



ACTION ALERT!

Emergency action needed to stop Asian carp

In the U.S.: Contact your federal Representative, Senators and the Army Corps immediately

In Canada: Contact the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans immediately

Asian carp have reached the electrical barrier operating in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC). While the voltage at the barrier has been turned up, and experts are confident that the carp will not breach the barrier, **a heavy rainfall could give these fish a way to bypass the barrier.**

The carp have been discovered in waterways less than 100 feet from the CSSC, and could bypass the barrier completely if a heavy rain floods the neighboring waterways.

Teams of scientists are monitoring the canal above and below the barrier several times weekly. **While the Army Corps can't control the weather, they can take immediate concrete action to prevent the carp from bypassing the barrier.** There are three actions that they can take this fall:

- An emergency physical barrier (like sandbags)



How can they get past the barrier?

[Click the map](#) for a larger view of how flooding of the Des Plaines River could allow the Asian carp to bypass our only line of defense.

Press Releases

[**Emergency Action Needed to Stop Invasive Fish from Wreaking Havoc on Great Lakes**](#)

[**Asian Carp Invasion would be a Freshwater Disaster for Canada**](#)

Take Action!

In the United States:

Please make 4 calls:

Contact your member of Congress and two Senators. Ask them to tell

must be built between the Des Plaines and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to ensure the Des Plaines River and live carp cannot flood into the CSSC past the electrical barrier.

- An additional barrier (like a bubble/acoustic barrier) must be installed to stop the carp from migrating upstream into the Des Plaines River.
- Critical sections of the Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal must be filled in, so that carp cannot swim into the CSSC during floods.

If flooding occurs and the Corps has failed to take the above actions, all locks upstream of the electric barrier must be closed until we are certain that carp have not been carried into the Great Lakes watershed along with the floodwaters.

After the Corps takes these emergency actions, it must quickly turn to its work to permanently separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River to stop this emergency from becoming an epidemic.

Stopping the carp and future invaders permanently will require complete separation of the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River. But right now, carp have surrounded the CSSC by invading waterways less than 100 feet from the CSSC. There is an urgent threat of the carp entering Lake Michigan if the Des Plaines River floods. The carp are in the River, which in some places is only yards away from the CSSC. Another adjacent canal is currently free of carp but presents a similar threat as the Des Plaines, if the carp migrate further into it. The I&M canal is connected to the CSSC by small culverts that the carp could swim through during heavy rains.

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take the immediate emergency actions above to stop Asian carp from getting into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal during a flood. Call 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Representative's and Senators' offices.

Contact Ms. Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). Tell her that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must take immediate emergency action to ensure Asian carp cannot get into the Great Lakes during a flood. Assistant Secretary Darcy can be reached at (703) 697-8986 or by writing 108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446, Washington, DC 20310-0108.

In Canada:

Please make 2 calls:

The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment

Tel.: 819-997-1441

Fax: 819-953-0279

Email: Jim.Prentice@ec.gc.ca

The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Telephone: (613) 992-9223

Fax: (613) 992-1974

e-mail: Min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Please urge these ministers to offer Canada's help in any effort to stop the invasive fish.