MONITORING AND RESPONSE WORK GROUP
MONTHLY ACTIVITY UPDATES

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025

MULTIPLE AGENCY MONITORING OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER

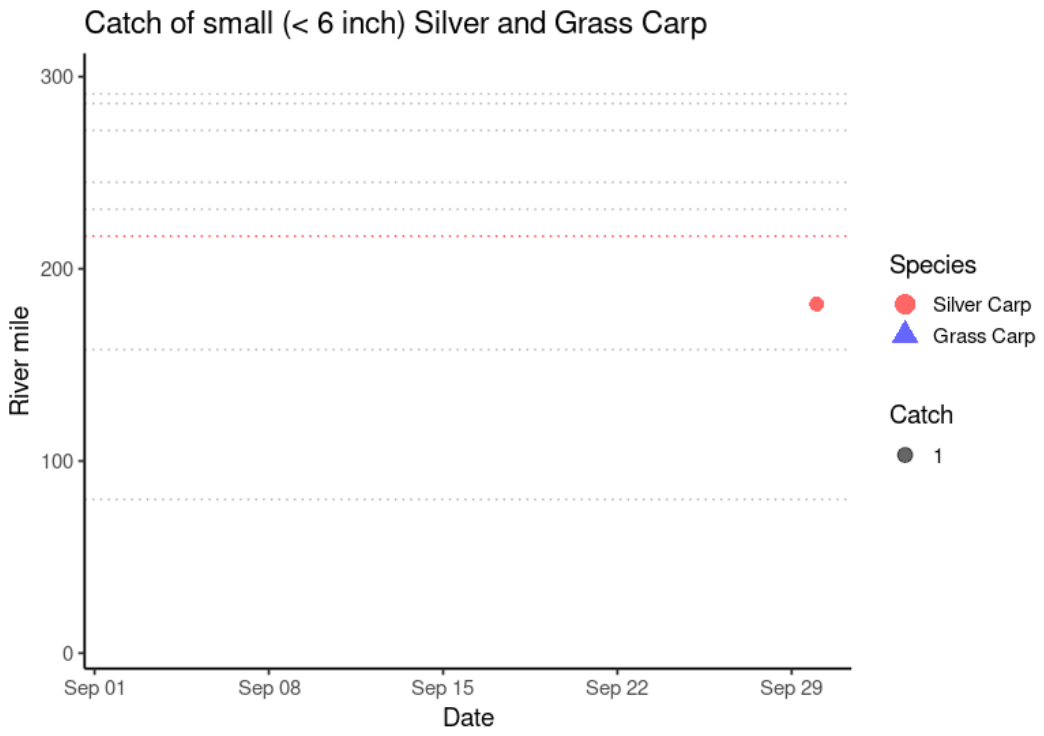
IL DNR, USFWS, INHS

September 2025 Highlights

Small (< 6 inch) carp caught during September

All reported catches are provisional and subject to further QAQC.

	Silver Carp	Grass Carp
Lockport	0	0
Brandon Road	0	0
Dresden Island	0	0
Carp-Likely (DR/KK)	0	0
Kankakee River	0	0
Marseilles	0	0
Fox River	0	0
Starved Rock	0	0
Peoria	1	0
La Grange	0	0
Alton	0	0



Small (< 6 inch) invasive carp capture locations. Silver Carp captures are in red, Grass Carp in blue

Sampling sites completed during September

-	E-fish	Fyke net	Hoop net	Mini-fyke net	Trawl	Dozer trawl
Lockport	0	0	0	4	0	15
Brandon Road	6	0	0	0	0	12
Dresden Island	25	2	7	11	0	24
Carp-Likely (DR/KK)	16	0	0	0	0	0
Kankakee River	0	0	0	0	0	5
Marseilles	17	4	0	15	0	0
Fox River	0	0	0	0	0	5
Starved Rock	7	3	0	24	0	10
Peoria	42	6	7	6	0	26
La Grange	23	4	11	16	2	11
Alton	27	0	4	6	0	10

MULTIPLE AGENCY MONITORING OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER

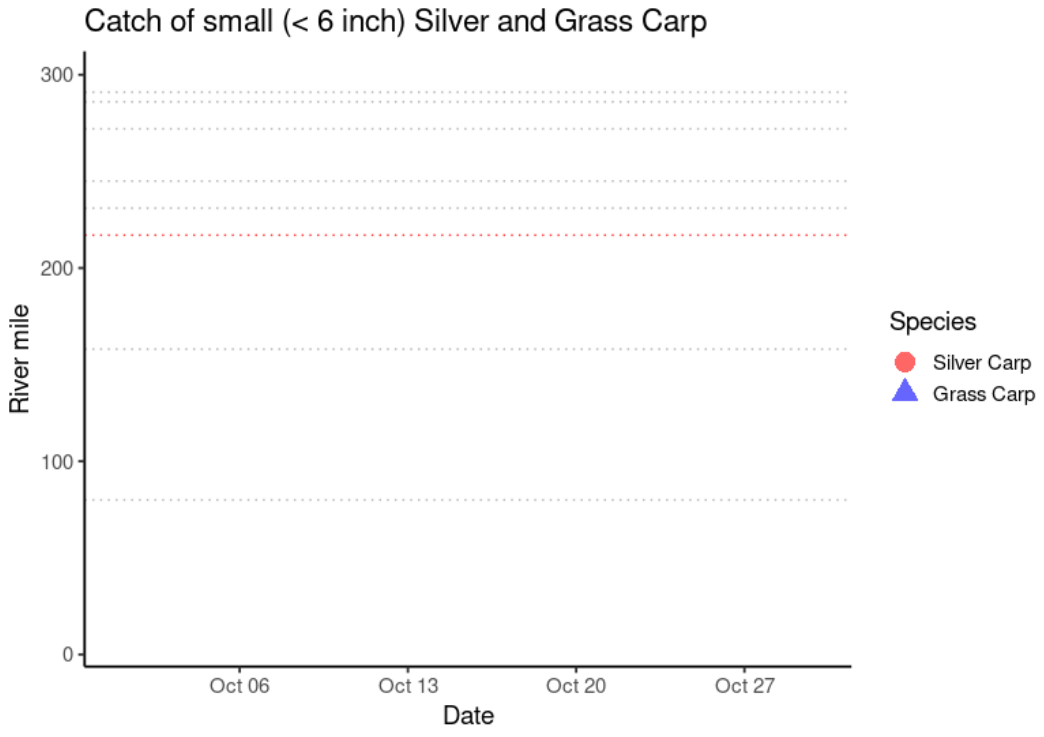
IL DNR, USFWS, INHS

October 2025 Highlights

Small (< 6 inch) carp caught during October

All reported catches are provisional and subject to further QAQC.

