

Silver and Bighead Carp in Lake Michigan

As members of Metro West Steelheaders, we are fortunate to enjoy fishing for Steelheads, Salmon and Lake Trout in Lake Michigan. Unfortunately, the Lake Michigan fisheries are at a great risk if the Silver and/or Bighead Carp make its way to Lake Michigan.

The purpose of this article to share with you the latest information on Silver and Bighead Carp in the Great Lakes and ask for your help in protecting our Great Lakes fisheries.

According the Michigan DNR, the Bighead and Silver carp represent the most severe threat to Michigan Waters

Over the last 40 years, Silver and Bighead carp have migrated up the Mississippi and are now in the Illinois rivers in Chicago. Lake Michigan is connected to the Mississippi thru the Chicago Area Waterway System. An electric barrier was installed about 37 miles from the Lake Michigan to prevent the carp from entering Lake Michigan.

<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/fish/invasive-carp>

Some these carp have already been found above the electric barrier in Lake Calumet and the Grand Calumet River just 9 miles from Lake Michigan.

Michigan and Minnesota have filed lawsuits to close the locks in Illinois. There were resisted by Illinois due to its negative financial impact.

https://www.minnpost.com/dc-dispatches/2010/06/asian-carp-found-past-electric-barrier-6-miles-lake-michigan/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI3am87uCK9gIVh6XlCh27uAqpEAAYASAAEgLmwfD_BwE

To mitigate the risk, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently working on a new project at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/stop-the-carp-invasion-into-the-great-lakes/ar-AAUohLS?ocid=msedgntp>

The Carp Regional Coordinating Committee composed on many federal and state agencies have also developed a comprehensive plan to mitigate the establishments of the Silver and Bighead carp in the Great Lakes.

<http://invasivecarp.us/Documents/2021-Action-Plan.pdf>

As MWS members, we can do our part by (1) Stopping aquatic hitchhikers, (2) Not releasing bait fish in any Michigan waters, and (3) Contacting our Michigan and US representatives share our concerns and support for protecting the Great Lakes from the Silver and Bighead carp.

<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/take-action/boaters-and-anglers>