

ASIAN CARP REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

February 12, 2010

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the above-referenced matter held at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 331, Chicago, Illinois, commencing at 3:18 o'clock p.m., MR. DAVID HOMER, Facilitator.

PRESENTERS:

MR. CAMERON DAVIS, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, U.S. EPA

MR. JOHN ROGNER, Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

DR. DAVID LODGE, Director of the Center for Aquatic Conservation, University of Notre Dame

MR. CHARLES WOOLEY, Midwest Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

GEN. JOHN PEABODY, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MR. JONATHAN CARSON, Chief of Staff, Council on Environmental Quality

1 (Whereupon, the proceedings
2 commenced at 3:18 o'clock p.m.)

3 FACILITATOR HOMER: I would like to welcome
4 everybody to the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating
5 Committe Public Meeting. We're happy that we've
6 got this many people who are very interested, great
7 interest in this program.

8 My name is David Homer, and I will be your
9 facilitator for today. I want to go over some of
10 the ground rules. Really, the goal of this meeting
11 is for the Asian Carp Framework, to get -- the work
12 group to get information back from you on what you
13 think about the plan, clarify the plan, and help us
14 move forward as it's being implemented.

15 The way we're going to set this up, there
16 will be -- you guys all have the agenda. I want to
17 kind of run over it real quickly. We'll have some
18 opening remarks. We'll talk specifically about the
19 framework itself. After the framework is
20 presented, we'll have approximately one-half hour
21 of questions, and these questions will please be
22 limited to the technical nature of the framework,
23 to clarify issues that you don't understand, not so
24 much a debate of the framework, but just want to

1 clarify things.

2 After that period is over with, we'll
3 allow you to make comments on the plan itself.
4 We'll limit everybody to two minutes for comments
5 on the plan. There will not be a response. We're
6 going to hold this until 6 o'clock. If you are not
7 able to get your comments in, you will have the
8 opportunity to go to the Web site, asiancarp.org,
9 to submit your questions at that location.

10 I think it's important that we want to get
11 all the information as much as possible. There's a
12 lot of varying ideas and issues here that need to
13 be discussed. So we need to do this in as orderly
14 fashion as possible and give all the voices a
15 chance to be heard as part of this meeting.

16 So with that, I will open it up to
17 Cameron Davis.

18 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. Good afternoon,
19 everybody. Thank you for showing up today. As
20 Woody Allen says, "Half the battle in life is
21 showing up." So you get credit for that.

22 I think it's fair to say that if you're
23 here today, then we all have one united goal, and
24 that is we're one uniting interest, and that is we

1 all care about the vibrancy of our region. And so
2 we're very much looking forward to hearing from all
3 of you today about your perspectives on how we do
4 our best work to keep carp out of the Great Lakes.
5 We want to hear from you about that. We want to
6 hear from you about the other things that you care
7 about, whether it's waterway on the navigation
8 system here, whether it's recreational
9 opportunities.

10 I won't try to put words in your mouth in
11 terms of what it is that you want to talk about,
12 but I am really very encouraged that so many of you
13 have come out today to express your thoughts about
14 the future of the system that we live in today.

15 EPA's role was stated very well by
16 Administrator Lisa Jackson earlier this week, and
17 that's who I represent, Cameron Davis, Senior
18 Advisor with the EPA on Great Lakes issues.
19 Administrator Jackson said that the EPA's role has
20 been really two things: Number one, to coordinate
21 interagency efforts on this very important issue.
22 The EPA also plays a funding role as well using the
23 combined resources and the expertise of the
24 interagency partnership for the sake of the Great

1 Lakes and the economy.

2 I also want to introduce several other
3 people today before we get going. One of them is
4 Brian Herman, who is here with the Canadian
5 Consulate. Brian, if you could stand up or raise
6 your hand wherever you are. Brian. Thank you. We
7 all know that we share the Great Lakes with our
8 neighbors to the north and Canada. So thank you,
9 Brian.

10 We also have here today John Carson, the
11 Chief of Staff with the White House Council on
12 Environmental Quality here to my left. John, thank
13 you for coming in from Washington, D.C. The White
14 House Council on Environmental Quality coordinates
15 federal environmental efforts and works closely
16 with agencies and other White House offices in the
17 development of environmental policies and
18 initiatives. So the very fact that we have the
19 White House CEQ with us today is a real statement
20 of the interest that we know that we're getting
21 from Washington, D.C. So, John, thank you, and
22 your staff for being here.

23 Let me also run through many of the other
24 folks that you're going to hear from today.

1 They'll talk a little bit about their roles as
2 well. I am not going to try to do that for them.

3 We have John Rogner, who's the Associate
4 Director with the Illinois Department of Natural
5 Resources. John, where are you? There we go.
6 John, thank you. We have Professor David Lodge
7 with the University of Notre Dame. David Lodge.
8 We have Charlie Wooley, who's Midwest Deputy
9 Regional Director with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service. We also have General John Peabody, who's
11 the Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River
12 Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. John
13 is here. He's on crutches. So he may not be able
14 to stand up and down very often, but it shows his
15 dedication for being here coming in from Cincinnati
16 and having been snowed in from Washington, D.C.,
17 earlier this week.

18 And there are many others in the audience
19 as well that we know are here as resource people
20 who can try to answer questions to the extent that
21 the folks that I have identified can't answer them.

22 So with that, David, do you want me to
23 turn it back over to you or should we just launch?

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: Launch.

1 MR. DAVIS: Why don't we turn it over then to
2 John Rogner to talk a little bit about the Chicago
3 area topography. The idea here, just to lay this
4 out, is we want to tell you a little bit about some
5 of the topographical and scientific underpinnings
6 to the framework that we'll talk about later on
7 today. So, John, over to you. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: We just want to remind
9 people that there are rooms, overflow rooms to
10 either side of this main room that are getting the
11 same visual feed that you will have in here. So if
12 you don't want to stand, there are places for you
13 to go into the rooms to the side, the overflow
14 rooms, and they're marked as such. So take
15 advantage of them if you need to.

16 MR. ROGNER: All right. I am flipping forward
17 a couple of slides here for a quick visual. Again,
18 I'm John Rogner, the Assistant Director of the
19 Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

20 Just so you know what we do and what our
21 role is, we have responsibility for managing fish
22 populations in waters of the State of Illinois. We
23 do that through the regulation of sport and
24 commercial fishing as well as our own assessment

7

1 and management actions. And so that's our role in
2 this whole effort as well, to assist with managing
3 fish populations.

4 I just want to say a quick word about the
5 Chicago area topography, and I will direct your
6 attention to this visual here. As you probably
7 know, many years ago, more of the watershed area
8 drained into the Great Lakes. In the 19th century,
9 already much of that was reversed and all the water
10 now -- at least all the waterway systems drained
11 from the lake into the Illinois River and
12 eventually into the Mississippi River.

13 It is a very, very flat landscape, and I
14 think it's important to understand that. Very
15 little topography. Very little landscape. The
16 section water simply spreads out over the
17 landscape. In fact, in the early days when it
18 was -- before the river was reversed, there
19 actually were connections that formed during high
20 water levels between the Great Lakes and the
21 Mississippi River through the Chicago River
22 connection to the Des Plaines River. So it just
23 points out how flat it was.

