

6. Informational: Asian Carp Management and Control Plan

Greg Conover, FWS, provided an update on the *Asian Carp Management and Control Plan* for plan coordinator Sam Finney, FWS. Much effort to control Asian carp has been spent within the Chicago waterway system and connections between the Chicago River and Great Lakes. A Great Lakes regional committee developed a regional Asian carp plan using recommendations from the national plan that were relevant to the Great Lakes; actions taken to implement the regional plan will benefit implementation of the national plan. Finney and the co-chairs of the Asian Carp Working Group Implementation Team hosted a meeting in conjunction with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, to discuss implementing the *Asian Carp Management and Control Plan*. Attendees recommended changes to the Implementation Team structure and developed a charter for the Implementation Team; identified short- and long-term actions; and identified three working groups. The 131 actions identified in the *Asian Carp Management and Control Plan* will be divided between these working groups. The working groups will then prioritize the actions and identify funding needs. Products from the working groups will be combined into a draft implementation action plan, hopefully by the end of the year.

7. Informational: Asian Carp Eradication Update

Steven Shults, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), reported on Operation Silver Screen. On December 1–7, 2009, the IDNR and other stakeholders responded to the discovery of environmental DNA (eDNA) in Lockport Pool and the need to perform maintenance on the electronic dispersal barrier in the Chicago waterway. A special permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allowed rotenone application with specific restrictions. The rotenone was mixed with canal water, injected with a tracer dye, and applied at night from an initial application station and booster stations. Water quality monitoring was performed during the application process; detoxification with sodium permanganate returned all monitored chemicals to normal levels. Fish were recovered during the day using nets, placed in barrels, and transported to an off-site landfill. A total of 54,680 pounds of fish were recovered, but water temperatures were low enough that many fish did not likely surface. A single bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) was collected.

Verifying the presence of Asian carp near the Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Dam was added to Operation Silver Screen objectives in response to eDNA detections between the electronic barriers and in Lake Michigan. Over 1,000 fish were caught using 19,500 linear feet of trammel net. No Asian carp were collected or observed.

Since the barrier system has many potential bypasses, a regional coordination committee developed a draft Asian carp control strategy framework and a workgroup developed monitoring and rapid response actions and triggers.

Operation Pelican was initiated in Lansing, Illinois, on May 19–26, 2010, to obtain a standing stock estimate of the area fish population, capture and remove any Asian carp, and gather data to correlate traditional sampling gear with total abundance. Eleven commercial netting sites and electrofishing samples collected on two different days did not recover any Asian carp. Rotenone application began at the lock and dam and went downstream. No Asian carp were detected in the 133,820 pounds of fish recovered.

Shults indicated that additional Incident Command System (ICS) training is essential at all levels of response across all agencies. In the future, IDNR will complete intensive sampling using multiple techniques to determine if a chemical response is necessary whenever eDNA is detected or if the barriers are shut down again.