

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of October 29, 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 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 the IDNR completed supplemental netting for juvenile and adult Asian carp at the fixed sites downstream of the barrier. Four mini-fyke nets and four 6-foot diameter hoop nets were deployed in each pool. The mini-fykes were set for 1 net-night per site (a total of 4 net-nights per pool) and the hoop nets were set for 2 net-nights per site (a total of 8 net-nights per pool). No juvenile or adult Asian carp were caught at any of the supplemental netting sites this month.

Lake Calumet Level-1 Response Action

One contracted commercial fishing crew with an assisting IDNR biologist, a second net crew from IDNR, and one electrofishing crew each from IDNR and USACE-Chicago District completed a two-day Level 1 conventional gear response in Lake Calumet on 30-31 October 2012. The response followed the 2012 MRRP and occurred after three consecutive sets of eDNA samples from the site were found to have positive detections for silver carp. Crews sampled throughout the lake and in the Connecting Channel and Calumet River near O'Brien Lock and Dam. Sampling occurred upstream and downstream of the large pound nets that remained in place at the entrance to the lake for the duration of the event. Total sampling effort was 30 electrofishing runs (7.5 hours) and 38 gill net sets (8,700 yards or 4.9 MILES!!). A total of 4,754 fish representing 36 species were caught. One grass carp was observed by an electrofishing crew and 24 Chinook salmon (13 electrofishing and 11 netting), 2,099 juvenile gizzard shad <6 inches and 356 banded killifish were sampled and released. No bighead or silver carp were captured or seen.

Distribution of Small Asian Carp Study

A crew from the USFWS Cartersville FWCO completed 20 15-minute electrofishing runs in Peoria Pool of the upper Illinois Waterway (5.0 hours total). No small Asian carp <12 inches long were reported captured during this sampling event.

Gear Evaluation Study

Two crews from INHS checked, emptied and removed the large pound nets located at the entrance to Lake Calumet. No Asian carp were captured, but the nets caught numerous Chinook salmon and other species that were measured and released. The pound nets will be cleaned, dried and stored for the winter. Additional evaluations will take place in 2013 and a summary of 2012 effort and catch data will be forthcoming.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A biologist from USACE continued data downloads of 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 17.7 miles of net in the Starved Rock, Marseilles and Dresden Island pools of the upper Illinois Waterway and removed 361 bighead carp, 2,438 silver carp, and 21 grass carp. A cumulative summary of the 2012 removal effort to date is shown in the table below.

| | | |
|---|--------|-----------|
| QUICK SUMMARY THROUGH: 2 November 2012 | | |
| Number of Days Fished | 56 | days |
| Number of Net Crews | 275 | crew-days |
| Miles of Nets Fished | 234.4 | miles |
| Number of Bighead Carp | 15,720 | fish |
| Number of Silver Carp | 21,162 | fish |
| Number of Grass Carp | 207 | fish |
| Number of Asian Carp (AC) | 37,089 | fish |
| Tons of AC Harvested | 243.2 | tons |
| CPUE (N/1,000 Yards of Net) | 90 | fish |

Asian Carp Monitoring in Urban Fishing Ponds

A contracted commercial net crew with an assisting IDNR biologist and electrofishing crews from either IDNR or FPDCC sampled Jackson Park Lagoon and Sag Quarry West Lake to search for any Asian carp that may have been unintentionally stocked as contaminants in shipments of channel catfish made during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Crews electrofished the entire perimeter and deployed >800 yards of gill net in each lake. No bighead or silver carp were captured or seen, although three grass carp were sampled in Jackson Park Lagoon and one Grass carp was caught in Sag Quarry West Lake.

Water Gun Development and Testing Project

Researchers at USGS - UMESC initiated pond studies at their La Crosse facility to evaluate the effects of seismic water guns on bighead and silver carp. Experiments will examine the capacity of sound-pressure from water guns or sound from underwater speakers to create a barrier to bighead carp and silver carp. Other trials will assess whether sound-pressure or sound may be useful to repel carp from an area and the effects of sound-pressure on carp swimming ability. Experiments will continue for several weeks and results will be presented in a summary report later this fall/winter.