	Silver Carp	Grass Carp
Lockport	0	0
Brandon Road	0	0
Dresden Island	0	0
Carp-Likely (DR/KK)	0	0
Marseilles	0	0
Starved Rock	0	0
Peoria	0	0
La Grange	0	0
Alton	0	0



Small (< 6 inch) invasive carp capture locations. Silver Carp captures are in red, Grass Carp in blue

Sampling sites completed during October

-	E-fish	Fyke net	Hoop net	Mini-fyke net	Trawl
Lockport	15	0	0	4	0
Brandon Road	6	0	0	8	0
Dresden Island	21	3	7	13	0
Carp-Likely (DR/KK)	8	0	0	0	0
Marseilles	30	3	14	13	0
Starved Rock	37	4	14	14	0
Peoria	19	6	14	21	0
La Grange	27	8	10	17	2
Alton	11	0	14	13	0

CONTRACTED COMMERCIAL FISHING BELOW THE ELECTRIC DISPERSAL BARRIER

IDNR

Introduction

Contracted Commercial Fishing Below the EDBS uses contracted commercial fishers to reduce invasive carp abundance and monitor for changes in range in the Des Plaines River and upper Illinois River downstream of the EDBS. By decreasing invasive carp abundance, we anticipate reduced migration pressure towards the barrier, lessening the chances of invasive carp gaining access to upstream waters in the CAWS and Lake Michigan. Monitoring for upstream expansion of invasive carp should help identify changes in the leading edge, distribution, and relative abundance of invasive carp in the IWW. The "leading edge" is the furthest upstream location where multiple Bighead Carp or Silver Carp have been captured with conventional sampling gears during a single trip or where individuals of either species have been caught in repeated sampling trips to a specific site. Trends in catch data over time may also contribute to understanding invasive carp population abundance and movement between and among pools of the IWW.

September 2025 Highlights

Dresden Island	**September 2025**
Yards of Net	2,800
Bighead Carp	0
Grass Carp	0
Silver Carp	9
Invasive Carp Caught	9
Invasive Carp Dresden Above I55	0
Invasive Carp Dresden Below I55	9
Invasive Carp Rock Run	0
IC/1000 yards	3.2

Marseilles	**September 2025**
Yards of Net	0
Bighead Carp	0
Grass Carp	0

Silver Carp	0
Invasive Carp Caught	0
IC/1000 yards	0
Invasive Carp Pounds	0

Starved Rock	**September 2025**
Yards of net	55,150
Bighead Carp	15
Grass Carp	49
Silver Carp	13,128
Invasive Carp Caught	13,192
IC/1000 yards	238
Invasive Carp Pounds	82,313

CONTRACTED COMMERCIAL FISHING BELOW THE ELECTRIC DISPERSAL BARRIER

IDNR

Introduction

Contracted Commercial Fishing Below the EDBS uses contracted commercial fishers to reduce invasive carp abundance and monitor for changes in range in the Des Plaines River and upper Illinois River downstream of the EDBS. By decreasing invasive carp abundance, we anticipate reduced migration pressure towards the barrier, lessening the chances of invasive carp gaining access to upstream waters in the CAWS and Lake Michigan. Monitoring for upstream expansion of invasive carp should help identify changes in the leading edge, distribution, and relative abundance of invasive carp in the IWW. The "leading edge" is the furthest upstream location where multiple Bighead Carp or Silver Carp have been captured with conventional sampling gears during a single trip or where individuals of either species have been caught in repeated sampling trips to a specific site. Trends in catch data over time may also contribute to understanding invasive carp population abundance and movement between and among pools of the IWW.

October 2025 Highlights

Dresden Island	**October 2025**
Yards of Net	3,000
Bighead Carp	0
Grass Carp	0
Silver Carp	12
Invasive Carp Caught	12
Invasive Carp Dresden Above I55	0
Invasive Carp Dresden Below I55	10
Invasive Carp Rock Run	2
IC/1000 yards	4

Marseilles	**October 2025**
Yards of Net	14,200
Bighead Carp	23
Grass Carp	2

Silver Carp	1,721
Invasive Carp Caught	1,746
IC/1000 yards	123
Invasive Carp Pounds	24,276

Starved Rock	**October 2025**
Yards of net	62,700
Bighead Carp	3
Grass Carp	104
Silver Carp	14,428
Invasive Carp Caught	14,535
IC/1000 yards	232
Invasive Carp Pounds	107,276

SEASONAL INTENSIVE MONITORING IN THE CAWS

IL DNR

Introduction

The SIM is a planned intensive surveillance of the CAWS upstream of the EDBS, conducted twice annually. These events are planned for the spring season (weeks of May 12th and 19th) and the fall season (Weeks of September 29th and October 6th). The SIM deploys fixed and random site monitoring. This project includes standardized monitoring with pulsed-DC electrofishing gear and contracted commercial fishers. Along with maintaining the spatial coverage upstream of the EDBS, each SIM event will provide extra sampling focus on a unique location in the CAWS. SIM provides a spatially and temporally adequate assessment of the relative abundance and distribution of invasive carp in the CAWS upstream of the EDBS.

IDNR, INHS, USACE, USFWS, and contracted netters sampled the North Shore Channel, North and South Branches of the Chicago River, Chicago River, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Cal-Sag Channel, Little Calumet River, Calumet River, and Lake Calumet.

October 2025 Highlights

Overall:

- 0 Bighead Carp, 2 Grass Carp, and 0 Silver Carp were observed or collected

Commercial gill netting:

- Contracted fishers along with assisting agency biologists set 50 miles of gill net (440 sets) at fixed and random sites

Electrofishing:

- Agency biologists completed 70 hours (280 transects) of electrofishing as fixed and random sites

BARRIER MAINTENANCE AND FISH SUPPRESSION

IL DNR, USACE

September/October 2025 Highlights

The agencies did not submit a response for the Sept/Oct monthly report.

