



Monitoring and Response Workgroup Monthly Activities 2020 November Summary

Bottom Line: The international COVID-19 pandemic created a unique set of challenges for members of the Monitoring and Response Workgroup during the 2020 field season. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and public health authorities resulted in much of planned effort in March and April to be cancelled. Sampling was able to occur prior to the stay at home order issued in March by the governor of Illinois. Additionally, the United States Army Corporation of Engineers (USACE) continued to operate the electric dispersal barrier in Romeoville, Illinois throughout that time. Sampling began again in May following strict COVID safety protocols including limiting the number of people on a boat, maintaining social distancing, masking wearing, and daily equipment disinfecting. **NO LIVE BIGHEAD CARP, BLACK CARP, GRASS CARP, or SILVER CARP were found or observed in any new locations immediately downstream or upstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier.**

Overall Summary

Pool specific results through November 2020 from all effort within the Upper Illinois

Waterway. The same time period in 2018 and 2019 for comparison. Additional effort may not be reported due to data processing and actual effort and catch could be higher. Check 2020 interim summary, published at the end of the year, for complete results

Lockport Pool

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Yards of Net Fished	77,100	52,600	45,000
Miles of Net Fished	43.8	29.9	25.6
Hoop Net Nights	55.0	163.8	157.1
Mini Fyke Net Nights	28.9	22.2	17.3
Electrofishing Runs	169	69	54
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	42.3	17.3	13.5
Total Asian Carp (AC)	0	0	0
Tons of AC Harvested	0	0	0

Brandon Road Pool

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Yards of Net Fished	77,500	47,400	49,800
Miles of Net Fished	44.0	26.9	28.3
Hoop Net Nights	55.0	158.9	156.6
Mini Fyke Net Nights	26.6	33.1	19.9
Electrofishing Runs	156	63	43
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	39.0	15.8	0.0
Total Asian Carp (AC)	1*	0	0
Tons of AC Harvested	0	0	0

*indicates Grass Carp

Dresden Island Pool (Including Rock Run Rookery)

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Yards of Net Fished	230,400	159,250	103,800
Miles of Net Fished	130.9	90.5	59.0
Hoop Net Nights	52.2	76.3	160.5
Mini Fyke Net Nights	27.6	66.2	57.7
Pound net night	8	2	0
Electrofishing Runs	210	73	71
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	52.5	18.3	17.8
Bighead Carp	398	45	22
Grass Carp	53	8	3
Silver Carp	1235	274	140
Total AC	1686	327	165
Asian Carp (AC) from Rock Run Rookery Lake (RR)	126	49	21
AC upstream I-55 (not in RR)	9*	8*	2*
AC downstream I-55	1551	270	142
Tons of AC Harvested	16.2	2.7	1.2
AC/1000 yds of gill net	7.2	2.0	1.6

***Indicates Grass Carp are included**

Marseilles Pool

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Yards of Net Fished	144,800	209,210	197,470
Miles of Nets Fished	82.3	118.9	112.2
Pound Net nights	22	26	0
Hoop Net nights	278.6	144.9	105.3
Mini Fyke Net Nights	28.9	68.9	51.3
Electrofishing Runs	156	93	62
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	39.0	23.3	15.5
Bighead Carp	1,372	1,237	1,407
Grass Carp	43	80	29
Silver Carp	31,615	39,040	33,421
Total Asian Carp	33,030	40,357	34,857
Tons of AC Harvested	158.6	226.7	185.8
AC/1000 yds of gill net	217.7	190.7	176.4

Starved Rock Pool

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Yards of Net Fished	210,700	354,815	248,980
Miles of Nets Fished	119.7	201.6	141.5
Pound Net nights	0	0	0
Hoop Net nights	994.5	162.1	0.0
Mini Fyke Net Nights	0.0	67.9	0.0
Electrofishing Runs	0	107	70
Electrofishing Time (hrs)	0.0	26.8	17.5
Bighead Carp	1,618	2,135	2,210
Grass Carp	1059	2688	866
Silver Carp	84,691	144,392	114,512
Total Asian Carp	87,368	149,215	117,588
Tons of AC Harvested	290.0	512.9	344.6
AC/1000 yds of gill net	393.8	416.4	472.3

Contracted Fishing Below the Electric Dispersal Barrier

- Contract fishing took place in Lockport Pool, Brandon Road Pool, Dresden Island Pool, Marseilles Pool, and Starved Rock Pool of the Illinois River Waterway during November
- Contracted fisher set and pulled 49,800 yards of gill/trammel net in November
- 70 Bighead Carp, 95 Grass Carp, and 29,126 Silver Carp were removed in November
- 177,816 pounds of Asian Carp was removed in November
- 20,850 fish representing 11 species were captured during contracted commercial netting effort in November

Below is a summary of all Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) contracted fishing activities through November 2020. For comparison purposes, data from the same time period in 2018 and 2019 are included.

