

Keeping Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic well-being and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. population in the region; and

WHEREAS, over 180 invasive species have entered the Great Lakes and its connecting water ways over the years causing widespread damage and disruption to the natural balance of the system, as well as significant economic damage; and

WHEREAS, one of the most serious threats ever presented by the 39 invasive species currently comes from Asian carp, including silver, bighead, and black varieties introduced to the southern United States for use in fish farms to control algae in the 1970's and escaped into the Mississippi River system; and

WHEREAS, invasive species have already inflicted hundreds of millions in damage across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence with the invasive carp posing a serious threat to the \$7 billion sport and commercial fishery that support the economy and help define the culture of the entire region; and

WHEREAS, the Asian carp have migrated northward through the Mississippi River system as far as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, reducing significantly or eliminating populations of the more desirable species of fish because of their voracious food consumption and prolific reproduction; and

WHEREAS, the invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the region and many federal, state, provincial, and local government agencies in the United States and Canada have worked diligently and expended tens of millions of dollars over the past 10 years on a variety of projects to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, once an invasive species establishes itself in an ecosystem, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate it without serious damage on the ecosystem and major financial costs; and

WHEREAS, Canadian and U.S. citizens across the basin have expressed serious concern about the dangerous risk of injury to recreational users on infested waters and are demanding prompt action; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a multiyear, comprehensive study across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin called the "Great Lakes and Mississippi River Inter-basin Study" (GLMRIS) that examines 19 separate locations where invasive carp could cross from the Mississippi River Basin to the Great Lakes Basin, and considers a large number of potential ways to stop the further migration.

WHEREAS, the invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, including the 40 million Canadians and Americans who live there; and

WHEREAS, preventing the invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem needs to be approached with the greatest sense of urgency by all those responsible for dealing with this matter; and

WHEREAS, physical separation is the most effective way to keep invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System and such barriers would also prevent the movement of many other invasive species from one basin to the other; and

WHEREAS, physical separation is feasible and can be done in a way that maintains or enhances water quality, flood control, and transportation in the system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Fairport strongly urges all parties involved take immediate interim steps to keep the invasive carp out and to identify a preferred solution to the invasive carp issue and move forward to implement that solution with the greatest sense of urgency.

Adopted on Nov 12, 2013 by the Village of Fairport

Vote: 5 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent

Signed Laura K. Wharmby

11-13-13
Dated