

March Summary

Bottom Line: Monitoring occurred in the CAWS and upper Illinois Waterway downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier in March. **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, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed 16 electrofishing runs at fixed locations (4 hours total) and 32 runs at randomly selected locations (8 hours total) in the Lockport, Brandon Road, Dresden Island, and Marseilles pools downstream of the Barrier during the week of March 17.
- Crews collected 292 fish of 22 species and 1 hybrid group during electrofishing.
- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen during electrofishing in the Lockport, Brandon Road, or Dresden Island pools. One Silver Carp and 1 Grass Carp were captured during sampling at a random site between Marseilles and Seneca in the Marseilles pool. Silver Carp were also observed jumping but not captured at multiple random sites in the lower Marseilles pool. No Bighead Carp were captured in the Marseilles pool while electrofishing.

Netting:

- Two contracted commercial fishing crews and assisting IDNR biologists set 1.71 miles of net (15 sets) at the four fixed sites and 6.25 miles of net (55 sets) at random and additional sites within the four pools downstream of the Barrier during the week of March 17.
- Crews collected 395 fish of 11 species and 1 hybrid group during commercial netting.
- No Bighead or Silver Carp were reported captured or seen during commercial netting in the Lockport, Brandon Road pool.
- Three Bighead Carp were collected at random sites (One at Downstream end of Moose Island, and two at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers) in the Dresden Island Pool. Total length of these fish ranged from 903-964 mm.

- Twenty-nine Silver Carp, 15 Bighead Carp, and 11 Grass Carp were collected at fixed sites (western end of Peacock Slough, barge slip near western end of Heidecke Lake) and random sites (side channel at Sugar Island) in the Marseilles pool near Morris. Total length ranged from 732-991 mm for Bighead Carp, 590-818 mm for Silver Carp, and 758-888 mm for Grass Carp.

Barrier Defense Asian Carp Removal Project

Barrier defense was conducted the weeks of the March 17th. Below is a quick summary of the activities for the first week of removal. During this first week of removal, hoop nets were deployed in main channel habitats and trammel/gill nets in backwater habitats.

QUICK SUMMARY:		
Number of Days Fished	4	days
Number of Net Crews	25	crew-days
Yards of Net Fished	34150	Yards
Miles of Nets Fished	19.4	Miles
Number of Hoop Net Sets	13.0	Sets
Number of Bighead Carp	409	Fish
Number of Silver Carp	5330	Fish
Number of Grass Carp	168	Fish
Number of Asian Carp (AC)	5907	Fish
Tons of AC Harvested	26.4	Tons

Understanding Surrogate Fish Movement with Barriers

A total of 153 surrogate fish were captured and floy tagged while monitoring in the following pools downstream of the Electric Dispersal Barrier. Dresden pool yielded 82 fish, Brandon Road pool 52 fish and 19 fish were floy tagged in Lockport in March.

Alternative Pathway Surveillance - Urban Fishing Ponds

Two winterkill Asian carp were reported in Chicago urban fishing ponds in March. One Bighead Carp, with a total length of 1010 mm, was discovered in the northeast section of Humboldt Park Lagoon on March 28, and one Silver Carp (732 mm, 6000 g) was reported in Sherman Park Lagoon on March 31. **Neither of these fishing ponds have surface water connection to Lake Michigan or the CAWS.** Age estimates and otolith

microchemistry analysis will be conducted by Dr. Greg Whitley at SIUC; this will be the first analysis of a Silver Carp from an Illinois urban fishing pond to date.

Two winterkill Asian carp were also reported in downstate Crystal Lake in Urbana; one Silver Carp (~457 mm) and one Bighead Carp (~1270 mm, 24,720 g). Age estimation and otolith microchemistry analysis of the Bighead Carp will be conducted Dr. Whitley. Though photos of the Silver Carp were taken, it was disposed of prior to IDNR visiting the site.

Telemetry Monitoring Project

The USACE telemetry network of stationary receivers was re-deployed within the Lockport, Brandon Road and Dresden Island Pools. The bare-bones winter network was downloaded for data collected November 2013 through early March 2014. Mobile tracking was also completed throughout the study area. A preliminary look at the data revealed no upstream passage through the barriers. Asian carp detections in the Dresden Island pool were concentrated within one mile from the confluence of the Kankakee River both in the Des Plaines and Kankakee River directions.

Monitoring for Asian Carp in the Upper Des Plaines River and Upper Des Plaines River Overflow

The USFWS sampled two days at sites on the upper Des Plaines River near Romeoville and Lemont. A total of 8 sets totaling 1500 yards were deployed. These sets yielded 186 fish which included 6 species and 1 hybrid cross. **NO BIGHEAD CARP or SILVER CARP WERE CAPTURED OR OBSERVED.**