

Asian Carp Sampling Summary

A sampling summary for the week of April 16, 2012 is included below.

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 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	

A crew from the USFWS-La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office completed 30 15-minute electrofishing runs at five fixed sites and 12 15-minute runs at randomly selected locations in the four random site areas upstream of the Dispersal Barrier. In addition, two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 3.6 miles of net (24 sets) at the five fixed sites and set 0.7 miles of net (6 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 1.6 miles of net in Dresden Island Pool >15 miles downstream from the Dispersal Barrier. No Asian carp were captured or observed during this netting operation.

Fish Behavior Study at the Barrier

Crews from USFWS-Carterville and Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation offices recorded behavior of gizzard shad held in a cage alongside a boat passing through the Dispersal Barrier and a control site in the CSSC away from the barrier. A total of 20 passes were made through the barrier and 10 passes were made through the control site.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

A crew from USACE successfully re-deployed two VR4 receivers in the CSSC downstream of Barrier 2A.

Unconventional Gear Development Study

A crew from the INHS and a consulting commercial fisher examined locations to evaluate Lake Michigan style pound (trap) nets for sampling Asian carp and surrogate species (e.g., Buffalo spp. and common carp) in the CAWS (Lake Calumet) and an Illinois River backwater area near Morris, Illinois. Pending necessary approvals, evaluations of pound nets are scheduled to begin in late May or June 2012.

Water Gun Development and Testing

A crew from USGS- Rocky Mountain Science Center and an assisting IDNR crew prepared and tested equipment and worked through logistics for upcoming experiments evaluating the effects of water guns on Asian carp behavior. The experiments are scheduled to take place in an Illinois River backwater near Morris, Illinois from May 7-26, 2012.