24 So I want to just point out in particular

1 that also the five connections to Lake Michigan
2 that you see here, starting at the north, the
3 northernmost connection is the outlet of the North
4 Shore Channel at the Village of Wilmette, and that
5 connects with the North Shore Channel which then
6 connects with the North Branch of the Chicago
7 River. There's a sluice gate at the North Shore
8 Channel.

9 Then moving south at the mouth of the
10 Chicago River in downtown Chicago, just a short
11 distance from here, there is a lock and dam
12 structure.

13 Moving south from there down to the
14 Calumet Region, the Calumet River connects to Lake
15 Michigan at Cal Harbor, and just about five miles
16 away from the lake is a lock and dam structure
17 there as well, the O'Brien Lock and Dam.

18 Then moving into Indiana, there is a
19 connection at Indiana Harbor and that connects to
20 Chicago Waterway System through the Grand Calumet
21 River. And then moving further east yet in
22 Indiana, there's a connection at Burns Harbor which
23 connects to the Chicago Waterway System through the
24 Little Calumet River. These latter two connections

1 are really important because there are no real
2 obstructions right now between the Chicago Waterway
3 System and the Great Lakes through those two
4 outlets. So those are our priority areas for us.

5 And with that, I will turn it over to
6 Dr. David Lodge, who will talk a little bit about
7 the science behind what we're doing here.

8 DR. LODGE: Thank you, John. As John and Cam
9 said, I am David Lodge, professor of biology at the
10 University of Notre Dame.

11 I am thinking that my PowerPoint would be
12 here somewhere. If it's not, I can continue to
13 talk until it appears, maybe. Professors are paid
14 to talk, and we can do that at some length with or
15 without visuals. So while we're getting oriented,
16 I will stand over here, and I only wanted to take
17 five minutes of your time anyway. So -- there we
18 go. That looks much more familiar. Okay.

19 So I am representing a group here from not
20 only the University of Notre Dame, but The Nature
21 Conservancy. And I'm here because we have been
22 employing a tool using genetics techniques to track
23 where the carp are. And this tool turns out to be
24 more sensitive than traditional tools. And so our

1 role, unfortunately, has been to document the
2 presence of silver and bighead carp in places that
3 we and no one else suspected previously that they
4 existed.

5 I really want to answer just three
6 questions in the next three or four minutes: How
7 close are the fish to Lake Michigan based on the
8 DNA that we've collected in the water? Now before
9 I show you a map, I think it's probably helpful if
10 I back up a little and tell you a little bit more
11 about this technique that we're using.

12 So we're taking advantage of the fact that
13 fish, like us, and every other organism, leave a
14 trail of DNA behind them. In this case, our guess
15 is, although we don't know for sure, that most of
16 the DNA we're detecting is probably cells from
17 fecal material of these fish. So that's what we're
18 doing. We're taking water samples and sampling
19 cells which contain DNA and then extracting the DNA
20 and measuring it.

21 The EPA has taken a very, very close look
22 at this technique; and as this one quotation from a
23 recent final report of an audit that they did of
24 our laboratory, this quotation indicates that the

1 EPA audit team has full confidence in this
2 technique that we're using. It was given such
3 scrutiny because it's relatively new; and,
4 furthermore, they concluded that the results that
5 we're providing through the Army Corps to the team
6 of federal and state agencies is actionable in a
7 management context.

8 So let me just jump to what we know from
9 eDNA right now. E stands for environmental. So
10 what I have indicated with the red blobs on this
11 map is where we have located DNA from either silver
12 or bighead, and then I have indicated in the
13 brackets which species we found in which locations.

14 The most troubling results of course are
15 sort of twofold. One, there are a lot of red blobs
16 above the electric barrier; and, two, there are
17 some red blobs very close -- in fact, most recently
18 we've detected DNA of silver carp only in Calumet
19 Harbor which, of course, is open to Lake Michigan.
20 We have not yet, and I hope we don't, detected any
21 DNA from bighead carp in Lake Michigan.

22 Now this begs a very important question in
23 this whole context of management which is how many
24 carp would it take to launch an invasion. Now from

1 my perspective as a biologist who studied invasions
2 for many, many years, I can say with great
3 confidence that we don't know the answer to that
4 question. What I can also say, though, is that we
5 also have great confidence in knowing this: It's a
6 numbers game. So if the goal, as the management
7 agencies have all determined, the goal is to
8 prevent invasions in Lake Michigan, then the goal
9 has to be to limit the numbers of individual fishes
10 of silver and bighead carps gaining access to the
11 lake.

12 Just because we found DNA of silver carp
13 in Calumet Harbor does not mean that a full-fledged
14 invasion of self-sustaining, reproducing silver
15 carp exist there. We don't have the evidence to
16 suggest that. Our hope is that there is no
17 invasion yet underway of either silver or bighead
18 carp; and that by reducing the access to the lake
19 of additional individuals, invasions can be
20 prevented.

21 The last point I want to make is that to
22 put this in a little bit of a broader perspective,
23 the canal system that John described leaking these
24 two great watersheds has already served as a

1 conduit for additional species, many of which will
2 be unfortunately familiar to you including quagga
3 and zebra mussels. That's how they escape Lake
4 Michigan.

5 In addition, there are lots of other
6 species, alien species in Lake Michigan and in the
7 Mississippi basin which could also go either south
8 like round Gobys did and zebra mussels or other
9 species including the two we're really here to talk
10 about which could go north. So it's important to
11 keep this context in mind that it's not just -- the
12 canal is not just important as a conduit for the
13 two Asian carps but also for many other species.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WOOLEY: Good afternoon, everybody. My
16 name is Charlie Wooley. I am the Deputy Regional
17 Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
18 Minneapolis. My pleasure to be here this
19 afternoon.

20 Asian carp are native to Eastern Asia.
21 They were imported in the early 1970s to the
22 southern part of the United States. They were used
23 for biological control of plankton in hatchery
24 ponds and to improve water quality in sewage

1 treatment ponds in the south. The first record in
2 natural U.S. waters of a silver carp was in 1975 in
3 the White River in Arkansas. For bighead carp, it
4 was 1981 in the Lower Ohio River. These fish eat
5 zooplankton, phytoplankton, and algae.

6 We are very concerned that if they get
7 into the Great Lakes, they could outcompete our
8 native fish, our important sport and commercial
9 fish.

10 We have seen the type of biological impact
11 that Asian carp have had in the Middle
12 Mississippi River, the Lower Missouri River, and in
13 the Illinois River itself. They leave a trail of
14 tremendous negative impacts on our native fish.
15 This has been their legacy as they have expanded
16 their artificial range in the Midwest, and we
17 certainly do not want to see that happen in the
18 Great Lakes. Thank you.

19 MR. DAVIS: What I want to do, too, right now
20 is just to start to introduce the framework that
21 you're going to hear a little bit more about from
22 primarily three parties. One of them is
23 John Rogner with the Illinois Department of Natural
24 Resources; Charlie Wooley, who you just heard from,

1 from the Fish and Wildlife Service; and
2 John Peabody, General John Peabody with the Corps
3 of Engineers.

4 Before we start to get into the details of
5 the framework, I thought it would be helpful to lay
6 out a few of the underpinnings to this document. I
7 think it will help in terms of the context. One of
8 them is we have a unified goal of keeping Asian
9 carp from establishing themselves in
10 self-sustaining populations in the Great Lakes.
11 That's what the goal of this document is. And the
12 agencies that have helped to prepare this document
13 are through this document articulating that goal.
14 So it's important to set the frame for what the
15 framework is all about.

