

LEAVING NOTHING TO CHANCE

INVASIVE CARP MONITORING, MANAGEMENT, AND CONTINGENCY ACTIONS



Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

The Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ICRCC), comprising 28 U.S. and Canadian federal, state, provincial, and regional institutions, was formed in 2010 to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive carp into the Great Lakes. The ICRCC is co-chaired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Monitoring and Response Work Group (MRWG), a subcommittee of the ICRCC, is charged with developing a Monitoring and Response Plan. The MRWG is co-chaired by the State of Illinois and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. ICRCC efforts are guided by two action plans, the Invasive Carp Action Plan and the Invasive Carp MRP in the Upper Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System.

WE ARE VIGILANT

All ICRCC agencies are taking aggressive actions to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of bighead, black, grass and silver carp populations in the Great Lakes through the Illinois Waterway pathway.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

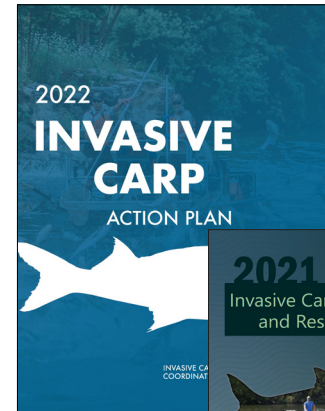
**Monitor and assess
invasive carp movement.**

**Manage and control invasive
carp to reduce their impact.**

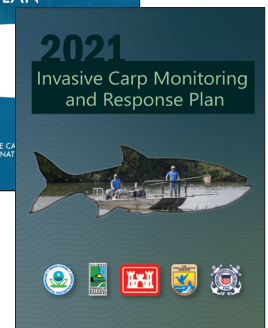
**Be ready to respond
if a threat is detected.**



Corralling invasive carp for removal during a Unified Fishing Method removal event



2022 Invasive
Carp Action
Plan cover



2021 Invasive Carp
Monitoring and Response
Plan cover

ACTIONS TO DATE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

Control and monitoring efforts, ongoing since 2009, have provided a wealth of new information that will be used to guide MRWG actions. Without those actions and measures undertaken in previous years, invasive carp would likely be much more abundant in the Illinois River and would likely be considerably closer to Lake Michigan. For instance:

- **Over 11 million pounds of adult invasive carp were removed** between Starved Rock Lock and Dam and Brandon Road Lock and Dam, resulting in a greater than 96% reduction in the estimated population of invasive carp in Dresden Island Pool from 2012 – 2021.
- **Deterrence at the electric barriers continues to be improved** with continued construction of new Barrier I to complement the three existing electrical barriers.
- **Population modeling** informs continued harvest upstream of Starved Rock Lock and Dam, and increased removal efforts downstream to maximize protection of the Great Lakes.
- **Collaborative engineering and research** continues under an agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Illinois (with funding support from Michigan) to advance the design of an invasive carp deterrents project at Brandon Road Lock. Initial construction is slated for fall 2024.

Monitor

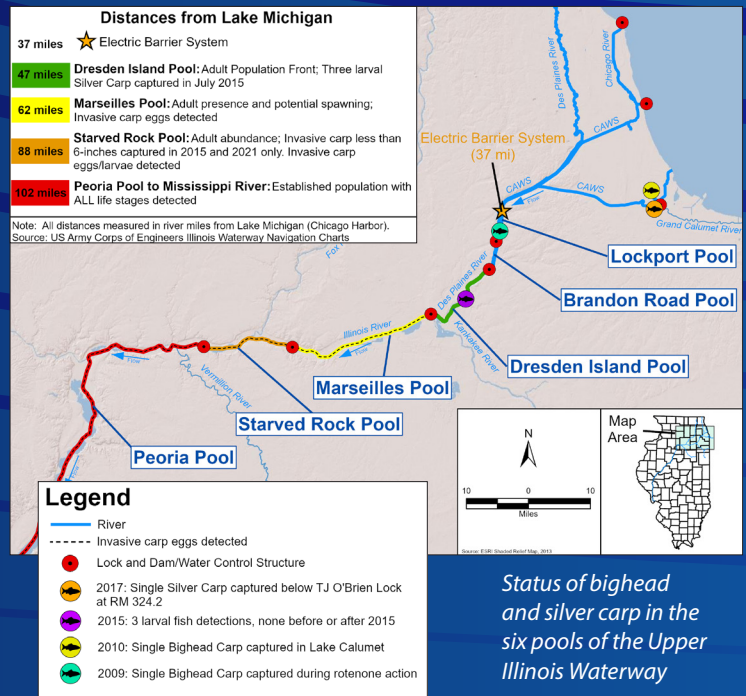
Agencies need to know the location of invasive carp at all life stages to determine the most appropriate management actions and to execute effective contingency plans.

Manage

Invasive carp management and control is ongoing in areas where the species are abundant and established. Ongoing work to manage invasive carp proactively and aggressively has slowed the movement of the fish and, in turn, reduced pressure on the electrical barrier.

Contingency Response

We must leave nothing to chance. The ICRC recognizes that in addition to enhanced management and monitoring being undertaken, further action may be required in response to findings from monitoring activities. These contingency actions are designed to prevent advancement of invasive carp beyond specified points within the Chicago Area Waterway System. Comprehensive monitoring, along with information collected during earlier work, will allow officials to know the location and movement of invasive carp and will, if invasive carp are found in locations deemed to represent a change of risk, dictate immediate and escalating contingency actions.



Collecting water samples to analyze for the presence of invasive carp eggs/larvae



Corralling invasive carp for removal during a Unified Fishing Method removal event



Agencies investigate waters routinely above the electric dispersal barrier



Visit our website for more information
www.invasivecarp.us