Effort	2018	2019	2020
Number of Days Fished	132	138	100
Number of Net Crew Days	573	665	561
Yards of Net Fished	740,500	823,275	645,050
Miles of Nets Fished	420.7	467.8	366.5
Number of Pound Net Nights	22	26	0
Number of Hoop Net Nights	1218.9	0	0.0
Number of Bighead Carp	3,388	3,412	3,639
Number of Silver Carp	117,541	182,829	148,051
Number of Grass Carp	1,156	2,752	898
Number of Asian Carp (AC)	122,085	188,993	152,588
Tons of AC Harvested	464.8	742.3	531.6
AC/1000 yds of gill net	156.9	228.4	236.6

Multiple Agency Monitoring of the Illinois River Waterway

- All assigned samples were collaboratively collected during the three sampling periods
- Large Bighead Carp and Silver Carp (>120 mm) were detected as far up river as RM 263
- Small Silver Carp (<120 mm) were captured as far up river as RM 183
- COVID safety measures slowing lab processing of preserved samples delaying reporting
- More detailed results will be provided in the annual interim summary report

Enhanced Contract Fishing

In September 2019, the Enhanced Contract Fishing Program was initiated in the Peoria Pool. The program offers Illinois-licensed commercial fishermen \$.10 per pound for Asian carp caught in the Peoria Pool and sold to fish processors or other buyers for at least \$.07 per pound. To date, 26 fishermen have entered into contracts to catch Asian carp from this pool. From inception through the remainder of calendar year 2019, 518,132 pounds of Asian carp were caught in the Peoria Pool, and to date in 2020 an additional 2,384,838 pounds have been caught for a total of 2,902,969 pounds. Of these total catches, 6.82% are Bighead, 64.76% are Silver and 28.42% are Grass carp. No Black carp have been reported.

Figure 1. Table of Enhanced Contract Fishing – Peoria Pool from inception, September 2019 through November 2020. By receipt date, not catch date.

Year	Total Lbs.	Bighead Carp	Silver Carp	Grass Carp**
2019 *	518,132	24,813	310,297	183,022
November 2020	299,672	18,223	243,096	38,353
2020 (Jan thru Nov)	2,384,838	173,378	1,569,561	641,899
GRAND TOTALS	2,902,969	198,191	1,879,858	824,921

*September 2019 program inception.

**No Black Carp reported.

Monitoring Bigheaded Carp Movement and Density in the Illinois River

Stationary acoustic telemetry receivers were retrieved and downloaded from Alton, LaGrange, and Peoria pools. These data were being assessed for QA/QC. Hydroacoustic data collected from Alton-Dresden Island pools in October were also being processed that will add to long-term density trends.

Electrofishing - USACE

During the month of November USACE conducted two 15-minute electrofishing runs between barriers 2A and 2B on November 12th in response to a planned shut-down and re-energization of 2A. No fish were captured or observed between the barriers at that time. USACE also completed eight electrofishing runs in the Lockport and Brandon Road pools. From the four runs in the Lockport Pool, USACE collected 69 fish, 62% were Gizzard Shad under 6in, 17% were Gizzard Shad over 6in, and Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Emerald Shiners each comprised 1.5%. From the four sites in the Brandon Road Pool USACE collected 138 fish, of which 41% were Gizzard Shad over 6in, 23% were Gizzard Shad under 6in, 155 were Emerald Shiners, 8% were Smallmouth Bass, and 3% were Bluegill.

Telemetry – USACE

During the month of November USACE downloaded all VR2 receivers within its telemetry network between the CSSC/Cal Sag Channel Confluence and Dresden Island Lock and Dam. USACE also winterized the network by removing several receivers from the system and leaving eight select receivers up and downstream of the EDBS and the Lockport, Brandon Road, and Dresden Island locks and dams. USACE observed no apparent Asian Carp Movement outside of their known population front when a preliminary check of the data was completed. A full analysis of all telemetry data between November 2019 and November 2020 is currently underway and will be included in the 2020 Interim Summary Report.

Barrier Operational and Maintenance Status

During the month of November, Demo was off the entire month for controls replacement. For the rest of the month of November both IIA and IIB were operational. In addition, the Des Plaines River Barrier fence was also functioning through November. Damage from a vehicular accident

was the only issue during the month of November. However, the damage was in a location where overflow is not an issue.

Alternate Pathway Surveillance in Illinois - Law Enforcement

ISU inspected a Lake Zurich bait shop and its business records. The inspection did not locate any illegal bait or record deficiencies, but the owner was issued a warning for operating with an expired license.

ISU participated in the Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee virtual meeting to discuss and plan future law enforcement projects. The meeting included a training session on US interstate commerce laws and how they affect cases involving the transfer and transportation of commercial fish and invasive species between different jurisdictions.

ISU assisted another agency with a surveillance detail of a suspected Illinois business owner illegally trafficking aquatic life products.

ISU answered anglers' questions related to catching, possessing and transporting Asian carp while recreationally fishing.