SUMMARY EVALUATION OF BIO-ACOUSTIC FISH FENCE DETERRENT

USFWS, USGS

Introduction

This project will test the effectiveness of a Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) at deterring Silver Carp and Grass Carp from crossing the BAFF and from crossing through the Barkley Lock on the Cumberland River, KY. This sound, bubble, and light deterrent is designed to have a greater effect on invasive carp than on native species. This deterrent could be part of a multi-deterrent approach to prevent movement through a lock chamber where the lock is the only option for fish to move upstream (e.g., Brandon Road Lock and Dam) or in combination with a yet to be developed deterrent that slows passage through dam gates during open river while the BAFF deters fish from passing via the lock chamber (e.g., Starved Rock Lock and Dam).

September/October 2025 Highlights

The agencies did not submit a response for the Sept/Oct monthly report.

INVASIVE CARP ENHANCED CONTRACT FISHING REMOVAL PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In September 2019, the Enhanced Contract Fishing Program was initiated in the Peoria Pool of the Illinois River. In 2022, the area was expanded to include the LaGrange and Alton pools. The program offers Illinois-licensed commercial fishers $.10 per pound for invasive carp caught in any of these pools and sold to fish processors or other buyers for at least $.07 per pound. To date, a total of 69 fishers have entered into contracts to catch invasive carp from these pools, with 36 currently under contract. (The number of contracted fishers dropped from June (50 fishers) due to new contract start in July. Number of contracted fishers expected to increase.) From inception through September 2025, 31,543,930 pounds of invasive carp have been caught among all three pools. Of these total catches, 2.66% are Bighead, 87.70% are Silver, and 9.63% are Grass carp.

September 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total pounds of invasive carp caught through enhanced contract fishing.

YEAR	Total Lbs.**	Bighead	Silver	Grass
2019 *	**518,132**	**24,813**	**310,297**	**183,022**
2020	**2,882,724**	**176,195**	**1,980,175**	**726,355**
2021	**3,345,973**	**209,526**	**2,517,416**	**619,031**
2022	**5,249,161**	**200,396**	**4,615,097**	**433,669**
2023	**8,410,107**	**95,532**	**8,024,643**	**289,932**
2024	**6,336,449**	**90,865**	**5,821,067**	**424,517**
2025 Part Year	-	-	-	-
January	87,108	0	72,025	15,083
February	479,791	0	415,750	64,041
March	657,157	2,228	606,351	48,578
April	684,091	7,809	632,634	43,648
May	864,539	10,480	837,906	16,153
June	387,079	5,608	357,547	23,924
July	432,323	2,130	388,310	41,883
August	592,344	8,561	512,564	71,219
September	560,554	6,314	529,089	25,151
2025 Part Year Subtotal	**4,801,386**	**43,130**	**4,395,857**	**362,399**
GRAND TOTALS	**31,543,930**	**840,455**	**27,664,552**	**3,038,923**

* September 2019 program inception.

** No Black carp reported as these are reported through the Black Carp Bounty Program.

INVASIVE CARP ENHANCED CONTRACT FISHING REMOVAL PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In September 2019, the Enhanced Contract Fishing Program was initiated in the Peoria Pool of the Illinois River. In 2022, the area was expanded to include the LaGrange and Alton pools. The program offers Illinois-licensed commercial fishers $.10 per pound for invasive carp caught in any of these pools and sold to fish processors or other buyers for at least $.07 per pound. To date, a total of 69 fishers have entered into contracts to catch invasive carp from these pools, with 36 currently under contract. (The number of contracted fishers dropped from June (50 fishers) due to new contract start in July. Number of contracted fishers expected to increase.) From inception through October 2025, 31,948,657 pounds of invasive carp have been caught among all three pools. Of these total catches, 2.63% are Bighead, 87.79% are Silver, and 9.58% are Grass carp.

October 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total pounds of invasive carp caught through enhanced contract fishing.

YEAR	Total Lbs.**	Bighead	Silver	Grass
2019 *	**518,132**	**24,813**	**310,297**	**183,022**
2020	**2,882,724**	**176,195**	**1,980,175**	**726,355**
2021	**3,345,973**	**209,526**	**2,517,416**	**619,031**
2022	**5,249,161**	**200,396**	**4,615,097**	**433,669**
2023	**8,410,107**	**95,532**	**8,024,643**	**289,932**
2024	**6,336,449**	**90,865**	**5,821,067**	**424,517**
2025 Part Year	-	-	-	-
January	87,108	0	72,025	15,083
February	479,791	0	415,750	64,041
March	657,157	2,228	606,351	48,578
April	684,091	7,809	632,634	43,648
May	864,539	10,480	837,906	16,153
June	387,079	5,608	357,547	23,924
July	432,323	2,130	388,310	41,883
August	592,344	8,561	512,564	71,219
September	560,554	6,314	529,089	25,151
October	400,480	0	379,737	20,743
2025 Part Year Subtotal	**5,206,113**	**43,130**	**4,779,841**	**383,142**

YEAR	Total Lbs.**	Bighead	Silver	Grass
GRAND TOTALS	**31,948,657**	**840,455**	**28,048,536**	**3,059,666**

* September 2019 program inception.

** No Black carp reported as these are reported through the Black Carp Bounty Program.

INVASIVE CARP CONTRACTED FACILITATION PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In July 2025, the Contracted Facilitation Program was initiated in the three pools of the Illinois River where the Enhanced Contract Fishing Program currently operates – the Peoria, LaGrange, and Alton pools. The program's goal is to help reduce the cost of transporting invasive carp caught in the three pools to processing facilities. The program offers Illinois fish processors and other buyers $0.05 per pound to purchase invasive carp caught in the three pools from commercial fishers. To date, four processors have entered into contracts to buy under the program. A total of 1,469,200 pounds of invasive carp have been caught. Of these total catches, 0.89% are Bighead, 93.44% are Silver, and 5.67% are Grass carp.

September 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total pounds of invasive carp caught through Contracted Facilitation Program.