16 The second point to make is that this
17 framework doesn't belong to any one agency. In
18 fact, it doesn't belong to any one interest either.
19 It has been developed by many of the agencies that
20 you've heard from already, including the Corps of
21 Engineers, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service. The
22 Coast Guard is here and was very active in this
23 development. The Illinois DNR, the Great Lakes
24 Fishery Commission, the City of Chicago, the

1 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District have all
2 had a hand in some way or another in trying to
3 bring the best ideas forward to help develop the
4 document that is on line and I know we have hard
5 copies here as well.

6 One of the other things that's so
7 important about this framework is that, for the
8 first time ever, it articulates a multi-dimensional
9 defense against carp establishing themselves in the
10 Great Lakes. I know that there is a great deal of
11 debate in the public about locks and other elements
12 of a defense for the Great Lakes.

13 I think virtually all of us in the
14 agencies are in agreement that we cannot depend on
15 any one tool in the tool box to be able to defend
16 the Great Lakes against that establishment. So as
17 a result, what you see with this framework for the
18 first time ever is a multi-tiered defense. We are
19 looking at engineering and structures. We are
20 looking at deploying chemical alternatives and
21 actions. We are looking at biological actions,
22 managerial and operational as well because it is
23 going to take that kind of -- that textured
24 multi-dimensional defense in order to be able to

1 succeed in achieving the goal that I articulated
2 before.

3 The other thing is that it's an iterative
4 document. What we have done is tried to put our
5 best ideas forward and put them on paper so that
6 you all can see where it is we're trying to go in
7 an integrated way. But we don't pretend for one
8 second to have all the answers.

9 One of the things that we wanted to do
10 with this framework is to create a space for
11 everybody to put forward their most constructive,
12 productive ideas for how we keep Asian carp out of
13 the Great Lakes. And my hope is that today we will
14 hear from you with your constructive ideas.

15 We are dedicated to keeping carp from
16 establishing themselves; and, to be successful at
17 that, I think it takes people offering their most
18 constructive ideas and putting those forward.

19 And then I think you heard a little bit
20 from Dr. Lodge and Mr. Rogner about some of the
21 science behind carp and behind how we've tried to
22 kind of serve as an architect for this framework as
23 well.

24 That's a little bit of an overview of the

1 framework that you're about to hear. What I would
2 like to do then is turn it over to John Rogner
3 again to start the chat about the short-term
4 actions. The Illinois DNR is undertaking
5 short-term actions, as is the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service, as is the Corps of Engineers. We're going
7 to hear a little bit about those short- and
8 long-term actions right now. John?

9 MR. ROGNER: Thank you, Cam. As has already
10 been explained and mentioned to you all, we have
11 yet to actually catch an Asian carp above the
12 electric barrier. During the removal operation
13 last year, last December, when we cleared the area
14 below the Lockport Lock and Dam -- I'm sorry, below
15 the electrical barrier to the Lockport Lock and Dam
16 to support the Corps of Engineers' electrical
17 barrier maintenance operation, we did collect one
18 bighead carp.

19 We are fairly confident, very confident
20 that there were more that were taken out, but we
21 did not recover them. They most assuredly sank to
22 the bottom. That certainly wasn't one individual
23 carp. What that fish did, however, even though it
24 was only one fish, is that it validated the eDNA

1 evidence that we already had for that reach, and it
2 supported our action I think very conclusively and
3 very definitively.

4 But, again, above the barrier, all we have
5 at this point is eDNA evidence; and what that
6 doesn't tell us is exactly where a fish might be
7 and how many there might be. And we need to get a
8 handle on both of those questions so that we can
9 start removing fish. So we're going to start
10 working immediately to try and get answers to those
11 questions.

12 Since the operation was conducted last
13 December, we've been very hampered in what we might
14 be able to do because of winter conditions.
15 Portions of the canal system are iced over, still
16 are iced over, and it's very difficult sampling
17 conditions; but now that we're getting into weather
18 that we think is conducive to getting out on the
19 waterway, we're planning on doing that.

20 So beginning next week already, next
21 Wednesday, we're going to be working with the
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We'll have both of
23 our crews out there. We'll have the Corps of
24 Engineers' crews out there with us as well. We're

1 going to start targeting very specific areas in
2 various parts of the Chicago Waterway System. And
3 we're using our best knowledge of Asian carp
4 behavior to target very strategic areas, and we
5 believe warm water discharge points would be the
6 best place to sample for the near term. Those are
7 ice-free, but, also, they tend to attract and hold
8 fish.

9 So we're counting on that knowledge of
10 fish behavior to help us sample those places where
11 we think the fish might have the greatest
12 likelihood of being.

13 We're going to be using traditional
14 fishery gear. At this point, it's going to be
15 various kinds of nets and electrofishing. Again,
16 we'll be using both of our agencies' crews to do
17 that. We'll also be contracting with a commercial
18 fisherman to help us with that so that we can take
19 advantage of that in the next two to three weeks.
20 After that point, we'll lose -- we'll no longer
21 have the advantage of a very distinct warm water
22 discharge effect out there as spring flows start to
23 kick in and water temperatures start to become more
24 uniform. So we're hoping to take advantage of this

21

1 over the next several weeks.

2 So beginning Wednesday and then for two to
3 three days a week, we'll have our crews out there
4 working very hard around the waste water treatment
5 plants and other major warm water discharges like
6 power plants and thing like that.

7 We'll also have one of our crews serving
8 as a control. We're going to put them downstream
9 at a warm water discharge point in a section of the
10 river where we know there are a lot of Asian carp.
11 So it will be a test of whether we're targeting the
12 right areas and whether we have a good chance of
13 catching fish up here.

14 We'll also start probably within the next
15 month or two to contract again with commercial
16 fishermen to start to operate below the barrier
17 system, probably beginning in perhaps the Brandon
18 Road pool, but certainly the Dresden-Marseilles
19 pools. The idea here would be to have them start
20 pulling Asian carp out of the water. And the whole
21 point would to be reduce population sizes
22 downstream which, in turn, will reduce the
23 propagule pressure on the barrier system itself.
24 So we'll help enhance the integrity of the barrier

1 by doing those operations.

2 Then later, when it becomes more feasible
3 to begin using eDNA sampling again, we'll try to
4 coordinate our sampling operations with new eDNA
5 collections. We have a real-time data about where
6 fish might be. Remember that our current eDNA
7 locations, positive hits, were all from last fall
8 as long as go as September, most recently in
9 December. So over winter, those fish may have
10 moved, and we think that a better real-time data
11 would help us strategically determine where to use
12 -- where to deploy our resources.

13 And then also once temperatures start to
14 warm in the canal system, we'll also regain the
15 ability to use fish toxicants, in particular,
16 rotenone, which is something that we typically
17 don't want to use unless water temperatures are
18 above 50 degrees. And so that will give us another
19 tool to be able to again hit hot spots. There are
20 parts of the system we'll be able to place block
21 nets and trap fish and then do rotenone treatments
22 both for sampling purposes but also obviously to
23 remove fish as well.

