



# 2016 ASIAN CARP ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The Asian Carp Action Plan, formerly the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework, communicates collaborative efforts among federal, state, provincial and other agencies to achieve the Asian Carp Regional Coordination Committee's (ACRCC) purpose: to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

To more clearly communicate the scope of the annual effort the title of the document has been changed from Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework to Asian Carp Action Plan. The new title of this document is intended to provide a better understanding of its purpose – to summarize the portfolio of strategic actions being undertaken by the agencies as a coordinated response to the Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes in 2016. The Action Plan continues to embody components of the previous Frameworks, but includes enhancements for more effective interagency planning and coordination. In addition this Action Plan includes a long-term planning horizon that can be used to inform future actions. This document is not a commitment to future funding. All out-year actions beyond fiscal year (FY) 2016 may be adjusted annually based on appropriations and allocations.

Many new or continuing initiatives in this Action Plan fall under three “focus areas”.

## 1. PREVENTION

### Pathway Closures & Control Measures

- Construction of a new electric barrier to increase capability to stop fish passage in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.
- Evaluation of control measures and development of a recommended plan to address upstream transfer of aquatic nuisance species, including Asian carp, at Brandon Road Lock and Dam.
- Closure of Eagle Marsh pathway through construction of a new earthen berm across the floodway at Eagle Marsh in Indiana that prevents the interbasin passage of Asian carp into Lake Erie from the Wabash River.
- Development of closure options at Little Killbuck Creek Pathway and Ohio-Erie Canal pathways.
- Evaluation of Asian carp behavior near barges and in void spaces of barge tows to minimize potential inadvertent fish entrainment through the electric barrier and through locks.

## 2. DETECTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

### Fishery Management

- Contract fishing to reduce the numbers of Silver and Bighead Carp in the upper Illinois and lower Des Plaines rivers downstream of the electric barrier will be increased by 50 percent.
- An updated response decision support tool will be developed to further outline response actions, as well as situational awareness and concerns throughout the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC).
- Increasing use of small mesh purse type nets will be deployed to target juvenile Asian carp to remove them from waterways before they can breed and to evaluate effectiveness in decreasing juvenile Asian carp densities.
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan DNR will be developing an adaptive management framework for Grass Carp capture in Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay.

### Development of New Control Technologies and Strategies

- Evaluations on the effectiveness of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a tool for deterring or controlling Asian carp will continue.
- Development of a microparticle that would demonstrate high toxicity and selectivity for Asian carp will be continued.
- Expanded studies of fish attractants will be undertaken with federal and state agencies, and commercial fishermen.
- The effectiveness of acoustic stimuli for excluding Asian carp will be evaluated.

- Sampling will continue in the Sandusky River and River Raisin to document evidence of Grass Carp spawning and identify potential control technologies.
- Toxicity tests will be conducted on hot water and ozone, singly and in combination, against a broad range of taxa and life stages to determine effectiveness.

### Monitoring and Assessment

- Fixed-site monitoring upstream of the electrical dispersal barrier and Seasonal Intensive Monitoring (as identified in the 2016 Monitoring and Response Plan) will continue in 2016.
- Continuing fixed-site monitoring downstream of the electric dispersal barrier and random electrofishing and contracted netting will continue at elevated levels.
- Continued sampling for young-of-year and juvenile Asian carp will take place through netting and electrofishing operations.
- Additional work will be undertaken to better understand population dynamics (stock assessment) of Asian carp in the upper Illinois River.
- A comprehensive and complementary early detection and rapid assessment surveillance program for Bighead, Silver, Grass, and Black Carp in and near the Great Lakes will continue.
- Black and Grass Carp populations in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) will be analyzed to better understand their risk of invasion to the Great Lakes.

## 3. MANAGEMENT

### Communication and Outreach

- Monitoring and response updates are reported regularly on the [asiancarp.us](http://asiancarp.us) website. The [asiancarp.us](http://asiancarp.us) website will be expanded to include Grass Carp in priority basins.
- Continued efforts to communicate and develop additional mechanisms to share information and engage partners, stakeholders, and the public will be undertaken.

### Interbasin Collaboration

- Coordination and communication of lessons learned within and between the partnerships are being facilitated, enhanced, and more formally codified.
- USFWS will continue its increased leadership activities and provide funding to states for high-priority prevention projects for interagency efforts outside the Great Lakes Basin, focusing on the Ohio River and Upper Mississippi River basins.
- Support for interbasin coordination between the ACRC and other multijurisdictional basinwide partnerships in other parts of the nation to leverage available resources and to maximize conservation benefits will continue.

## INTERAGENCY CAWS ASIAN CARP PROGRAM

The interagency Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Asian Carp Program began in 2009 with efforts to support barrier maintenance within the CAWS. The formation of the ACRC initially brought together the agencies potentially affected by the expansion of Asian carp into new waterway systems. The scope of efforts has since been expanded beyond the CAWS to include the Great Lakes basin, as

well as other potential pathways for Asian carp introduction, including secondary pathways of AIS introduction as indicated in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) report. The efforts of the ACRC now are bi-national in scope and encompass 26 agencies and organizations in the United States and Canada.