YEAR	Total Lbs.**	Bighead	Silver	Grass
2025 Part Year	-	-	-	-
July*	346,592	0	343,872	2,720
August	551,448	6,760	498,902	45,786
September	571,160	6,314	530,015	34,831
2025 Part Year Subtotal	**1,469,200**	**13,074**	**1,372,789**	**83,337**
GRAND TOTALS	**1,469,200**	**13,074**	**1,372,789**	**83,337**

* July 2025 program inception.

** No Black carp reported as these are reported through the Black Carp Bounty Program.

INVASIVE CARP CONTRACTED FACILITATION PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In July 2025, the Contracted Facilitation Program was initiated in the three pools of the Illinois River where the Enhanced Contract Fishing Program currently operates – the Peoria, LaGrange, and Alton pools. The program's goal is to help reduce the cost of transporting invasive carp caught in the three pools to processing facilities. The program offers Illinois fish processors and other buyers $0.05 per pound to purchase invasive carp caught in the three pools from commercial fishers. To date, four processors have entered into contracts to buy under the program. A total of 2,100,529 pounds of invasive carp have been caught. Of these total catches, 0.94% are Bighead, 92.22% are Silver, and 6.84% are Grass carp.

October 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total pounds of invasive carp caught through Contracted Facilitation Program.

YEAR	Total Lbs.**	Bighead	Silver	Grass
2025 Part Year	-	-	-	-
July*	346,592	0	343,872	2,720
August	551,448	6,760	498,902	45,786
September	571,160	6,314	530,015	34,831
October	436,728	2,650	409,561	24,517
2025 Part Year Subtotal	**2,011,529**	**18,930**	**1,855,060**	**137,539**
GRAND TOTALS	**2,011,529**	**18,930**	**1,855,060**	**137,539**

* July 2025 program inception.

** No Black carp reported as these are reported through the Black Carp Bounty Program.

USFWS ILLINOIS WATERWAY HYDROACOUSTICS

USFWS

Introduction

The purpose of USFWS hydroacoustic monitoring in the upper Illinois Waterway (IWW) is to enhance invasive carp management by reporting spatial and temporal patterns of fish abundance. Hydroacoustic data aids operation, maintenance, and response at the electric dispersal barrier system (EDBS). Density and distribution data enhance targeted harvesting efforts throughout navigational pools. Consistent hydroacoustic data collection allows managers to annually assess the risk of further upstream spread of invasive carp. Hydroacoustic estimates of length and depth of targets, along with corresponding telemetric data, allow managers to make inferences about possible fish species identified as targets. Targets detected across replicate surveys may identify the same target. USFWS hydroacoustic barrier surveys are conducted monthly, and pool scans are conducted annually in the fall. Additional barrier and pool scans can be conducted upon request. Further details regarding the methods of data collection and use of hydroacoustic data can be provided upon request.

September/October 2025 Highlights

The results of the mobile hydroacoustic fish surveys are presented below:

- Hydroacoustic barrier scan on September 2nd, 2025, identified a total of 28 targets (6 targets within the EDBS and 22 targets immediately downstream of the barrier). An average of 9.3 ± 4.7 targets were detected during the three replicate surveys (Figure 1). The mean target length was 16.9 inches ± 5.8 inches (Figure 2).
- Three hydroacoustic pool scans were completed in the month of September.

  Dresden Island: Hydroacoustic pool scan on September 24th, 2025, identified a total of 284 large targets in 2,712,442 m^3 of water. Mean target length was 15.9 ± 4.3; the three largest targets detected were 33.4, 34.7, and 46.3 inches (Figure 2).

  Brandon Road: Hydroacoustic pool scan on September 23rd, 2025, identified a total of 60 large targets in 1,059,803 m^3 of water. Mean target length was 16.2 ± 4.1; the three largest targets detected were 27.2, 31.5, and 33.3 inches (Figure 2).

  Lockport: Hydroacoustic pool scan on September 22nd, 2025, identified a total of 17 large targets in 1,657,920 m^3 of water. Mean target length was 15.4 ± 3.0; the three largest targets detected were 22.4, 20.1, and 19.5 inches (Figure 2).

The agency stated there were no updates for October 2025.

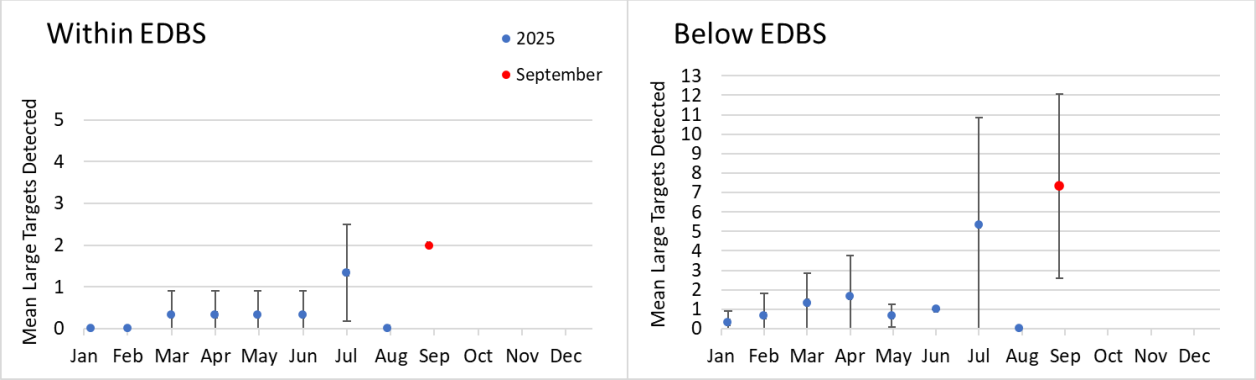


Figure 1. Comparison of the mean and standard deviation for three replicate surveys from the current mobile surveys with previous surveys from 2025.