24 Again, in terms of a short-term action,

1 remember that we don't know where these fish above
2 the barrier came from. There are many possible
3 ways that they could have gotten in there. They
4 could have been released by people before the
5 transport of live Asian carp was prohibited.

6 As you probably know, Asian carp have been
7 served in Chicago restaurants for some time. For a
8 while it was legal, perfectly legal to bring live
9 fish into the Chicago area and deliver them to
10 restaurants. That's no longer legal, but it's very
11 possible that fish were released into the waterway
12 system during that time, and these could be legacy
13 fish from back then.

14 Another possibility is that bait bucket
15 transfer is a way that these fish might have gotten
16 in there. Use of Asian carp minnows in the bait
17 trade is illegal, but it's very difficult to
18 distinguish very small Asian carp from certain
19 other kinds of bait fish that might be used. So
20 within the next 90 days, the Illinois DNR is going
21 to be conducting a friendly survey of all bait
22 dealers in the Chicago region to make sure that
23 there aren't any Asian carp that are inadvertently
24 mixed in with bait being sold in this region to

1 help prevent that as a way of fish being introduced
2 into the system.

3 Then looking at it a bit longer, we're
4 going to again gear up and prepare for the
5 possibility that we could have to do another
6 significant treatment of the Waterway System. We
7 were hopeful that Barrier IIB will be constructed
8 before Barrier IIA requires maintenance again. In
9 the event that does not happen or if for any other
10 reason we need to treat a significant section of
11 the canal, we're going to be prepared for a
12 potential fairly large scale operation as well
13 including procurement of supplies and materials and
14 training and those kinds of things so that we'll be
15 ready to go.

16 On a broader scale, the Illinois DNR and
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are going to be
18 kicking off an effort to start to implement the
19 Asian Carp Management and Control Plan that was
20 developed couple a years ago. I think it was
21 completed in 1997, but it hasn't really been
22 implemented in any serious integrated and
23 coordinated way yet.

24 That plan outlines 133 different actions

1 that are going to be deployed nationally in all
2 watersheds where Asian carp are a problem. So
3 we'll get that effort going as well.

4 And then, again, in the long-term
5 scenario, we're going to continue to contract with
6 commercial fishermen down river to keep the
7 pressure on the population numbers down river to
8 see if we can't keep that propagule pressure on the
9 barrier down to a manageable level.

10 And then along with that, we're going to
11 be investigating the possibility of promoting the
12 development of commercial markets for Asian carp,
13 to create an incentive, a profit motive for people
14 to remove carp from the system as well. We know
15 there are dangers in that approach, and we'll have
16 to coordinate it with other Great Lakes states to
17 make sure it's done in a way that doesn't actually
18 promote the establishment and transfer of carp into
19 new areas to create markets for them. We know
20 that's a pitfall we have to look out for, but
21 that's another thing we'll be working on; and we'll
22 be working with our sister agency, the Department
23 of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, in that
24 regard.

1 So I think that provides a pretty good
2 summary of what the Illinois DNR is proposing to
3 do. Again, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will
4 be working side by side with us.

5 I will turn it over to Charlie Wooley to
6 say a little bit more about the role of the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service in that regard.

8 MR. WOOLEY: Thank you, John. One other
9 commentary and then a quick update on an issue.
10 The other commentary is I think you can see from
11 John's comments, we are locked arm in arm with the
12 Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois DNR, City of
13 Chicago, and a whole host of other partners on this
14 endeavor. From day one, there has been no daylight
15 between the feds, the State of Illinois on this
16 issue; and it has led to remarkable coordination
17 and remarkable solitude in our focus on dealing
18 with this particular issue. John, I just want to
19 compliment you on that.

20 While John and Fish and Wildlife Service
21 crews are going to be out on the water, out on the
22 landscape trying to capture Asian carp, we're going
23 to have a second process underway. We're going to
24 be developing what's known as a risk assessment.

27

1 We're going to take the best minds we can find in
2 the Midwest, bring them together, geneticists,
3 engineers, biologist, scientists, folks from the
4 Corps that understand how locks operate and get
5 them to focus on what can we do if the Corps is
6 operating these locks to ensure we have no carp
7 getting through them while they're operational.

8 It's called a risk assessment. You take
9 these minds, put various scenarios in front of
10 them, develop ways to combat and kill carp in this
11 kind of an environment. And we started that
12 process late this week. It will continue over the
13 next two or three weeks. So a two-prong approach.
14 The operational aspects of Illinois DNR and Fish
15 and Wildlife Service out on the water; the planning
16 for what we're going to do starting possibly later
17 on this spring or this summer as it relates to lock
18 operations to provide recommendations to the Corps
19 to ensure that we don't have carp getting into
20 southern Lake Michigan. Thank you.

21 General Peabody, I believe you're next.

22 GEN. PEABODY: Good afternoon, everybody. I
23 actually grew up on Lake Erie in Northern Ohio. So
24 I'm back home. It's good to be back in the

1 Midwest.

2 The Corps of Engineers has a long-term and
3 a short-term strategy as part of the framework that
4 Mr. Davis talked about up front. And we are
5 collaborating very closely with all of our
6 partners, whether they be part of a governmental
7 agency or our stakeholders from the navigation
8 industry or from the several states in the Great
9 Lakes or the environmental concerns. We really
10 appreciate all of you being here today.

11 Now the Corps' actions and ability to act
12 are founded in law, and there's four specific
13 authorities that we have related to this issue. I
14 would like to briefly outline them to you and then
15 go into the actions we're taking associated with
16 those authorities.

17 First, since 1996, the Corps has been
18 working to develop, build, operate, and maintain
19 the electric dispersal system known as the Fish
20 Barrier System near Romeoville, Illinois. I will
21 talk in a bit about what we're doing with that
22 system.

23 That has been and it still remains the
24 primary defense against the migration of Asian carp

1 into the Chicago Area Waterway System. So as
2 Mr. Rogner indicated, we don't know for certain how
3 the Asian carp that Dr. Lodge's eDNA evidence
4 indicates may be present in the Chicago Area
5 Waterway System, we don't know how they got above
6 the fish barrier. There's lots of scenarios. But
7 we are taking very seriously the information of
8 Dr. Lodge and his team. In fact, we're working
9 with his team to develop additional research to try
10 to tease out more information from his eDNA
11 indicators such as population size, sex of the
12 fish, size of the fish, how long, how fresh the
13 eDNA evidence is, and so forth and so on.

14 The second major authority that we have
15 governing this situation is there are several
16 different authorities that relate to the operation
17 and maintenance of the lock structures at the
18 Chicago Lock and Controlling Works and T.G. O'Brien
19 Lock and Dam as briefed by Mr. Rogner.

20 The third authority that we have is an
21 authority that was provided by Congress in the 2010
22 Energy Waters Appropriation Act, and that is
23 authority abbreviatedly known by its section,
24 Section 126. This authority in brief gives the

1 Secretary of the Army the ability to take any
2 emergency measures -- those measures are not
3 specified -- but emergency measures the Secretary
4 of the Army deems appropriate to address the
5 migration of Asian carp and their dispersal into
6 Lake Michigan.

7 The final authorities that we have are two
8 specific study authorities that I will be talking
9 about. Those study authorities are designed to
10 help us understand ways that the Asian carp or
11 other invasive species could bypass the fish
12 barrier and then recommend actions to defend
13 against those potential bypasses.

