



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

CSSC Dispersal Barriers, Illinois

Asian Carp Location Monitoring and Related Research

Invasive Species Focus Area

Project Location: The electric dispersal barriers are located in Romeoville, Ill. Field work associated with this project is conducted throughout the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) - the only continuous connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, consisting of 78 miles of canals and modified streams.

Project Description: Activities performed under this project consist of supporting Asian Carp location monitoring efforts described in the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee's (ACRCC's) Monitoring and Response Plan (MRP), as well as field and laboratory experiments to assess the efficacy of the electric barriers. Monitoring activities include traditional netting, emitting an electric current from a boat and netting the stunned fish (electrofishing), extracting genetic material from water samples to identify the presence of Asian carp DNA in an area (eDNA), observing real-time fish behavior from an underwater acoustic camera (DIDSON) and tracking tagged fish through underwater stationary and mobile receivers (telemetry).

Non-federal partner: Multiple state and local partners are supporting the MRP.

Project Benefits: The overall goal of the project is to prevent the establishment of a self-sustaining population of Asian carp in the CAWS and the Great Lakes. In so doing, fisheries in the Great Lakes, valued by some at \$7 billion, will be protected from the impacts of this invasive species.

Project Status: Field activities occur routinely in accordance with the MRP. The eDNA Calibration Study (ECALS) is underway to reduce uncertainty surrounding eDNA results and to refine the eDNA methodology. Additional studies are also underway to assess how various conditions impact the barriers' electric field and the resultant fish response.



Estimated Project Costs	
Federal	TBD
Non-federal	TBD

Project Milestones	
Complete Barge study	Sep 2013
Complete 1 st eDNA Markers report	May 2013
Complete 1 st eDNA Calibration report	Jul 2013
Complete 2 nd eDNA Calibration report	Aug 2013
Complete 2 nd eDNA Markers report	Aug 2013
Complete Sediment Studies report	Sep 2013
Complete 3 rd ECALS Interim Report	Dec 2013

Point of Contact
Felicia Y. Kirksey, (312) 846-5556 Felicia.y.kirksey@usace.army.mil