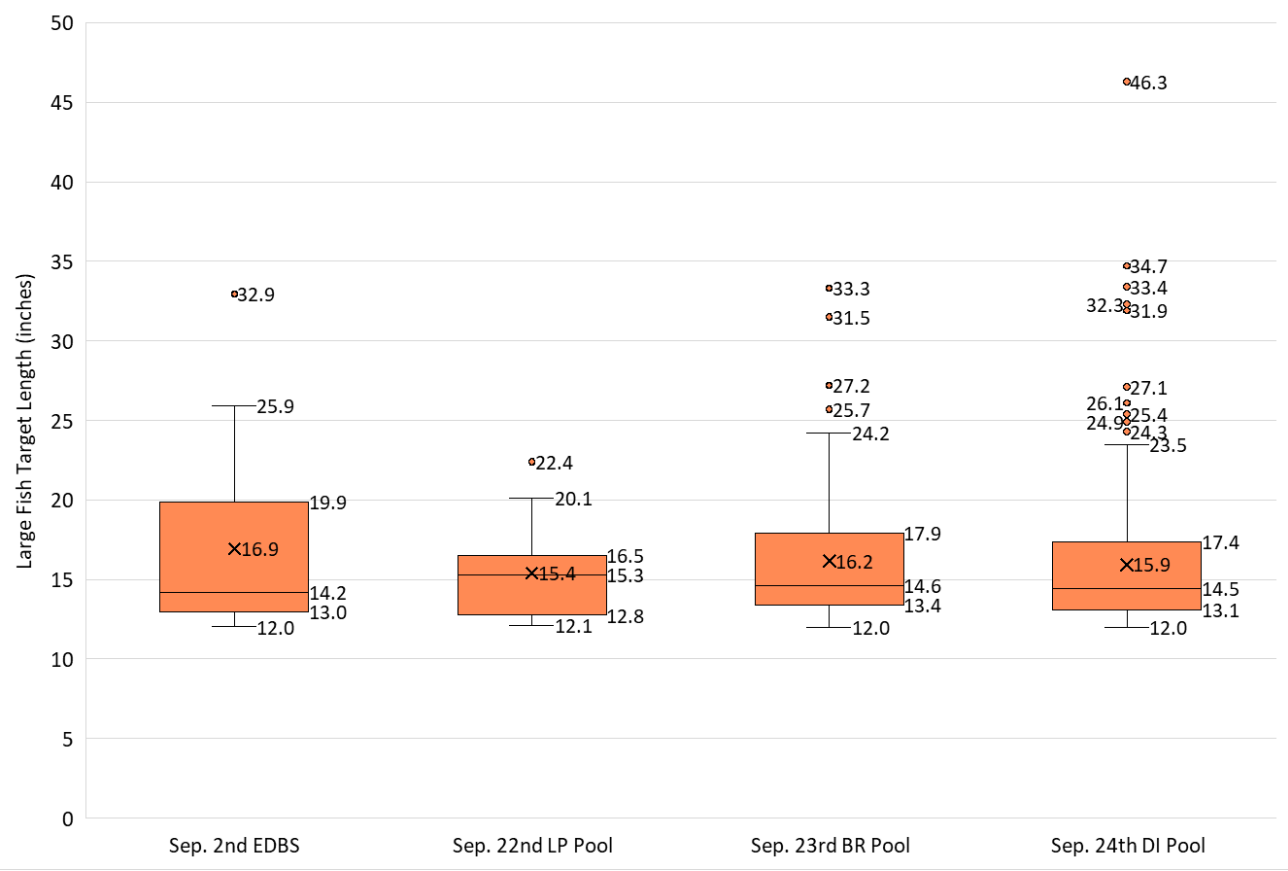


Figure 2. Box-and-Whisker plot of all large targets detected during hydroacoustic scans in the month of September 2025. Outliers outside the 90% confidence interval are denoted by a point above the box-and-whisker plot.

SUPPORT FOR EARLY DETECTION OF INVASIVE CARP IN THE UPPER ILLINOIS WATERWAY

USFWS Wilmington

Introduction

The purpose of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wilmington Substation's early detection monitoring (EDM) is to detect juvenile and adult invasive carp (Bighead, Silver, Black, and Grass Carp) at the invasion front. A combination of traditional boat electrofishing, electrified dozer trawling, mini-fyke netting, and gill netting are used in main-channel border, side-channel, and backwater habitats in the Marseilles, Dresden Island, Brandon Road, and Lockport Pools of the upper Illinois Waterway (IWW), and lower Kankakee River. Rarefaction analysis is performed annually to ensure an extremely high probability that sampling efforts are detecting any changes in invasive carp population status. The application of fishing gears across pools and habitats, utilizing fixed and random sites, is assessed annually based on the results of this analysis. The USFWS Great Lakes EDM Program is an adaptive management tool focused on invasive species detection.

September/October 2025 Highlights

- Thirty-five Silver Carp (636 mm – 966 mm TL [Total Length]) and one Grass Carp (833 mm TL) were captured in the Marseilles Pool during September 2025.
- Three Silver Carp (902 mm - 940 TL) were captured in the Dresden Island Pool during September 2025.
- USFWS assisted with the Seasonal Intensive Monitoring efforts from 9/29 to 9/30.
- No small-bodied (< 153 mm TL) invasive carp were captured by EDM in September 2025.
- No large-bodied (≥ 153 mm TL) invasive carp were captured outside their known range by EDM in September 2025.

The agency stated there were no updates for October 2025.

Table one summarizes the USFWS invasive carp EDM from September 2025 for each pool monitored under the project.

Table 1. Summary of USFWS EDM effort during September 2025.

	Marseilles	Dresden Island	Kankakee	Brandon Road	Lockport	Des Plaines
Electrofishing Effort (hours)	5.25	3.75	3.5	0	0	0
Electrofishing Sites	21	15	14	0	0	0
Dozer Trawl Effort (hours)	1.67	0.92	1.25	0	0	0
Dozer Trawl Sites	20	11	15	0	0	0
Mini-fyke Effort (net nights)	20.87	0	0	0	0	0
Fyke Net Effort (net nights)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gill Net Effort (yards)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gill Net Sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Carp Captured	0	0	0	0	0	0
Large Carp Captured	36	3	0	0	0	0
Species Richness	41	32	41	0	0	0
Total Catch	15679	5807	3138	0	0	0
Most Abundant Species	Gizzard Shad < 6 inches	Gizzard Shad < 6 inches	Gizzard Shad < 6 inches	N/A	N/A	N/A

MONITORING INVASIVE CARP REPRODUCTION IN THE ILLINOIS WATERWAY

INHS

Introduction

This project monitors for invasive carp reproduction in the IWW and major tributaries (Kankakee, Fox, Vermilion, Mackinaw, Spoon, and Sangamon rivers). Ichthyoplankton sampling will be conducted to assess the extent, timing, and magnitude of invasive carp reproduction in the IWW, monitor for Black Carp reproduction, and quantify relationships between invasive carp adult abundance, reproductive output, and recruitment. Samples will be collected from late April through October, with more frequent sampling effort during periods when temperature and flow conditions are considered optimal for invasive carp spawning.

