



KEEP OUT ASIAN CARP

Statement of Unity

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence community in a united commitment to keep Asian carp from establishing populations in the lakes or river. The most immediate threat is in the Chicago Waterway System (CWS). There have been extensive efforts at the Federal, state, and local levels, with strong support from stakeholders, to prevent the Asian carp from moving toward Lake Michigan. However, there is evidence that our efforts to date have not been aggressive enough, and some carp have reached the Lake already. An all out effort to block the further passage of the Asian carp is needed immediately in pursuit of a goal of zero Asian carp north of the electric barriers. This includes actions, plans, studies, and other steps in the short, mid, and long term. Effective coordination among government parties, transparency with stakeholders, and opportunity for public involvement are essential for success.

Short Term (2010)

1. Comprehensive surveillance and monitoring to track the Asian carp, including eDNA testing, netting and electro-fishing to support management decisions
2. Adopt and implement a Contingency Plan with clear triggers for action and resources to implement, especially to restrict the further movement of Asian carp
3. Operation of the electronic barrier at optimal capacity and completion of Barrier IIB
4. Implement recommendations of the Efficacy Study, including measures for flood bypass protection
5. Identify and obtain appropriate funding sources, including GLRI, WRDA, and others
6. Clarify or expand Federal and state authorities so that agencies have the ability to act to implement the plans and studies developed, (especially so the Corps can proceed without a conflict with their navigational responsibilities)
7. Begin independent, collaborative studies to investigate long term sustainable solutions to prevent the movement of invasive species between the basins and address intermodal transportation and water management challenges for the greater Chicago region.

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David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair



Mid Term (2011-2012)

1. Expedited Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study for long term solutions with the Chicago Waterway phase of the study to be completed no later than September 30, 2011
2. Complete independent, collaborative studies to investigate long term actions to address economic, transportation, water management, and related issues that would arise from ecological separation of the Chicago Waterway System.
3. Begin implementation of long-term sustainable solutions, including those recommended by the feasibility study.
4. Identify appropriate funding sources, including GLRI, WRDA, and others

Long Term (2013 and beyond)

1. Fully fund and complete implementation of long-term, sustainable solutions, including those recommended by the feasibility study, to prevent the movement of invasive species between the basins and address transportation and water management needs for greater Chicago.

Most parties concur that the best long-term solution for the health of both the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds is ecological separation. However, the Chicago region's uses of local waterways—for storm and wastewater, transportation of commercial goods, recreation and emergency response—have evolved over decades and are complex. The search for long-term sustainable solutions must start with a unified, immediate, and significant commitment of resources and to an aggressive timetable. The collaborative development of long-term solutions that will benefit all stakeholders must follow very shortly after.

This statement addresses the most significant and immediate avenue for Asian carp to enter the Great Lakes. Additional actions are needed to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from entering the lakes from other sources including ballast water, live trade, and other interbasin linkages.

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