

AUGUST

OH NO!

Asian carp eDNA is detected for the first time above the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, only 10 miles downstream of the electric barrier.



SEPTEMBER

HERE THEY COME...

Asian carp eDNA is detected in the Des Plaines River and the Illinois and Michigan Canal, parallel to the CSSC and upstream of the electric barriers.

USACE considers constructing barriers to prevent Asian carp from passing into the CSSC during flood events that connect the waterways.

NOVEMBER

BEYOND THE BARRIER

Asian carp eDNA is detected in the Cal-Sag Channel, upstream of the electric barrier.



Photo: Steven Vance

DECEMBER

KILLING FISH TO SAVE THE LAKE

IDNR poisons a six-mile stretch of the CSSC near the electric barrier while it is shut down for regular maintenance.

One Asian carp is recovered downstream of the barrier, but experts suspect that others are killed but not recovered.



Photo: Kate Gardner

Michigan files a suit in the U.S. Supreme Court requesting an immediate closure of the locks as well as measures to permanently separate the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds as soon as possible.



Photo: USACE/Jessica Vandrak

JANUARY

STRIKE ONE...

The U.S. Supreme Court rejects Michigan's request for a preliminary injunction to force lock closures and other actions by Illinois, USACE, and the MWRD to prevent the movement of Asian carp into Lake Michigan.

The same day, USACE announced that Asian carp eDNA had been found in Lake Michigan's Calumet Harbor.



Photo: Copyright © Gary Martin

FEBRUARY

EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK

The federal government releases a \$78.5 million Asian carp plan, comprising both short- and long-term strategies, including electric barrier construction, eDNA monitoring, and research into new control methods and ecological separation. Immediate lock closures are not considered.

Michigan renews its motion for preliminary injunction with the Supreme Court.



Photo: Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

MARCH

STRIKE TWO...

The Supreme Court again rejects Michigan's request for a preliminary injunction to close the locks between the Chicago Area Waterway System and Lake Michigan.



Photo: S.E.R.

APRIL

AND...STRIKE THREE

The Supreme Court refuses to consider Michigan's request to force USACE to create a permanent physical barrier between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

This leaves USACE with the decision to separate the watersheds or not. They are expected to report their study of the issue in 2012.

MAY

MORE POISON, BUT NO CARP

Hoping to confirm or deny positive detections of Asian carp eDNA above the electric barrier, fisheries crews from USFWS and IDNR poison a two-mile stretch of the Little Calumet River.

No Asian carp are recovered, but experts insist that this result is neither unexpected nor proof that no Asian carp have breached the barrier.

JUNE

LIVE CARP FOUND!

A live bighead carp is netted in Lake Calumet, upstream of both the electric barrier and the O'Brien Lock and Dam.



Photo: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

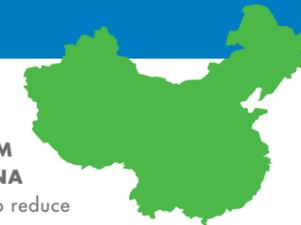
USACE concluded that intermittent lock closures would have no meaningful impact on Asian carp, but recommends installing screens over the sluice gates at the O'Brien, Chicago, and Wilmette control structures.

JULY

SHIP 'EM TO CHINA

Hoping to reduce invasion pressure on Lake Michigan, Illinois offers \$2 million to help commercial fishers harvest 30 million pounds of Asian carp from the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers for sale in China.

Michigan takes its request for immediate lock closures to federal district court. They also ask that USACE be directed to expedite its study of measures to permanently separate the CAWS from Lake Michigan.



SEPTEMBER

INTRODUCING THE CARP CZAR

The White House names John Goss of the Indiana Wildlife Federation as its Asian Carp Director.



Photo: USACE/Jessica Vandrak

DECEMBER

CAN SLOW AND STEADY WIN THE RACE?

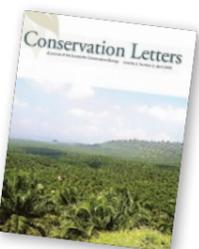
Michigan announces its intent to appeal after its third lawsuit is rejected by the Supreme Court.

USACE releases a plan for its watershed separation study. To the ire of conservationists, the plan suggested that measures short of physical separation may be considered and pushes the due date back from 2012 to 2015.

JANUARY

VALIDATION, BUT SMALL COMFORT

Asian carp eDNA results are published for the first time in a peer-reviewed journal, *Conservation Letters*.



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Great Lakes Commission begin a study of ecological separation measures.

The study will parallel USACE's, but will be complete in January 2012, far ahead of the USACE study.

FEBRUARY

DEFEATED AGAIN

The U.S. House of Representatives votes against a bill that would force the closure of Chicago area shipping locks, preventing Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan. With bipartisan backing, major supporters plan to reintroduce the legislation within the following months.



ABBREVIATIONS USED

- eDNA** Environmental DNA
- USACE** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USFWS** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- IDNR** Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- CSSC** Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- CAWS** Chicago Area Waterway System

FOR MORE INFO ON THE MIDWESTERN ASIAN CARP INVASION, PLEASE VISIT US AT DEBRASHORE.ORG

