US Army Corps of Engineers

Barrier Bypass Risk Reduction Project, IL

CSSC Dispersal Barrier Efficacy Study, Interim I

Invasive Species Focus Area

Project Location: The project stretches about 13 miles from approximately Romeoville, IL. to Willow Springs, IL.

Project Description: The Des Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) are separated by a narrow strip of land for approximately 13 miles. During high flows on the Des Plaines River there is a possibility that Asian Carp could bypass the Dispersal Barrier Project in the overland flow from the Des Plaines River to the CSSC. Additionally water from the I&M Canal could flow through culverts to the CSSC. The measures being constructed along the Des Plaines River will consist of concrete barriers and a specially fabricated wire mesh that allows water to flow through but prevents the passage of fish. The barricade will be about 13 miles long, reaching approximately from Romeoville, IL. to Willow Springs, IL. To deter Asian carp from bypassing the barrier via the I&M Canal, construction of a stone barrier will block the movement of Asian carp at the flow divide.

Ecosystem Benefits: The project reduces the risk of Asian carp bypassing the electric barriers and ultimately dispersing into the Great Lakes impacting the ecological balance. Asian carp are voracious eaters, consuming up to 40% of their body weight daily in plankton. The fish can grow up to 4 feet long and weigh as much as 100 pounds. If Asian carp disperse into the Great Lakes it is feared that they could outcompete other filter feeders in the lakes, tributaries and embayments causing a ripple effect that could impact other species of fish in the Great Lakes.

Schedule:

Milestone	Date
Bypass Study Approval	Jan 2010
Contract Award	Apr 2010
Construction Start	Jun 2010
Construction Completion	Fall 2010

Estimated Project Cost:

Federal	$9,000,000
Non-Federal	$0
Total	$9,000,000

Status: Construction is underway and expected to be complete in the fall of 2010.

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