



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

MAR 16 2010

Mr. Jon Clayton
President
American Fisheries Association - Ontario Chapter
c/o Credit Valley Conservation
1255 Old Derry Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 6R4

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 23, 2010, concerning Asian carp.

I wish to assure you that our Government shares your concern for the Great Lakes as they face this threat by Asian carp. In 2004, we conducted a risk assessment to determine the ecological risk posed to Canada by Asian carp. The report can be found at < http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas/Csas/DocREC/2004/RES2004_103_E.pdf >. The results of the assessment found that the risk was high to Canadian waters, especially in the Great Lakes. We do not take this threat of invasion lightly.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is supportive of efforts that are both safe and sustainable to help minimize this threat. In early December 2009, the Department led a team of Canadian biologists to help with the State of Illinois prevention efforts in the vicinity of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal while the electrical barrier was shut down for maintenance.

While a new technique has found positive samples of what is termed "environmental DNA" of Asian carp above the electrical barrier, it is important to keep in mind that, despite vigorous sampling by American government officials and commercial fishers, no live Asian carp have been found above the barrier. At this time, there is no evidence that the electrical barriers within the State of Illinois are not working.

We will continue to work closely with the United States regarding the threat of any aquatic invasive species that could have negative impacts on the ecosystem health of the Great Lakes. We are reviewing the relevant information to determine the effectiveness of currently proposed actions, which will help inform our next steps.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.

Canada