



# Council of Lake Committees

REPRESENTING THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES OF THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

November 6, 2009

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CHIPPEWA-OTTAWA  
RESOURCE AUTHORITY

GREAT LAKES INDIAN  
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ONTARIO MNR

PENNSYLVANIA F&BC

WISCONSIN DNR

Governor Pat Quinn  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62702

Dear Governor Quinn:

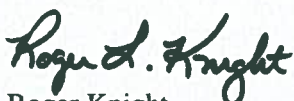
On behalf of the Council of Lake Committees (council), I am writing to support the emergency actions that Illinois plans to take to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of invasive silver carp and bighead carp (Asian carp). The Great Lakes ecosystem and its fisheries have been negatively affected by invasive species for over 80 years.

The council consists of senior-level managers from State, Tribal, and Provincial fishery management agencies on the Great Lakes. The council supervises the development of shared fishery objectives and facilitates consistent, science-based fishery management. As such, the council understands and is strongly supportive of the need to prevent the spread of yet more invasive species into the Great Lakes. The council appreciates the planned approach of Illinois to conduct a rotenone treatment of a several mile segment of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) around and downstream of the electric dispersal barrier when it needs to be shut down for maintenance. Most of the agencies represented on the council have committed personnel, equipment, chemicals, and/or funds to support the rotenone treatment.

Given the proximity of Asian carp to the dispersal barrier, coupled with its need for immediate maintenance, the council believes that Illinois' planned actions are both appropriate and necessary. Further, the council remains concerned that other pathways could allow Asian carp to enter the CSSC above the dispersal barrier. The council will support Illinois, in partnership with the federal governments, states, and province, to quickly implement a science-based response plan to prevent passage of Asian carp past the barrier. While these short-term actions are important, a long-term solution is necessary. The council will work with Illinois and its other partners to communicate to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (corps) the urgency to complete its study of separation between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainages.

Thank you for Illinois' leadership in this emergency effort to keep Asian carp from the Great Lakes. If there is anything else the council can do to support these efforts, please contact Dr. John Dettmers at (734) 662-3209 x 32 or [jdettmers@glfc.org](mailto:jdettmers@glfc.org).

Sincerely,



Roger Knight  
Chair  
Council of Lake Committees