



Supreme Court Decision Underscores Need for Rapid Action to Close Invasive Species Superhighway

ANN ARBOR, MICH. (April 26, 2010)—The United States Supreme Court today refused to take up a case to permanently separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River to prevent the movement of invasive species such as the Asian carp across the country.

The court gave no explanation about why it would not hear the case, brought by the state attorneys general of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio and New York.

Commenting on the case, **Marc Smith, policy manager for the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center**, said:

"The court's refusal to hear the case only underscores the need for the state and federal agencies to take action to shut down this invasive species superhighway that threatens people, businesses, communities and wildlife in the Great Lakes and across the nation.

"The serious threat posed by the Asian carp—and other aquatic invasive species—cannot be solved by a perpetual state of Band-aid half-measures.

"The nation has an opportunity to put forward a solution to this crisis that creates jobs, facilitates the movement of commerce, protects communities and helps safeguard the largest freshwater resource in the world.

"The status quo does not cut it. We need to stop the Asian carp, channel by channel. That means closing all the doors to Lake Michigan while we build a permanent barrier that keeps Asian carp—and other harmful species—from getting into the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River."

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