

April Summary

Bottom Line: Monitoring occurred in the CAWS and upper Illinois Waterway downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier in April. **NO BIGHEAD CARP OR SILVER CARP were any found in new locations downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier.**

Fixed and Random Site Sampling 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

Electrofishing:

- Crews from IDNR, USFWS, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed 32 electrofishing runs at fixed locations (8 hours total) and 64 runs at randomly selected locations (16 hours total) in the Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles pools downstream of the Barrier during the weeks of April 1 and April 15.
- Crews collected 701 fish of 32 species and 2 hybrid group during electrofishing.
- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen during electrofishing in the Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles Pools. 1 Grass Carp was captured during sampling at a random site in the Marseilles Pool.

Netting:

- Two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 3.30 miles of net (29 sets) at fixed sites and 13.98 miles of net (111 sets) at random and additional sites within the four pools (and Rock Run Rookery) downstream of the Barrier during the weeks of April 1 and April 15.
- Crews collected 576 fish of 15 species during commercial netting.
- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen during commercial netting in the Lockport, and Brandon Road Pools.
- Six Bighead Carp were collected at random sites (Downstream of I-55) in the Dresden Island Pool.
- Nineteen Silver Carp, 14 Bighead Carp, and 2 Grass Carp were collected at fixed and additional sites (Peacock Slough, barge slip near western end of Heidecke Lake) in the Marseilles pool near Morris.

- Two Silver Carp, 11 Bighead Carp were collected during 4 sets (3200 yards) in Rock Run Rookery.

Hoop and Mini Fyke Netting:

- Crews from IDNR set and pulled hoop nets (6' diameter) in Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles pools downstream of the barrier during the week of April 28. No Bighead or Silver Carp were captured.
- IDNR crews set and pulled mini fyke nets in Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles pools downstream of the barrier during the week of April 28. No Bighead or Silver Carp were captured in minnow fyke nets.

Barrier Defense Asian Carp Removal Project

In April, barrier defense occurred the weeks of the 7th and 21st. Modified from previous years, barrier defense specifically takes place in the Marseilles and Starved Rock Pools. Also in 2014, contracted commercial fisherman are deploying and fishing modified 6 foot diameter hoop nets in the main channel border and side channel habitats. These habitats have been difficult to fish with gill and trammel nets. Below is a summary of the barrier defense activities including hoop netting totals for 2014.

QUICK SUMMARY:		
Number of Days Fished	12	days
Number of Net Crews	69	crew-days
Yards of Net Fished	110050	Yards
Miles of Nets Fished	62.5	Miles
Number of Hoop Net Sets	48.0	Sets
Number of Bighead Carp	1803	Fish
Number of Silver Carp	14344	Fish
Number of Grass Carp	214	Fish
Number of Asian Carp (AC)	16361	Fish
Tons of AC Harvested	77.1	Tons

Understanding Surrogate Fish Movement with Barriers

Currently a total of 541 surrogate fish have been captured and floy tagged while monitoring in the Lockport, Brandon Road and Dresden Pools downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier. A species list of floy tagged fish; 279 Common Carp, 235 Smallmouth Buffalo, 18 Bigmouth Buffalo, 7 Black Buffalo, 1 Goldfish, 1 Common Carp X Goldfish hybrid. To date, two recaptures have occurred. Both fish were caught in Dresden Pool one of those being in Rock Run Rookery Lake.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

USACE completed two tagging events in the month of April. The first trip was completed within the Dresden Island Pool in coordination with IDNR and commercial fishermen to tag three bighead carp and 17 common carp. Bighead carp were captured via netting from the Dresden Island pool near the I-55 overpass and Moose Island. Common carp were captured via electrofishing from the Brandon Road Pool. All fishes were tagged and released from the Big Basin Marina. The second tagging event occurred in the Lower Lockport Pool. Twenty five Common carp were captured from upstream of the Barriers within the Upper Lockport Pool. All fish were then tagged and released below the Barriers from either the Cargill boat launch or the Hanson Material Services slip immediately below the Barriers.

Data collected by SIUC from March VR2W downloads were analyzed in April 2014. This analysis included detections from 9/27/2013 to 3/25/2014. In sum, 309 individual fish were detected. Movement through lock and dam structures was greatest between the Peoria and Starved Rock pools (32 fish). Four fish were detected in the Dresden Lock and Dam, four through the Marseilles Lock and Dam and 20 through Peoria Lock and Dam. Post-processing of 2012 hydroacoustic data is ongoing. No field work was completed by SIUC personnel in April 2014.

Larval Fish and Productivity Monitoring

INHS sampling for larval fish occurred during the week of April 28. Sampling was conducted at 14 sites located throughout the Illinois Waterway, with 4 samples taken at each site. Sample processing and identification has begun and results will be reported once available

Alternate Pathway Surveillance in Illinois – Law Enforcement

Two fish markets in Northern Illinois were inspected and found to be operating without retail aquatic life dealer's licenses. They were issued warnings and brought into compliance. The out of state wholesale aquatic life dealer for one of the markets is being looked into.

Two intrastate retail minnow dealers in Northern Illinois were issued warnings and brought into compliance for selling minnows without a valid license.

An Illinois pond owner was interviewed by the ISU based upon information gathered from a previous arrest. The pond owner admitted purchasing and stocking

approximately 200 pounds of Tilapia for his ponds over a two year period. Charges are pending.

The Invasive Species Unit made a stop of an Arkansas fish hauler in Illinois for delivering/selling aquatic life without a non-resident aquatic life dealer's license and hauling VHS susceptible species without proper VHS import permits.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) – Asian Carp Surveillance

Great Lakes Surveillance

The Lake Erie Management Unit's April sampling programs include

- Commercial fishery monitoring using full Port Observer presence and commercial catch sampling program
- Electrofishing in the Thames River
- Electrofishing in the Grand River
- Gillnetting in the western basin.

The Upper Great Lakes Management Unit's regular sampling programs include

- On-board commercial catch sampling in southern Lake Huron commenced on April 23
- Gill net program sampling inshore areas of Nottawasaga Bay
- Trap netting in the inshore areas of Severn Sound

No Asian carp have been detected through these activities to date.