August 2025 Highlights

INHS conducted monitoring for invasive carp reproduction from the Brandon Road to Alton pools during the weeks of August 4 and August 18. Sampling was also conducted in the Kankakee and Fox rivers during August, but water levels in other major tributaries of the Illinois River (Vermilion, Mackinaw, Spoon, and Sangamon rivers) were too low to allow for boat access during this month. Ichthyoplankton monitoring from previous years indicates that the likelihood of invasive carp spawning diminishes considerably after mid-July, so routine sampling is usually conducted bi-weekly after the second week of July, unless hydrologic conditions or real-time telemetry information suggests the potential for invasive carp spawning is high. Water temperatures in the Illinois River remained above 23°C during the entire month of August. Water levels declined quickly following the substantial rainfall at the end of July and remained relatively low for most of early August. However, another period of heavy rainfall occurred across much of northern Illinois in mid-August, causing a rapid rise in water levels in the upper Illinois Waterway, which crested on August 19. Upper river sites were sampled prior to the crest on August 19, but no large eggs were observed in any samples on this date. These locations were sampled again on August 20, as water levels were declining, and large numbers of invasive carp eggs were collected from the Marseilles to the Peoria Pools at this time. Sample processing and identification of fish eggs and larvae is ongoing. Monitoring for invasive carp reproduction will occur bi-weekly through late September / early October, except when river conditions warrant more frequent sampling. Occurrences of invasive carp eggs or larvae, particularly upstream of the Starved Rock Lock and Dam, will be reported as soon as this information is available.

MONITORING INVASIVE CARP REPRODUCTION IN THE ILLINOIS WATERWAY

INHS

Introduction

This project monitors for invasive carp reproduction in the IWW and major tributaries (Kankakee, Fox, Vermilion, Mackinaw, Spoon, and Sangamon rivers). Ichthyoplankton sampling will be conducted to assess the extent, timing, and magnitude of invasive carp reproduction in the IWW, monitor for Black Carp reproduction, and quantify relationships between invasive carp adult abundance, reproductive output, and recruitment. Samples will be collected from late April through October, with more frequent sampling effort during periods when temperature and flow conditions are considered optimal for invasive carp spawning.

September 2025 Highlights

INHS conducted monitoring for invasive carp reproduction from the Brandon Road to LaGrange pools during the weeks of September 1, September 15, and September 29. During these weeks, sampling was also conducted in the Kankakee and Fox rivers, but water levels in other major tributaries of the Illinois River (Vermilion, Mackinaw, Spoon, and Sangamon rivers) were too low to allow for boat access. Ichthyoplankton monitoring from previous years indicates that the likelihood of invasive carp spawning diminishes considerably after mid-July, so routine sampling is usually conducted bi-weekly after the second week of July, unless hydrologic conditions or real-time telemetry information suggests the potential for invasive carp spawning is high. Water temperatures in the Illinois River remained above 21°C during the entire month of September. Drought conditions developed across Illinois and water levels in the Illinois Waterway were very low during the entire month. No readily apparent evidence of invasive carp spawning was observed during this time. Sample processing and identification of fish eggs and larvae is ongoing. Any additional identification of invasive carp eggs or larvae from collected ichthyoplankton samples, particularly from upstream of the Starved Rock Lock and Dam, will be reported as soon as this information is available.

DES PLAINES RIVER OVERFLOW MONITORING

USFWS

September/October 2025 Highlights

The agency did not submit a response for the Sept/Oct monthly report.

SUMMARY OF THE TELEMETRY SUPPORT FOR THE SEICARP MODEL

USFWS

Introduction

This project provides support for the inter-agency telemetry array deployed in the Illinois River basin. The 2025 plan of work for USFWS placed 150 acoustic transmitters in Silver Carp and Bighead Carp across the Peoria, Starved Rock, and Marseilles Pools. Forty-five of these tags were implanted in bigheaded carps in Marseilles Pool to support detection efforts by agency partners outside USFWS. USFWS maintained 18 receivers across the Peoria and Starved Rock Pools in 2024. In 2025, two additional receivers were added to Starved Rock Pool. The data gained from the additional tagged fish and additional receivers will improve the accuracy of MRWG modeling work, allowing improved estimates of current levels of exploitation and bolstering estimates of large-scale pool-to-pool movement. The receiver names and locations in the telemetry array are listed in table 1 and figure 1.

July-October 2025 Highlights

- USFWS continued to maintain receivers and download the data collected from the telemetry array in the Peoria and Starved Rock pools July 21st-25th. The data on receivers covered periods from July 25th-September 9th. The data was added to the USFWS telemetry database and United States Geological Survey's Riverine Acoustic Fish Tracking (RAFT) database on September 11th.
- Concluded range testing of receivers
- A total of 253,513 detections were recorded from 133 unique transmitters. Sixty-two transmitters were recorded on a single receiver while 13 transmitters were only recorded once on a single receiver. Seven transmitters were detected moving only upstream from their origin of detection. Thirteen were detected moving only downstream from their origin; 6 of which started and ended their transmission moving downstream within the Fox River only. Four transmitters ended their transmission upstream of their origin and 27 ended their transmission downstream of their origin. Three transmitters ended their detection moving upstream into the Fox River and 4 ended their transmission moving downstream into the Fox River from their origins.

The agency stated there were no updates for October 2025.

Table 1. Receiver deployments and summary of detections from March-July. "US" denotes "upstream", "DS" denotes "downstream", "MC" denotes "main channel", and "RM" denotes "river mile". River mile is denoted for the Fox River receivers in relation to their longitudinal location along the Illinois River. Receiver number references its location in the map in figure 1.

