

## **Status Report for the Proposed 2010 Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Assessment, and Management of Asian Carps in Michigan Waters, April 2012**

**David F. Clapp**

*Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station  
96 Grant Street, Charlevoix, Michigan 49720*

**Jessica L. Mistak**

*Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Escanaba Office,  
6833 Highway. 2, 41 & M-35, Gladstone, Michigan 49837*

**Kregg M. Smith**

*Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Plainwell Operations Service Center,  
621 N. 10th Street, Plainwell, Michigan 49080*

**Mark A. Tonello**

*Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Cadillac Operations Service Center  
8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, Michigan 49601*

## **Introduction**

In April 2010, members of the Fisheries Division Asian Carp Work Group (ACWG; Clapp, Mistak, Smith, Tonello), convened by Fisheries Division Chief Kelley Smith in March 2010, delivered to the Fisheries Division Management Team a report titled “Proposed 2010 plan for the prevention, detection, assessment, and management of Asian carps in Michigan waters”. At the June 2010 management team meeting, the ACWG delivered a revised draft, based on management team member comments and review. Between June and October 2010 additional minor edits were completed based on comments from reviews by other divisions. The completed plan was presented to the Natural Resources Commission at their October 7, 2010 meeting in Lansing and to a wider public audience at the “Michigan Asian Carp Prevention Workshop”, November 22, 2010 in Lansing. Since formal roll-out of the plan to the public, it has been presented and discussed at numerous venues and to numerous groups throughout the state.

Additionally, on March 13, 2011, Executive Order 2011-1 re-established the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This executive order reversed previous Executive Order 2009-45, which had combined these two agencies to establish the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Re-establishment of the DNR and DEQ changed some of the specific agency responsibilities outlined in the Michigan Asian carp plan, but in most cases the people identified as responsible for this work in the original plan were still responsible under the revised agency structure.

As a result of significant input received, changes in organizational structure that have occurred for the DNR and DEQ since the plan was released, and ongoing efforts and developments in

Michigan and other Great Lakes states related to management of Asian carps, this status report was prepared to document accomplishments and additions to the plan that have occurred during the period January 2011 through December 2011. The status report is organized following the structure of the original plan and incorporates the following elements:

- 1) Description of ongoing efforts and developments in Michigan, other Great Lakes states, and the scientific community related to management of Asian carps.
- 2) An updated “decision tree” for response to reports of Asian carp in Michigan waters.
- 3) An updated “database plan” for the online reporting page developed in November 2010 (see [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364\\_52261\\_54896-246818--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_52261_54896-246818--,00.html)).
- 4) An outline of specific assessment plans for field evaluation, should the DNR receive reports of Asian carp in Michigan waters.
- 5) An outline of specific potential management actions to be taken following positive detection of Asian carp in Michigan waters.

**Goal I: *Prevent the accidental or deliberate introduction of bighead, black, grass, and silver carps in Michigan***

Since release of the “Proposed 2010 plan for the prevention, detection, assessment, and management of Asian carps in Michigan waters” to the public in November 2010, the DNR and DEQ have taken the following actions to address the prevention of accidental or deliberate introduction of bighead, black, grass, and silver carps in Michigan:

- Secured additional funding for, and increased inspections by, Law Enforcement Division.

Through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant for aquatic invasive species (AIS) activities, the State of Michigan received \$667,500 (5 FTEs; administered by the DEQ) each year in 2010 and 2011 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fund a state-level AIS Core Team and other monitoring and response activities associated with AIS in the state. Michigan is eligible for this funding as a result of us having developed a state AIS management plan ([http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-ANSPlan2002\\_249062\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-ANSPlan2002_249062_7.pdf)), pursuant to the National Invasive Species Act (<http://anstaskforce.gov/Documents/NISA1996.pdf>). The funding for the AIS Core Team activities is currently distributed as follows: Fisheries and Wildlife divisions, 1 position each; Parks and Recreation and Law Enforcement divisions, 1/3 of a position each; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 1/3 of a position; Department of Environmental Quality, 2 positions. In 2011 the state received expanded funding under this grant, including two additional positions and approximately \$109,000 in a program projects fund. A significant portion of the additional funding will be used for prevention actions for high risk pathways that block new species, specifically Asian carps, through enhanced and coordinated monitoring and surveillance activities by Law Enforcement Division and Fisheries Division.

- Improved communication with public and industry stakeholders.

During 2010-11, Fisheries Division staff conducted significant communication and outreach with stakeholder groups concerning the Asian carps plan and the importance of prevention activities. These communication efforts included the following (see also Goal II):

- Public rollout of Asian carps management plan to NRC (October 2010)
- Lansing Asian carps workshop (November 2010)
- Presentation to Michigan Aquaculture Association (February 2011)