



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

For Immediate Release
July 10, 2007

Contact: Marc Gaden
734-662-3209 x. 14
www.glfc.org

IMPORTATION AND INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF SILVER ASIAN CARP BANNED

Great Lakes Fishery Commission applauds today's action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and calls for additional steps

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission today commended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing silver carp as an “injurious” species under the Lacey Act. The listing halts the importation and interstate transportation of silver carp, an action that the federal government was empowered to take under the Lacey Act to prevent the spread of this harmful species. The service’s rule will take effect in thirty days. The commission, while welcoming the action for silver carp, also urged the service to further protect the Great Lakes by listing two other worrisome species of Asian carp—the bighead and black carps—as injurious. (The summary from today’s posting in the *Federal Register* is included at the end of this release.)

“Asian carp absolutely must be kept out of the Great Lakes,” said commissioner David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “Since the carp escaped into the wild, they have spread throughout many reaches of the Mississippi River watershed and have laid waste to the areas they have invaded. The carp have caused humans bodily harm and wreaked major economic and ecological havoc on the environment. The Great Lakes cannot afford such an invader in its waters. The service’s action—to ban the importation and interstate movement of the silver variety of Asian carp—was badly needed.”

“While a dispersal barrier exists on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to prevent the carp from swimming into the lakes, interstate transportation was still permitted,” added commissioner David Ullrich. “Today’s action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service closes that big loophole for at least the silver carp. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and its partners welcome the service’s initiative and call upon the service to take the next step: to ban immediately the importation and interstate movement of the other injurious Asian carp species.”

The injurious wildlife provision of the Lacey Act, under Title 18 of the United States Criminal Code, restricts the importation and interstate transportation of wildlife deemed to be injurious or potentially injurious. This listing was strongly urged by the commission, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, states and tribal groups, and law enforcement officials throughout the region.

“This listing has significant positive ramifications for invasive species enforcement efforts” said Lieutenant David Bennett, vice-chair of the Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee. “Preventing the interstate transportation through a Lacey Act listing gives law enforcement an important tool in its efforts to address the movement of harmful species. The listing provides enforcement officials a greater ability to regulate the trade and prevent the intentional or accidental release of these potential invaders into the Great Lakes.”

“State, provincial, tribal, and binational agencies throughout the basin have repeatedly urged the federal government to prohibit the importation and interstate movement of live Asian carp,” said Roger Knight of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and co-chair of the Council of Lake Committees, a multi-jurisdictional management body on the Great Lakes. “Years before today’s action, Great Lakes states banned the possession, transportation, and sale of live Asian carp within their borders. Clearly, the federal government was not doing all it could—stopping the long-distance, interstate movement. Now, we have renewed hope that the other species of Asian carp will be stopped in their tracks as well.”

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The commission has the responsibility to coordinate fisheries research, control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes, and facilitate implementation of A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, a provincial, state, and tribal fisheries management agreement. Under the Joint Strategic Plan, the commission facilitates cooperation among the state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies. These agencies have, together, long urged the listing of Asian carp as “injurious” under the Lacey Act.

Summary of Federal Register listing, posted July 10, 2007:

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) adds all forms of live silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids; and all forms of live largescale silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys harmandi*), gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids to the list of injurious fish, mollusks, and crustaceans under the Lacey Act. The best available information indicates that this action is necessary to protect the interests of human beings, and wildlife and wildlife resources, from the purposeful or accidental introduction, and subsequent establishment, of silver carp and largescale silver carp populations in ecosystems of the United States. Live silver carp and largescale silver carp, gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids can be imported only by permit for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological purposes, or without a permit by Federal agencies solely for their own use; permits will also be required for the interstate transportation of live silver or largescale silver carp, gametes, viable eggs, or hybrids currently within the United States. Interstate transportation permits may be issued for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological purposes. **DATES:** This rule is effective August 9, 2007.

This listing can be found in today’s *Federal Register* or online at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-13371.htm>