Station Number	Receiver ID	Receiver Number	Unique Tags	Number of Detections
1	RM164.8 Lower Peoria_Lake_Point_River Left	489204	19	10552
2	RM166.6 Peoria Lake Narrows	489205	19	458
3	RM173 Upper Peoria Lake_River Right	137065	10	112
4	RM173 Upper Peoria Lake_River Left	489207	18	290
5	RM182.4 US Chilli Bridge_Peninsula	489206	20	230
6	RM188.1 DS Lacon_MC Sawyer Slough	137064	35	14648
7	RM194.8 US Upper Henry Island	489208	20	1261
8	RM199.1 Senachwine Lake Peninsula	489209	24	2726
9	RM202.7 Lower Twin Sisters Island	489211	22	5241
10	RM211 MC Near Depue Lake Channel	137066	30	9784
11	RM216 US of Clark Island	489039	29	2613
12	RM219.8 US Spring Valley River Left	491941	39	26359
13	RM223 Peru US Route 251 Bridge	489037	26	4653
14	RM233.9 Lone Point Delbridge Side Channel	489212	9	43433
15	RM235.1 MC Sheehan Island	490949	24	39072
16	RM238.5 Hitt-Mayo Straight	489040	10	17641
17	RM241 Bulls Island MC Abandoned Harbor	489050	0	0
18	RM243 US of Heritage Harbor River Left	491939	11	34245
19	RM239.8 Fox River-US Illinois River Confluence	491940	10	5017
20	RM241 Fox River-US Rt.6 Bridge	129787	31	35187
		Totals	406	253,513

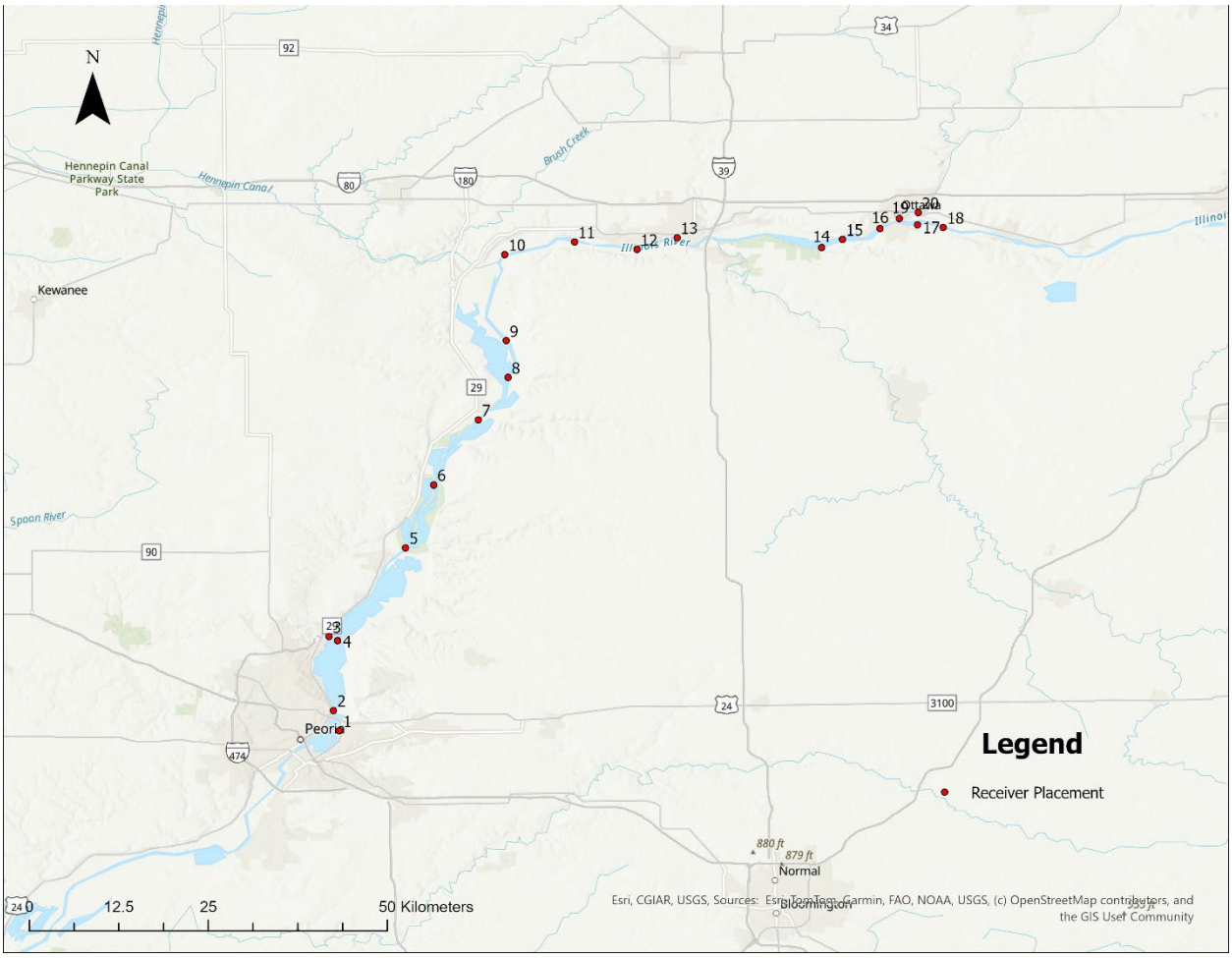


Figure 1. USFWS Wilmington receiver placements in Peoria and Starved Rock Pools. The numbers reference the receiver's name and location in table 1.

TELEMETRY MONITORING PLAN

USACE

September/October 2025 Highlights

The agency did not submit a response for the Sept/Oct monthly report.

ALTERNATE PATHWAY SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS – LAW ENFORCEMENT

IL DNR

Introduction

This project enforces laws enacted to prevent the expansion and/or introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) within the waters of the State of Illinois and jurisdictions throughout the Great Lakes basin. The IL DNR Invasive Species Unit (ISU) specializes in closely regulating water-related industries that are likely to be a source of future introductions or expansion of AIS into state waters. Industries include sport and commercial fishing, aquaculture, fish transportation, bait, pet, aquarium, fish stocking, and live food markets.

