

Ministry of Natural
Resources

Office of the Minister

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APR 01 2010

Mr. Jon Clayton
American Fisheries Society – Ontario Chapter President
c/o Credit Valley Conservation
1255 Old Derry Road
Mississauga ON L5N 6R4

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Thank you for your letter regarding Asian carp entering the Great Lakes. I share your concern and am pleased to respond.

The province has a duty to protect the public health, welfare and economic well-being of its citizens as well as the biodiversity and ecological integrity of our aquatic environment. The entry of Asian carp into Lake Michigan and ultimately the rest of the Great Lakes is a potential threat that requires action be taken. Since the Great Lakes are a treasure shared by both Canada and the United States (U.S.), the potential spread of Asian carp is not purely a U.S. domestic issue.

In addition to our support for Michigan's motion to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC), in early December, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) contributed staff and funding for a Canadian team to help U.S. agencies in the planned shut-down and maintenance of the electrical barrier in the CSSC. Ontario has made further efforts to ensure Asian carp are not introduced into the Great Lakes by implementing a regulation that prohibits the sale, possession and movement of live Asian carp within Ontario.

Taking action now to prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes waters is critical to Ontario's fisheries and to the economic well-being of current and future generations. MNR will continue to work with Canadian and U.S. agencies to do whatever it takes to stop the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Jeffrey".

Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Natural Resources

c: The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada