



## Great Lakes Fishery Commission

November 9, 2009

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

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to thank the State of Illinois for the steps it is taking to prevent the migration of silver carp and bighead carp (Asian carp) into the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (commission) has worked to control the invasive sea lamprey for more than 50 years and recognizes that doing everything possible to prevent new invasive species from compromising the vibrant fisheries in the Great Lakes is unquestionably the best strategy.

The commission strongly supports Illinois' plan to administer a piscicide treatment on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (canal). This initiative not only should safeguard Lake Michigan from the invasive Asian carp, but also will ensure that essential maintenance at the electric dispersal barrier (currently the only line of defense against the carp) can occur. Illinois has not had to shoulder the burden entirely—the commission and others have been communicating with agencies throughout the basin in support of your actions and the needed funding—from many sources—has emerged.

The commission is concerned that other pathways could allow Asian carp to enter the canal above the dispersal barrier. The potential for flooding of the Des Plaines River and/or the Illinois and Michigan Canal into the canal are potential pathways for carp to migrate above the barrier. These pathways must be addressed. The commission will support Illinois, in partnership with the federal government, tribal agencies, states, and provinces, to implement immediately a science-based response plan to prevent migration of Asian carp past the barrier. While these short-term actions are important, a long-term solution is necessary. For that reason, the commission has urged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete and implement its biological separation study with all haste.

The commission, the states, the tribes, two provinces, and the millions of people who benefit from the Great Lakes appreciate the steps Illinois is taking to keep the Asian carp out of the system. The commission looks forward to working collaboratively to safeguard the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainages from further invasive threats through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

Sincerely,

C. I. Goddard  
Executive Secretary