September 2025 Highlights

ISU participated in several enforcement details at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The special operations involved numerous government entities and focused on interdicting the importation of live species designated as Illinois or federally listed invasive species by inspecting 100% of wildlife shipments arriving at the airport. ISU attended the Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee meeting in Cleveland, OH, and presented an update on the Committee's basin-wide enforcement initiative targeting the illegal trade of aquatic invasive species listed on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers' "least wanted" list. The person charged in Cook County, IL, with a class 3 felony for unlawfully importing live red swamp crayfish in 2024, entered into an agreement with prosecutors in September to resolve the case against him. Part of the court conditions requires the defendant to pay $ 6,595.50 in restitution to the IL CPO Operations Assistance Fund, which enables the implementation of specialized investigations such as this one. ISU discovered a total of twenty-six illegal shipments of live red swamp crayfish with an estimated market value of $38,715.00 were imported into Illinois over a two-year period. Admissions made by the individual during the covert purchase of 120 pounds of live red swamp crayfish proved he knew his actions were illegal.

ALTERNATE PATHWAY SURVEILLANCE IN ILLINOIS – LAW ENFORCEMENT

IL DNR

Introduction

This project enforces laws enacted to prevent the expansion and/or introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) within the waters of the State of Illinois and jurisdictions throughout the Great Lakes basin. The IL DNR Invasive Species Unit (ISU) specializes in closely regulating water-related industries that are likely to be a source of future introductions or expansion of AIS into state waters. Industries include sport and commercial fishing, aquaculture, fish transportation, bait, pet, aquarium, fish stocking, and live food markets.

October 2025 Highlights

Agency stated there were no updates for October 2025.

INVASIVE CARP POPULATION MODELING TO SUPPORT AN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

USGS, USFWS

Introduction

This project will develop objective, data-driven models to inform decisions concerning invasive carp control efforts in the Illinois River. This project supports ongoing modeling efforts to provide recommendations about the magnitude and spatial allocation of fishing effort and deterrent barriers to reduce the risk of Silver Carp and Bighead Carp introduction and establishment in the Great Lakes.

September/October 2025 Highlights

The modeling work group received approval from USGS to submit a manuscript describing the effects of changes in monitoring effort on the probability of detecting Silver Carp in the Upper Illinois River using an occupancy model. The manuscript was submitted to North American Journal of Fisheries Management on Sept. 30.

INVASIVE CARP STOCK ASSESSMENT IN THE ILLINOIS RIVER

IL DNR

September/October 2025 Highlights

The agency did not submit a response for the Sept/Oct monthly report.

BLACK CARP BOUNTY PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In 2015, the Black Carp Bounty Program was created to increase the number of black carp specimens made available for research to provide improved information on the status and characteristics of these carp in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Knowledge of black carp geographic distribution, population characteristics, and diet are needed to inform development of management strategies to control black carp abundance, impacts, and further range expansion.

Nearly all black carp detected in the Mississippi River and tributaries are caught and reported by commercial fishers, largely due to the difficulty in sampling black carp in large rivers and limited agency and university sampling efforts focused on this species. The Black Carp Bounty Program was created to provide a reward of $100 per fish to provide incentive for commercial fishers to target black carp in the wild, report any black carp that they catch to agency biologists, and donate the fish for black carp research.

September 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total number of Black carps caught since transition of the program from Southern Illinois University to IDNR to Tetra Tech.

Month	# of Fish
2023 *	11
2024	116
2025 Part Year	-
January	10
February	6
March	4
April	9
May	20
June	15
July	21
August	16
September	11
2025 Part Year Subtotal	112
GRAND TOTALS	239

* Records start July 1, 2023.

BLACK CARP BOUNTY PROGRAM

ILDNR

Introduction

In 2015, the Black Carp Bounty Program was created to increase the number of black carp specimens made available for research to provide improved information on the status and characteristics of these carp in the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Knowledge of black carp geographic distribution, population characteristics, and diet are needed to inform development of management strategies to control black carp abundance, impacts, and further range expansion.

Nearly all black carp detected in the Mississippi River and tributaries are caught and reported by commercial fishers, largely due to the difficulty in sampling black carp in large rivers and limited agency and university sampling efforts focused on this species. The Black Carp Bounty Program was created to provide a reward of $100 per fish to provide incentive for commercial fishers to target black carp in the wild, report any black carp that they catch to agency biologists, and donate the fish for black carp research.

October 2025 Highlights

The table below summarizes the total number of Black carps caught since transition of the program from Southern Illinois University to IDNR to Tetra Tech.

Month	# of Fish
2023 *	11
2024	116
2025 Part Year	-
January	10
February	6
March	4
April	9
May	20
June	15
July	21
August	16
September	11
October	15
2025 Part Year Subtotal	127
GRAND TOTALS	254

* Records start July 1, 2023.

ENHANCED DETECTION OF BLACK CARP IN THE LOWER ILLINOIS RIVER

IL DNR/INHS-IRBS

Introduction

Exotic black carp *Mylopharyngodon piceus* have invaded the Illinois River system and have been recently captured in the Alton, La Grange, and Peoria reaches of the lower Illinois River. Currently, the invasion of black carp is represented by only a few reported individuals and little is known about the size of the population or potential scope of ecosystem changes that may result from the invasion. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has been closely monitoring the range expansion of black carp up the Illinois River, despite limited catches reported to date.

Critical to any inferences made about the range expansion of black carp is better knowledge of their population levels in invaded reaches. The limited number of black carp reported have been from incidental commercial fishermen catches while targeting other species (e.g., bighead carp, silver carp, common carp, grass carp, buffalo spp., catfish spp.). These captures and associated data (e.g., length, weight, age, diet, otolith microchemistry.) are valuable, but the limited number of reported individuals makes it difficult to assess their prevalence/establishment in the lower Illinois River. More robust estimates of the current population level are essential to management and potential control of black carp in the Illinois River.

September/October 2025 Highlights

We concluded our 2025 sampling efforts on the Alton Reach of the Illinois River on October 24. Our sampling consisted of hoop netting with different bait types from June 15-October 31. We completed 195 (n=41 for October) total sampling sites with each site consisting of a small (2ft diameter) and a large (4ft diameter) hoop net set side-by-side parallel to the shoreline. A total of 240 fish were captured in October with common carp (n=88), freshwater drum (n=52), and channel catfish (n=36) were our top three species. Now with the conclusion of field sampling, data is being quality checked, and analyses will begin shortly.