

## **Asian Carp Sampling Summary**

A sampling summary for the week of August 13, 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, including Harborside International Lake located adjacent to Lake Calumet. 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.

### **Random Site Sampling Upstream of the Dispersal Barrier**

**Area 1:** Lake Calumet Connecting Channel and Calumet River above O'Brien Lock

**Area 2:** Calumet-Sag Channel

**Area 3:** Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Western Ave. to Dispersal Barrier

**Area 4:** North Shore Channel, North Branch Chicago River and Chicago River

A crew from the IDNR completed two 15-minute electrofishing runs at randomly selected locations in Areas 2, 3, and 4 (1.5 hours total). No bighead or silver carp were captured or observed.

### **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 four 15-min electrofishing transects at each downstream fixed site (4.0 hours total). No bighead or silver carp were reported captured or seen at Sites A, B and C. Three bighead carp and 10 silver carp were captured at Site D. Contracted commercial net sampling at downstream fixed sites occurred during the week of August 6.

### **Distribution of Small Asian Carp Study**

A crew from the USFWS-Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office sampled for young Asian carp with mini-fyke nets and trap nets in the Peoria Pool of the Illinois River. Mini-fykes were fished for a total of 22 net-nights and trap nets were fished for a total of 6 net-nights. No small Asian carp <12 inches long have been captured to date.

### **Monitoring Asian Carp Population Metrics and Control Efforts**

River discharge measurements and VR2 receiver data downloads were postponed due to equipment malfunctions. The equipment has been repaired and data entry from standardized sampling was completed this week. Illinois River discharge measurements and telemetry receiver data downloads have been rescheduled for the week of August 20.

### **Exploratory Gear Development Project**

A crew from the USFWS – Columbia FWCO continued evaluations of butterfly trawls (paupier nets) and a modified purse seine in the Missouri River. The latest trawls (version 7) are equipped with shorter nets made of Dyneema netting to increase sampling mobility and reduce disturbance in the water. Net rigging has also been enhanced. Catches of Asian carp are improving with this new gear, but many fish continue to escape the net. Small catches of Asian carp were also reported for the modified purse seine, largely due to fish escaping capture by jumping over the net. Researchers are using video to track fish behavior during sampling and continue to work with a professional net builder to make modifications to the gears that will improve catches of Asian carp.

### **Asian Carp Monitoring in Urban Ponds**

Crews from the IDNR sampled for Asian carp in Harborside International Lake on 13 August 2012. The lake was sampled because it is in close proximity to Lake Calumet and eDNA sampling in this golf course lake showed a positive detection for silver carp eDNA (1 of 15 water samples tested positive for silver carp DNA and zero of 15 tested positive for bighead carp DNA). Crews sampled the entire perimeter of the lake with a boat DC electrofishing unit (2.75 hours total) and set 1,500 yards of net. No Asian carp were captured or observed. Interestingly, a group of cormorants was roosting on an island in close proximity to the location of the water sample that tested positive for silver carp eDNA. A preliminary catch summary is included below.

### **Harborside International Lake - Catch**

Species	Gear		All gears
	Electro-fishing	Gill nets	
Bluegill	319	0	319
Common carp	92	69	161
Largemouth bass	99	1	100
Black crappie	76	1	77
Gizzard shad <6 in.	45	1	46
White perch	39	0	39
Black buffalo	4	16	20
Green sunfish	15	0	15
Yellow bullhead	9	0	9
Bluntnose minnow	6	0	6
Hybrid sunfish	6	0	6
Gizzard shad >6 in.	0	4	4
Channel catfish	1	2	3
White crappie	3	0	3
Carp x goldfish hybrid	0	2	2
Freshwater drum	1	1	2
Orangespotted sunfish	2	0	2
White bass	1	0	1
Total number	718	97	815
Number of species	15	7	16
Number of hybrids	1	1	2