



Plan to Keep Out Asian Carp ‘Right Management Decision at This Time’

Washington, D.C. (November 14) —The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced their strategy to protect the Great Lakes from invasive Asian carp—non-native invasive fish that have migrated up the Mississippi River, into the Illinois River and are now knocking on the door of Lake Michigan. These invasive fish threaten to destroy the balance of species in the Great Lakes if they can get through a canal connecting the Illinois River to Lake Michigan.

The only thing preventing the fish from passing through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and into Lake Michigan is an electric barrier that repels the fish. The barrier is due for maintenance and needs to be shut down. To prevent invasive Asian carp from entering the lakes while the barrier is not turned on, fisheries managers will treat the water resulting in a large scale fish kill in a five-mile stretch of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal on which the barrier resides.

Jeff Skelding, campaign director for the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, said:

“Asian carp are a tremendous threat to the Great Lakes, and we have one chance to get this right-or the lakes will be devastated forever.

“This is the right management decision to take at this time to prevent one of the most notorious invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.

“It shows how important it is to finish construction of the entire barrier and take steps to prevent a by-pass from the DesPlaines River as quickly as possible. But in the long run these are still band aid measures which underline the need for long-term, permanent solutions.”

The Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Campaign is directed by the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. The coalition is co-chaired by the National Wildlife Federation and consists of more than 100 environmental, conservation, outdoor recreation organizations, zoos, aquariums and museums representing millions of people, whose common goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

For more information, visit: <http://www.healthylakes.org/>

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