14 And then the final authority is an
15 authority that I will describe in a little more
16 detail that is designed to understand all of the
17 various routes that aquatic invasive species might
18 transfer between both major watershed basins, the
19 Great Lakes basin, and the Mississippi River basin.
20 So there's various locations where that might
21 occur. We'll focus primarily initially on the
22 Chicago Area Waterway System because of the urgency
23 of the situation associated with the Asian carp.

24 And there are several other provisions of

1 law which we have to abide by which I won't go into
2 detail here now.

3 Now what are we doing? Well, as indicated
4 by this chart, there's four major areas and the
5 four primary colors you see there being outlined by
6 the highlighter where the Corps is following these
7 authorities to execute our operations. And you can
8 see in time that they extend all the way from today
9 out through several years from now and on into the
10 unforeseeable future.

11 First, we're continuing to operate and
12 maintain the barrier system and improve that
13 system. Thanks to -- once we found out from the
14 eDNA evidence that Dr. Lodge's team provided that
15 the fish appeared to be closer to the barrier
16 system than previously thought, we took Barrier IIB
17 within the space of about two and a half -- I'm
18 sorry, IIA within the space of two and a half weeks
19 to hire operating parameters as indicated by our
20 laboratory tests with our engineer research and
21 development center; and we asked the administration
22 for stimulus funding, American Recovery &
23 Reinvestment Act funding, to accelerate the
24 construction of Barrier IIA's younger and better

1 looking twin, Barrier IIB.

2 That is actually elements that are under
3 construction now. Other elements are under design
4 and will soon be put out for bid, but we intend as
5 some of the other speakers indicated to have that
6 completed this fall. It should be in operation in
7 the October time frame. And if we're able to do
8 that, and we think we will be able to, then we
9 don't think there will be a need to take
10 Barrier IIA down for maintenance and do another
11 massive fish kill operation like we did two months
12 ago.

13 We are also in the very short-term
14 addressing the bypasses to the fish barrier by the
15 flanking waterways of the Des Plaines River to its
16 northwest and the Illinois & Michigan Canal which
17 is effectively an intermittent stream to its
18 southeast.

19 We cycled out a report from our efficacy
20 study in late November; and, in early January, the
21 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
22 approved our recommendation to place a system of
23 concrete barrier and very close-spaced screens
24 along the Des Plaines River in areas where there

1 could be induced flooding. We couldn't just put a
2 barrier system up.

3 And then in the Illinois & Michigan Canal,
4 we will effectively block transit of aquatic
5 species through that waterway by blocking a culvert
6 that is by the location where the natural watershed
7 lies. We will start construction on that in May,
8 and we should finish construction of this system
9 again also in September.

10 The third short-term action we're taking
11 is associated with the structures in the Chicago
12 Area Waterway System with specific emphasis on the
13 locks and dams that the Corps has the
14 responsibility to operate and maintain.

15 So under the efficacy study authority, we
16 have undertaken to assess how we might use those
17 locks as impediments to the migration of Asian carp
18 into Lake Michigan. We have met with the
19 navigation industry last week. We have solicited
20 their input. And I know several of you are here
21 from that industry, and we appreciate the input
22 you've given us that was due today. We'll be
23 taking that under advisement.

24 We are working with our Fish and Wildlife

1 and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2 teammates using the risk assessment methodology
3 that Mr. Wooley talked about to understand the risk
4 associated with Asian carp that may be in the
5 vicinity and the types of actions that they might
6 take to suppress, eliminate, reduce any Asian carp
7 populations that may be in the vicinity.

8 We're studying specifically also from a
9 navigation structure standpoint the schedule of the
10 operations of the locks. So we may migrate to an
11 intermittent schedule whereby the locks are open
12 for some period of time and they would be closed to
13 navigation for another period of time. Those
14 periods of time have not yet been defined, although
15 we did provide some draft scenarios to industry to
16 consider. And during the periods of time that
17 they're not in operation, our partner agencies
18 would take actions to attack the Asian carp
19 populations that may be present in the vicinity.

20 That is still under study, and we hope to
21 have that study approved and in operation some time
22 in the April time frame about the time when warmer
23 weather starts to instigate more active fish
24 activity.

1 Finally, we are continuing to execute our
2 monitoring operations in coordination with Fish and
3 Wildlife Service and Illinois DNR. That is being
4 conducted by Dr. Lodge from the University of Notre
5 Dame and his team with The Nature Conservancy. So
6 rather than just simply sampling water samples, as
7 Dr. Lodge and his team did this past fall, we will
8 not only be doing that sampling, but we will be
9 doing that sampling in concert with fishing
10 activities, electrofishing, netting, and so forth
11 by these other agencies, and then it will give us a
12 lot better information about how the fish may be
13 behaving.

14 And then there's a lot of additional
15 research as already indicated that we'll be doing
16 with Dr. Lodge and his team in coordination with
17 our Engineer Research and Development Center.

18 Finally, the long-term action that we're
19 taking is indicated by the pink bar there. The
20 Interbasin Transfer Study, that's the short name
21 for a study called the Great Lakes and
22 Mississippi River Interbasin Study. And the intent
23 is to study the entire watershed areas as I
24 indicated to identify first the hydraulic

1 connections that exist between the watersheds; and
2 then, second, gather information about the kinds of
3 species, both present and future, that may be able
4 to transit through them; and also identify
5 technologies and capabilities to address and
6 separate these watershed basins.

7 The concept of ecological separation which
8 has been proposed by the Alliance for the Great
9 Lakes and other agencies will be assessed as part
10 of this operation. This is a multi-year study. It
11 will take a lot of time. It will take a lot of
12 input, and it will take a great deal of scientific
13 -- gathering of scientific information that already
14 exists; identifying gaps in the scientific data
15 that we require in order to make informed
16 decisions; and then conduct additional scientific
17 research to fill in those gaps.

18 The last thing I want to emphasize is that
19 other than the decisions that have already been
20 published, the Corps of Engineers has not made any
21 definitive decisions associated with these study
22 activities. So no definitive decision has been
23 made yet with respect to modified structural
24 operations, for example, although we are

1 considering it very seriously. No decision has
2 been made as to ecological separation. That will
3 be an intensive part of our study effort.

4 But all options are actively under
5 consideration and will be considered. It is our
6 obligation as an agent of the federal government to
7 look at all the capabilities that we may have to
8 assess those capabilities and to put them into play
9 if at all possible.

10 The last thing I will mention is that
11 there are several promising technologies that are
12 actively under consideration which we believe could
13 assist us in defeating the threat that this species
14 poses to us. They include things like acoustic
15 barriers, bubble barriers that may not be a hundred
16 percent effective in deterring carp but will be
17 effective in large measure to the majority of carp
18 but also could help us in directing Asian carp into
19 a certain location where then our Department of
20 Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife partners
21 can take specific actions to address the population
22 aspect of the equation.

23 I appreciate your attention, and I'll turn
24 it I think back to Mr. Davis. Thanks.

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you very much. The
2 next phase of this meeting will take one-half hour,
3 30 minutes, to allow for technical questions for
4 individuals that are part of the work group that
5 you've heard. Use this time to try to clarify
6 issues, not necessarily debate them, but if you
7 have any specific question about what the agency is
8 planning to do, what's in the framework, this will
9 be an opportune time to do that. Again, we'll do
10 this for 30 minutes and then we'll start statements
11 and specific input in that manner.

