Over the past 18 months, your willingness to act is making a difference in efforts to stop the Asian carp that otherwise may not have happened. We at Freshwater Future are humbled to be part of these efforts.

In the past two months, armed with your postcards, with the help of groups around the region we met with 30 Members of Congress or their staff. Both times, we let your elected officials know that their No Profit or U.S. Penalty key, with #15 printed on recycled paper.

Thank YOU for taking time to be part of the solution!

P.O. Box 2479
Petoskey, MI 49770

Asian Carp

Helping People Protect the Great Lakes

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Freshwater Future’s mission is to ensure the healthy future of our waters in the Great Lakes region.

We do this by:

• Building effective Great Lakes advocates and environmental organizations;
• Ensuring policies are in place and enforced to safeguard our waters;
• Bringing together the local efforts of many to create a stronger voice for our waters; and
• Staying abreast of interests to our waters, not waiting for disaster to happen before taking action.

Who is Freshwater Future?

Since 1996, Freshwater Future has helped thousands of community-based groups and individuals by providing over $1.5 million in grants, one-on-one technical support to grow leaders and strong organizations, and strengthening the Great Lakes Community.

www.freshwaterfuture.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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In 2010, Environmental groups take their postcard campaign—and a mounted Asian carp—to Washington, D.C. in a show of force to urge federal action to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. Pictured from left: Jennifer Nalbone, Great Lakes United; Jack Darin, Sierra Club – Illinois Chapter; Marc Smith, National Wildlife Federation; Al House, Apostle Islands Sport Fisherman’s Association; Kristy Meyer, Ohio Environmental Council; Cheryl Mendoza, Freshwater Future; Mike Ryan, Hoosier Coho Club and Northwest Indiana Steelheaders; Joel Brammeier, Alliance for the Great Lakes.

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Asian Carp Update

November 2011

Freshwater Future: Scientists Say Asian Carp are a Threat to the Great Lakes

A n independent, peer-reviewed scientific paper refutes four main misconceptions opponent use against progress on halting the Asian carp’s migration from the Mississippi River into the Great Lakes. The report addresses free claims; below is just one of these claims. The remaining ones can be found on our website at www.freshwaterfuture.org/asiancarp.

Claim: Even if they do find their way to the Great Lakes, Asian carp won’t thrive there because the lakes lack adequate food and spawning habitat.

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The latest and greatest efforts to stop the Asian carp—we thought you would want to know!

Legislation to Stop Asian Carp
There are Members of Congress supporting strategic efforts to get the Stop Asian Carp Act passed this year with leadership in place to move those efforts forward. However, if unsuccessful, it is unlikely anything will happen this year and may even be delayed until after the 2012 election cycle.

Permanent Solutions Revealed
A recent study addresses methods to permanently stop the Asian carp and help fix other problems the City of Chicago is facing at the same time. Some of the ideas on how to separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River include constructing earthen barriers that would become parks. Our hope is that this study will be used to bring pressure on Congress to act quickly on a permanent solution—NOW.

What will it take to Stop the Asian Carp?
The Army Corps is responsible for implementing short-term and permanent solutions. As you know, the Corps is dragging its feet. Historically, it has taken an act of Congress to force the Corps to get to work quickly. This is where you come in. We need to continue to put pressure on the Obama Administration, lawmakers, and the media to move the Corps to do more to stop the Asian carp. Can we count on you to stay involved and keep telling our decision makers to take action?

Thank YOU for taking time to be part of the solution! continued....

Voters Have Spoken and demand action to stop the Asian carp. Your post cards and petition signatures are sending a clear message to your Member of Congress—DO SOMETHING NOW, before it is too late. As a result, in just the past few months Congressmen LaTouretté from Ohio, Congressmen Kelly from Pennsylvania, Congressman Peterson from Minnesota and Senator Kohl from Wisconsin have stepped up co-sponsor the Stop Asian Carp Act—important legislation that would move forward efforts to separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Separating the two watersheds is the only permanent solution that would stop the Asian carp from swimming into our Great Lakes.

Where do we go from here?
You are one of the thousands of people willing to take action to stop the Asian carp—and we hope you will continue to do so. The fight to stop the Asian carp from invading our Great Lakes is just beginning. This month Freshwater Future will be meeting with groups from around the Great Lakes region to hash out our strategy for the next year, building off the efforts you helped make happen. Stay tuned and we’ll be back in touch about how you can be part of it. Until then, feel free to email Cheryl in our office your ideas on how we can best influence decision makers to take action to stop the Asian carp at Cheryl@freshwaterfuture.org.

Separating Fact From Fiction: Scientists Say Asian Carp are a Threat to the Great Lakes continued....
Scientists’ response: “Peer-reviewed literature strongly suggests that food sources in the Great Lakes and tributary rivers are more than adequate to support bighead and silver carp,” according to the scientists. Claims to the contrary are based on misrepresentations of one modeling exercise that hypothesized plankton—tiny organisms adrift in the water column—to be the only food source available to the carp. Though that study’s authors were careful to acknowledge other food sources were omitted from the model, critics of hydroseparation ignore that fact.

The authors say further that scientific evidence shows the Great Lakes provide an array of nearshore areas, shallow bays and tributaries with enough plankton to support Asian carp, and that the carp would naturally gravitate to those areas. The scientists warn that a scenario of Asian carp successfully spawning in the Great Lakes is a “significant possibility that cannot be ruled out.”