FWCO, with assistance from USFWS- Columbia FWCO, completed DIDSON surveys at 80 sites in the CSSC within and near the Barrier for a total of 800 minutes (13.3 hours) of DIDSON footage.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A biologist from USACE continued data downloads of VR4 receivers located at the Barrier in the CSSC near Romeoville.

Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts

A crew from SIUC completed down- and side-looking hydroacoustics surveys within the main channel and associated backwaters of the Alton Reach of the Illinois River. This completes acoustic surveys for the 2012 field season. Survey data will be used to quantify abundance, size distribution and biomass of Asian carp and other fishes in the river.

A second crew from SIUC successfully implanted acoustic telemetry transmitters in 108 Asian carp from the Mississippi River near the Illinois River confluence. Movement of these tagged fish will be monitored to determine the extent that Mississippi River fish move into and utilize the Illinois River. A third crew from SIUC measured river discharge with an acoustic Doppler current profiler at three sites along the Illinois River and successfully downloaded data from VR4 receivers located from Alton Reach to Marseilles Pool.

Gear Evaluation Study

A crew from IDNR checked and emptied the large pound nets located at the entrance to Lake Calumet. No Asian carp were captured, but the nets caught 19 adult Chinook salmon, among other species. The salmon were measured and released. The pound nets will remain in place throughout the month of October and will be checked and emptied weekly.

Upper Des Plaines River Monitoring Project

A crew from the USFWS-La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, with assistance from MWRD, electrofished and netted at two stations (Columbia Woods and Lemont) in the upper Des Plaines River downstream from the recently removed Hofmann Dam. Sampling at the Riverside station was precluded by low water levels. Sampling effort included 3.1 hours of electrofishing and 333 yards of net set. A total of 1,153 fish representing 33 species were caught and returned to the river. No Asian carp were captured or seen.