12 So any questions? Actually, can we pull
13 the screen up? And those of you that made
14 presentations, if the screen goes up, we'll have a
15 table for you to sit at. But first question, go
16 ahead. Please come to the mic and identify
17 yourself, your agency, and what your questions.

18 MR. DETTMERS: Hello. My name is -- is this
19 on? My name is John Dettmers. I am a senior
20 fishery biologist with the Great Lakes Fishery
21 Commission, and my first question is for Dr. Lodge.

22 David, you gave a very nice overview of
23 the science here about your eDNA techniques, and I
24 know many of us who aren't familiar with genes

1 wonder just how reliable the DNA test is? And I am
2 asking that question not from the point of view of,
3 you know, the lab processes which I understand the
4 EPA has looked at and considers very, very superb
5 in terms of quality control, but can you give us
6 some insight about what the probability is that
7 you're actually detecting evidence of bighead and
8 silver carp versus the other types of DNA that are
9 running around in the system?

10 DR. LODGE: Thanks, John. The part of the
11 review or audit that the EPA conducted of our
12 effort was to assess how specific our genetic tools
13 were to silver and bighead carp; and, indeed, they
14 confirmed our analyses which said there's no way
15 that we're detecting anything other than silver
16 carp and bighead carp. Does that get at your
17 question?

18 MR. DETTMERS: That does. Thank you.

19 DR. LODGE: The full report for the EPA audit
20 is available. If you have a hard time finding it,
21 I'm happy to provide anybody with one or I assume
22 that perhaps Army Corps will put it on the web
23 site, but it details how they reach that
24 conclusion.

1 MR. DETTMERS: Great. Can I ask another
2 question?

3 FACILITATOR HOMER: One more.

4 MR. DETTMERS: Charlie, you mentioned the risk
5 assessment process and the efforts to try to
6 understand what the risks are regarding lock
7 operations. I wasn't clear on what the time frame
8 you expect to have that completed in so that you
9 could get recommendations to the Corps for
10 implementation. Thank you.

11 MR. WOOLEY: You're welcome, John. The time
12 frame is we started this process yesterday. We
13 want to be very deliberate and make sure we have
14 10, 11, 12 experts that can bring the skillset that
15 we need to the table to develop a risk assessment
16 we could then transfer to the Corps.

17 We're looking at somewhere between three
18 and four weeks, John. We want to do this right.
19 We want to have the right people to the table. We
20 only get a chance to do it once and we're going to
21 do it right.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next.

23 MR. SULSKI: Rob Sulski. I have a clarifying
24 question. I'm looking at the framework, and I see

1 items listed such as 221 which is final efficacy
2 study, and then I see in 227 feasibility
3 assessment, and then it says interbasin there and
4 we heard about the interbasin. I am wondering how
5 that all fits in. Are these elements of it and how
6 do I relate that back? And then when will these
7 different things be accomplished?

8 GEN. PEABODY: Thank you, sir. There are two
9 studies. The efficacy study, again, which is
10 focused on assessing the efficacy of the fish
11 barrier, the final report for that study we
12 anticipate will be delivered to the Secretary of
13 the Army in September. And we should have the
14 draft final report available for public review some
15 time this summer, June, perhaps July time frame.

16 Now because of the urgency of this
17 situation, we have taken an approach to our studies
18 that is -- I don't know if it's unique, but it's
19 certainly unusual and different, and that is we
20 have cycled out aspects of these studies early so
21 that we can act on them.

22 So, for example, when Dr. Lodge and his
23 team told us that there was eDNA evidence of Asian
24 carp closer to the fish barrier than previously

1 thought, and this was well prior to our eDNA
2 evidence that they were above the fish barrier, we
3 accelerated an aspect of that study to address the
4 possibility of fish entering into the Sanitary and
5 Ship Canal above the fish barrier via the flooding
6 from the Des Plaines River or the Illinois &
7 Michigan Canal.

8 So that was the first of at least three
9 interim reports that we will produce from this
10 study. There may be a fourth report, but that has
11 not yet been determined.

12 The second report of that study focuses on
13 the optimal parameters of the fish barrier. So,
14 for example, Dr. Mark Pegg produced a study in 2004
15 that indicated that up to 4 volts per inch was
16 required to deter small juvenile fish from passing
17 through the fish barrier. They have a smaller
18 surface area on their bodies, so they're not as
19 susceptible to electrical currents.

20 Subsequent laboratory tests that we did
21 indicated that Dr. Pegg was at least partly right.
22 It took higher than the 1 volt per inch which had
23 been basically the industry standard for fish
24 barriers up to that point for a small Asian carp,

1 but a variety of parameters were required. One of
2 those is 2 volts per inch. And so we are applying
3 those parameters as indicated by the laboratory
4 research.

5 But we need to understand how the fish
6 react in field conditions, in natural conditions;
7 and part of what we will do with this interim
8 report, too, we'll execute and then evaluate these
9 field conditions using flume tests from the
10 Engineer Research and Development Center.

11 And the third report is the report that
12 deals with the modified structural operations which
13 is currently under study and in coordination with
14 Fish and Wildlife and others.

15 The second study is the Great Lakes and
16 Mississippi River Interbasin Study; and, as I
17 indicated, that's the long-term tool that we have
18 to get at the -- just not the Asian carp and the
19 Chicagoland area issue, but the entire basin. But
20 we're going to take kind of a two-prong approach
21 with this study. The first prong is to focus on
22 the Chicago Area System and the Asian carp, and we
23 anticipate that could take up to two and a half
24 years. We have a lot of information we need to

1 gather. And then we have to go through the NEPA
2 documentation process for deliberate study of this
3 nature, and that takes a great deal of time.

4 The second aspect of it is looking at the
5 whole entire basin, and that will take even longer,
6 up to five or more years. And all of this is
7 contingent on not having huge surprises that
8 require additional study and having available
9 resources to do the studies. Thank you, sir.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Next question.

11 MR. WILKINS: Thank you. I'm Del Wilkins with
12 Canal Barge Company, and I'm here to speak on
13 behalf of Canal Barge, not as a representative of
14 the AWO, even though we are members of the AWO, and
15 we are members of the Illinois River Carrier
16 Association as well as Illinois Chamber of
17 Commerce.

18 My question and statements -- paraphrase
19 my question first?

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Technical questions is all
21 we're having now. If you want to make a statement
22 later, that would be fine. Technical questions to
23 clarify the plan is what we're asking for.

24 MR. WILKINS: Understood. I heard in the

1 subcommittee hearing which was this Tuesday, which
2 I participated in, that from five of the panel
3 members the only solution was complete separation
4 of the systems. And so my question becomes, is
5 that true, the long-term plan is to have complete
6 separation of the system, ecological systems from
7 the lake to the river system? Is that the
8 long-term plan?

9 MR. DAVIS: Well, thank you, Mr. Wilkins. I
10 think as you heard from General Peabody, all
11 options have to be on the table. We're going to
12 take a look at all options.

13 I think one of the starting points that
14 everybody is starting from, how can we keep
15 invasive species from moving back and forth while
16 still allowing the good things to move back and
17 forth? So that may be cargo, people, and things
18 like that.

