



February 18, 2010

The Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Shea:

The Ontario Chapter of the American Fisheries Society represents over 130 fisheries biologists, scientists and students in both the private and public sectors in Ontario. Many of our members have researched or seen firsthand the impacts of other unwanted invaders such as Round Goby, Zebra Mussels and Common Carp. Many of our members are also recreational anglers, a group which contributed almost \$2.5 billion dollars to the Ontario economy in 2005. In addition, the present estimated costs of invasive species to the ecology, fisheries and economics of the Great Lakes basin sits at approximately \$200 million/year. We believe that if Asian Carp enter the Great Lakes, this cost will increase astronomically.

We have been following the Asian Carp expansion in the United States for many years and have been watching with renewed interest as the results of the DNA sampling indicating the presence of Asian Carp upstream of the Chicago Shipping Canal became public. We were also following the State of Michigan's lawsuit to force the closure of the Chicago Shipping Canal and were happy to see the Province of Ontario join this suit. Needless to say, we were highly disappointed when this lawsuit was denied.

The Ontario Chapter was recently informed of a public meeting that was held February 12, 2010 in the United States regarding the Asian Carp issue. At this time, we would like to:

- (a) Indicate our strong support for the US Chapters of the American Fisheries Society who have adopted resolutions limiting the spread of invasive species such as Asian Carp;

- (b) Recommend that immediate action be taken by US State and Federal Authorities to stop the spread of Asian Carp by temporarily closing the Chicago Shipping Canal until a permanent solution to halt the spread of this species is found; and,
- (c) Inform you that we are also expressing our concerns about Asian Carp to both our Provincial and Federal governments here in Canada.

I would like to thank you for your time in reading this letter and I look forward to seeing this issue come to a successful conclusion.

Yours in conservation,

Jon Clayton
American Fisheries Society – Ontario Chapter President
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Cc: The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister - Ontario Minister of Natural Resources;
Major Gen. John Peabody, Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers