

Dear Friends,

After months of further inaction by President Obama and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we're going to court for round two against Asian carp.

Today my office filed a new lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to force the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chicago water authorities to take emergency action to block Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan.

The states of Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have all joined Michigan in this new legal effort to fight Asian carp and accelerate efforts to develop a permanent solution to protect the Great Lakes.

While you know the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take our case, they did not dismiss the merits of our case.

So today, we are suing the Obama administration and the Army Corps of Engineers, who are charged with protecting public resources and overseeing the management of the Chicago Area Waterway System in partnership with local water authorities in the Illinois federal court.

**Asian Carp Found: We Need Emergency Action NOW**

Our worst fears came true after Illinois authorities announced on June 22nd that a Bighead Asian carp was found in Lake Calumet, within striking distance of Lake Michigan. And when you find one carp, the experts say there are more nearby.

Stunningly, despite the mounting evidence, the Army Corps and Chicago authorities refused to temporarily close the O'Brien and Chicago locks. They've failed to apply fish poison in every location that tested positive for Asian carp eDNA. They've failed to comprehensively address all pathways linking Lake Michigan with carp-infested Illinois waterways. And they have failed to sufficiently accelerate the permanent separation of the Great Lakes Basin from the carp-infested Chicago Area Waterway System.

With every day that passes without serious action, the health of the Great Lakes and our \$7 billion commercial and recreational fishing industries remain at risk. We cannot sacrifice thousands of jobs.

**Inaction Won't Be Tolerated**

For the past several months, the Army Corps has maintained its vocal commitment

to combating Asian carp. The problem is, when you drill down past the rhetoric, all you'll find are half-hearted, insufficient attempts to confront the Asian carp invasion.

Because of their lack of urgency and inadequate measures - like poisoning canals in only a few spots - we have already faced Asian carp swimming their way toward Lake Michigan.

In today's lawsuit, we are calling on the Army Corps to step up and take all available efforts to block Asian carp passage in the waterways linked to Lake Michigan.

We're calling for commonsense emergency measures like block nets, fish poison where Asian carp DNA has been detected, mesh screens on all sluice gates and temporary closures of the O'Brien and Chicago locks, except as needed for public health and safety.

Keep Up the Fight!

Thank you for all you have done to support our efforts to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp. The fight is not yet over, and the more supporters we have on our side to build a public outcry, the better.

Keep in mind that President Obama can order the Army Corps to act on these commonsense steps any time. He doesn't need a court to tell him to do it. But until he acts, I pledge to fight, along with several Great Lakes attorneys general and our allies in Congress, to force the Corps to act.

Please forward this email to your friends, family and neighbors and urge them to call the President to demand action right away. Be sure to forward this email to at least five friends today!

If you haven't joined the conversation on Facebook, please sign on to our page today. Every day citizens are driving the conversation about why they love the Great Lakes and what they've done to protect them.

Sincerely,

Mike Cox  
Attorney General

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## 5 Great Lakes States Sue Feds Over Asian carp

Associated Press

July 19, 2010

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. -- Despite being rebuffed twice by the U.S. Supreme Court, five states filed suit Monday with a lower federal court demanding tougher federal and municipal action to prevent Asian carp from overrunning the Great Lakes and decimating their fishing industry.

Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota and Pennsylvania said in their complaint the situation had become more dire since a live bighead carp was found last month in a Chicago-area waterway only 6 miles from Lake Michigan -- well past an electric barrier designed to block the voracious fish's path.

"Asian carp will kill jobs and ruin our way of life," Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said in a statement. "We cannot afford more bureaucratic delays -- every action must be taken to protect the Great Lakes."

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in northern Illinois. It accuses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago of creating a public nuisance by operating locks, gates and other infrastructure through which the carp could enter the lakes.

Read the full story.

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Cox Files Suit Over Carp -- Again

Michigan Public Radio

Rick Pluta

Michigan and four other states are asking a federal judge in Illinois to shut down the Chicago shipping locks as an emergency measure to keep invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already refused -- twice - to shut down the locks. But Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox says the need for action has become more urgent since then. Last month a 20-pound Bighead carp was found in the canal beyond an electric barrier that was supposed to contain the fish.

"It's sort of like, where there's one cockroach, there's more cockroaches," he says. "There's no longer any speculation the carp can get beyond the locks. It's clear. The evidence is overwhelming that these carp are present, on their way to Lake Michigan, and impose an imminent danger, and potentially an irreparable danger to the Great Lakes region."

Cox's lawsuit asks a judge to shut down the canal and order the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use nets and poison to contain the Asian carp until a permanent solution is developed.

Read the full story.

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## Invasive Asian Carp Harm Commercial Fishing Industry

Voice of America

July 19, 2010

The multi-billion-dollar commercial fishing industry in the Great Lakes region of the United States employs more than 800,000 people, but is threatened by the invasive Asian Carp - despite continued efforts to keep the fish out of the region's lakes.

Chad Isaak, who has fished the Illinois River for 27 years, says he saw his first Asian carp in 1996, and his life as a commercial fisherman has not been the same since.

"These Asian Carp are the plague," said Isaak. Isaak does not usually fish for the invasive Asian Carp, which have populated Illinois waterways to the point where they literally jump out of the water. He seeks catfish and buffalo fish, tastier and more marketable species found in lakes and rivers like the Illinois River. But more and more Asian Carp are edging out the populations of those native fish species, and keep finding their way into Isaak's nets.

"If you fish for catfish and buffalo, you may throw two to three thousand pounds of Asian Carp back to get the fish that you need," said Isaak. "And then the quality of the buffalo, they're getting thin and smaller in the rivers."

Read the full story.

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Asian Carp netted beyond barrier

Chicago Sun Times

June 24, 2010

But the fish caught Tuesday by a commercial fisherman was the first evidence that Asian carp actually may have breached the barrier.

The discovery of the single fish likely will ramp up a tense dialogue between environmentalists, who want the manmade ship canal quickly and permanently shuttered, and the shipping industry, which claims closing the direct link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River will drive up prices of commodities.

Michigan officials also have weighed in, suing Illinois to close the locks. The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to get involved, rejecting three times Michigan's appeal to shutter the canal.

"At this time, there is no intention to close the locks," said Mike White of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Read the full story.

Visit [StopAsianCarp.com](http://StopAsianCarp.com) and Sign Our Petition