19 And so one of the things that you heard
20 before from the Corps of Engineers that as part of
21 their Interbasin Transfer Study, there will be an
22 assessment of just that question.

23 MR. WILKINS: Understood. Mr. Davis, can I
24 have my follow-up question?

1 GEN. PEABODY: If I could amplify on Cam's
2 answer. There is no predetermined solution. There
3 is a definite intent to look at all options, all
4 variables, all considerations. So there truly is
5 everything on the table. But we can't judge before
6 we go through the study process what is the
7 recommended alternative amongst the number of
8 alternatives that still have to be developed.
9 Okay?

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: In the interest of the long
11 line behind you, next.

12 MR. MELVIN: Thank you. Darren Melvin with
13 Hanson Material Service. First of all, I want to
14 commend the group for the aggressive actions and
15 what we heard today. There's a lot of stuff even
16 taking place down river which I think is a
17 tremendous idea because that's where the leading
18 sustainable edge appears to be at this point.

19 With no fish being found in the area above
20 the barrier, and basically we're here today because
21 of Dr. Lodge's eDNA testing, fish have been
22 documented in Sandusky Bay over the past 10, 15
23 years, is there a plan to do eDNA testing in that
24 area to see if there's a problem that's already

1 present in the Great Lakes? And, if not, why not?

2 MR. WOOLEY: I know we're honored to have two
3 representatives from Ohio DNR today with us, but I
4 will take a quick crack at this.

5 There have been a couple of carp found in
6 Lake Erie both on the U.S. side and the Canadian
7 side over the last 10 or 15 years. There's no
8 population in Lake Erie that we are aware of either
9 on the U.S. or Canadian side. None whatsoever. We
10 have the ability right now to start to synchronize
11 the eDNA samples that are going to be taken out in
12 the future with actual sampling, electrofishing,
13 gill netting that we're going to coordinate with
14 the Army Corps and Dr. Lodge out into the future.

15 But as far as it relates to Lake Erie
16 right now, no fish to our knowledge. Is that
17 correct, Sean? Director Logan?

18 MR. LOGAN: Correct.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

20 MR. MELVIN: Real fast, though. You didn't
21 answer the question. You have no fish found in the
22 Chicago River System either, but you're taking all
23 these actions in conjunction with eDNA testing, but
24 there have been live fish found in Lake Erie.

1 MR. WOOLEY: The live fish that were found in
2 Lake Erie were found about ten years ago. It's
3 been a long, long time since there have been any
4 live carp found in Lake Erie. To the best extent,
5 there are no Asian carp that we're aware of right
6 now in Lake Erie. Is that correct, Sean?

7 MR. LOGAN: Right.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

9 MR. BORGSTROM: Michael Borgstrom, Wendella
10 Boats here in Chicago. Actually, Darren sort of
11 had my question, but I guess I can do a follow-up
12 on that.

13 So what you're saying, Mr. Lodge, and all
14 of you here, I came a little late, you're saying
15 this -- your eDNA testing hasn't been conducted in
16 any of the Great Lakes or in any other waterway
17 other than the Chicago River, Chicago area?

18 DR. LODGE: Correct.

19 MR. BORGSTROM: So you're basing your science
20 on one field test, one area when we have known
21 fish, known carp, according to the U.S. Geological
22 Survey map, on Lake Erie and at various rivers and
23 tributaries around this country, and you have
24 tested it nowhere else?

1 DR. LODGE: I guess I'm not sure whether
2 there's a question there.

3 MR. BORGSTROM: The question is have you tested
4 it anywhere else than here other than a laboratory?

5 DR. LODGE: The answer to that again is no. I
6 think the tool would have usefulness in a number of
7 other places.

8 MR. BORGSTROM: Thank you.

9 MR. KINDRA: Good afternoon. I'm John Kindra,
10 Kindra Lake Towing. We're a towboat operator in
11 South Chicago. I have a couple of questions.

12 I would like to know the difference
13 between an acoustical and a bubble barrier and how
14 much they cost to install? And then also on the
15 electrofishing, when you do that, do all the fish
16 in area that you're electrifying, do all the fish
17 come up? So if you're going to electrofish, do we
18 get a good sample of what's there? Thank you.

19 GEN. PEABODY: Thank you, sir. I will take the
20 first part, and I will give Mr. Wooley the second
21 part.

22 We are just now researching these
23 capabilities. So I don't have a definitive answer
24 to the cost. But in terms of acquiring and

1 installing, it could be several hundred thousand to
2 a million or two million dollars. I don't know
3 yet.

4 On the types of barriers, they're being
5 examined, but there's at least one barrier that
6 we're aware of that combines acoustics, lights, and
7 bubbles to create sensations that apparently are
8 disturbing to the fish and deter them from coming
9 close.

10 We are still in the initial phases of
11 identifying the capabilities that are out there;
12 and, as we identify the capabilities, we do intend
13 to cycle them into some kind of an action plan over
14 the course of the summer. It's impossible for me
15 at this point to say when that action plan might be
16 executed because we haven't finished identifying
17 all the capabilities. Charlie?

18 MR. WOOLEY: Electrofishing is a very effective
19 technique from about the surface down to about,
20 let's say, 10, 12 feet. Last week in the efforts
21 that the Fish and Wildlife Service was involved in
22 and in the efforts that John Rogner talked about
23 that we're going to be involved starting next week,
24 we're going to use gill nets that are on the

1 bottom, gill nets that cover the mid surface of the
2 canal, and floating gill nets in combination with
3 electrofishing. And we're also going to be using
4 commercial fishermen that will deploy the same kind
5 of tactics. So we take electrofishing, combine it
6 with gill netting, gill nets on the bottom, gill
7 nets on the top, and we think we got a pretty good
8 sampling technique and tool for that.

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

10 MR. RENTNER: Eric Rentner with Rentner Marine
11 Logistics. The question is for Professor Lodge
12 again. The eDNA itself, and Darren somewhat asked
13 the same question, too, but is it possible that the
14 eDNA would appear even from dead fish? Just as if
15 my skin, pretty dry, was on this chair, it would
16 appear there?

17 DR. LODGE: It is possible. But let me take a
18 minute here. There are a few ways you could
19 imagine that it would be possible for DNA to appear
20 somewhere without a living fish. We can talk about
21 those in detail or if others want to hear it, but
22 what I would say overall is that it's not plausible
23 that those mechanisms like a dead fish here and
24 there or an eagle dropping a fish or so forth, it's

52

1 not plausible that those explanations are
2 sufficient to produce the pattern, the repeated
3 pattern of the results that we have in the Chicago
4 waterway.

5 So what I'm saying is we go back to the
6 same places time and again and we get the same
7 result. So the most plausible, I think, possible
8 alternative explanation, that is, alternative to
9 living fish, is that barge ballasts could move
10 water from further south that had DNA in it.

11 Now since early September, the navigation
12 industry has been cooperating in preventing that
13 from happening. And, furthermore, if you look at
14 our results in Wilmette, for example, the barges
15 are not a possible explanation because there is no
16 barge traffic through the Wilmette Pumping Station.

17 So, yes, it's possible. It's not
18 plausible that any of those other explanations even
19 in combination could produce the pattern that we've
20 seen.

21 MR. RENTNER: Just to expand a little further,
22 is it possible that if traffic was coming up
23 through Morris or Peoria or an area like that where
24 you have large concentrations -- and you will kill

1 some fish as your traffic moves up the river. I
2 mean, it just happens as they move through the
3 wheels of the tows themselves, that large
4 concentration in the areas that you have found
5 those large concentrations are also most of the
6 fleeting areas in the Calumet Harbor area. So it's
7 possible if they're sitting in that area, the barge
8 traffic and, you know, fish corpse, that you could
9 have a large concentration. It is possible,
10 though?

11 DR. LODGE: I guess there may be some things I
12 am not understanding about the way that barges
13 operate. Are you suggesting that carcasses are
14 carried behind barges?

15 MR. RENTNER: Well, the remains of dead fish?

16 DR. LODGE: Perhaps we should talk more. I
17 guess I'm not getting --

18 MR. RENTNER: Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

20 MR. McELROY: Good afternoon, gentlemen. My
21 name is Captain Mike McElroy. I work for Mercury
22 Sightseeing Boats as the chief engineer and also
23 the Village of Worth.

24 I do have two questions. I'll keep them

1 very short for you with respect to timing. The
2 first question is through learned scientific
3 research, we understand the silver carp requires
4 substantial lakes of flowing water to spawn. The
5 specific velocity of water is typically not
6 achieved in the Cal-Sag and Little Calumet and
7 Chicago River.

8 I guess my question for that is how is it
9 possible for a species to become a threat to Lake
10 Michigan when the environment that's provided for
11 the Chicago River and the surrounding rivers are
12 unlikely to lead to them spawning or reproducing?

13 MR. WOOLEY: I guess I can take a crack at
14 that. We're very, very concerned that if these
15 fish get into southern Lake Michigan, they could
16 possibly move into tributaries. They could move
17 into the St. Joe over in Southwest Michigan. They
18 could possibly spawn in tributaries in Southern
19 Wisconsin.

20 There are rivers that have the same kind
21 of flow where these fish spawn in the Midwest in
22 Southern Lake Michigan. It's also quite possible
23 that they could actually spawn in and along the
24 lake shore of Lake Michigan. We just don't know.

1 So with all of those factors and a certain
2 sense of unknown, that's why we're doing everything
3 we can to make sure we don't have a sustainable
4 population developing in Southern Lake Michigan.

5 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

6 MR. McELROY: The next question is apparently
7 closely related. It has to do with the food supply
8 available to the fish in Lake Michigan. You
9 understand that there's a lesser quantity, a low
10 quantity of the available food supply which would
11 be desirable for this fish. There are studies that
12 indicate that they may not flourish as a result of
13 the low quality of the type of food that they eat.

14 Is it not possible that should they even
15 get this far north they would become too tired and
16 not be able to grow enough to make the trip across
17 Lake Michigan?

18 MR. WOOLEY: We're very concerned if they would
19 get into Southern Lake Michigan, there are plenty
20 of bays, harbors, ground river mouths in Southern
21 Lake Michigan with the kind of plankton,
22 zooplankton and algae that they could utilize and
23 survive. So the food source is out there in
24 Southern Lake Michigan. We want to keep those carp

1 from getting to it.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

3 MR. REESE: Hi. My name is David Reese. My
4 question I guess is for General Peabody. On Page 9
5 of the framework, it's indicated that the Corps has
6 so far declined to use its emergency authority to
7 temporarily or indefinitely close the locks of
8 Chicago and O'Brien because of the lack of adequate
9 information. And I'm wondering if in the coming
10 weeks if live carp are actually above the barrier,
11 you know, one or more, would that constitute
12 adequate information or is there a threshold that's
13 been established under which a temporary lock
14 closure, assuming the exceptions could be made for
15 flood control or emergency transit purposes, is
16 there a threshold at which point the Corps would
17 initiate a temporary and indefinite lock closure?

18 GEN. PEABODY: No, we have not yet established
19 a threshold of that kind. Our study authorities
20 are intended to help inform or develop the kind of
21 information to inform recommendations associated
22 with that. So that's about all I could give you at
23 this time. We're looking into the kind of
24 information we would need, and we would do that in

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1 association with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2 MR. REESE: Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

4 MR. RIESER: My name is David Rieser with the
5 Law Firm of McGuire Woods, and I work with several
6 companies that have an interest in this issue.

7 My question is for Mr. Wooley. As you
8 probably know from Dr. Lodge's statement to the
9 Supreme Court, the eDNA testing of silver and
10 bighead carp is from early 2009. It has never
11 appeared in any peer-reviewed journal, reviewed by
12 any of the peers in the biological community. And
13 I am wondering from the standpoint of Fish and
14 Wildlife Service whether you view this as a proven
15 methodology to identify the presence of live carp
16 and whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17 intends to use it in other applications?

18 MR. WOOLEY: We're certainly paying very, very
19 close attention to Dr. Lodge's results. Everything
20 that you heard from John Rogner and his
21 presentation and our discussion about where we're
22 deploying people next week is based on Dr. Lodge's
23 information. So we're using that as an indicator
24 that there could possibly be Asian carp out there.

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1 That's why we're sending crews out to see if there
2 are actually carp there.

3 MR. RIESER: Does the Fish and Wildlife Service
4 intend to use this methodology in other areas other
5 than the Chicago River System?

6 MR. WOOLEY: We have never used eDNA. It is a
7 brand new evolving technique. We have not had that
8 kind of discussion within the service.

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next.

10 MR. CMAR: Good afternoon. My name is
11 Thom Cmar. I'm an attorney at the Natural
12 Resources Defense Council or NRDC. I have a
13 question about Page 23 of the framework. There's a
14 discussion there of the Interbasin Transfer Study.
15 And at the end of that, it says, "This action"
16 referring to the proposed solution of ecological
17 separation, "would severely impact the flow of
18 goods and vessels and may have far-reaching
19 economic impacts."

20 And so my question is, if you are still in
21 the process of doing the study, what is the basis
22 for you to say that? How do you know that at this
23 stage?

24 GEN. PEABODY: Well, there's an existing inland

1 waterway transportation system in the United States
2 that depends upon the flow of goods. In fact, the
3 Great Lakes consists as part of that system. The
4 connecting waterways in the Chicago Area Waterway
5 System are also part of that system. And we have
6 well-developed economic data from our planning
7 center of expertise for inland navigation that
8 tells us that.

9 What we don't have is an understanding of
10 some of the second and third order effects. The
11 study authorities that we have would seek to
12 understand with greater clarity and rigor the
13 specific consequences to navigation and associated
14 industries that depend on it as well as the
15 consequences that Asian carp may have on the
16 ecology and recreation and fishing and other
17 economic activity in the Great Lakes.

18 MR. CMAR: So the Army Corps is relying on its
19 existing data to make that statement?

20 GEN. PEABODY: Yes.

21 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

22 MR. OHLINGER: Hi. I'm Mike Ohlinger. I am
23 representing Captain Nemo, who's hanging from my
24 neck, and all the fish in Great Lakes. Part of the

1 Great Lakes Naval Memorial Museum in Muskegon,
2 Michigan, GLNMM. I am representing the most
3 historic submarine still afloat in America. I'm
4 the only one who can start her engines.

5 Everybody up here is saying that we're
6 going to keep the fish in the river. I kind of
7 highly doubt that because fish are fish. They
8 swim. They come up with thousands and thousands of
9 eggs. You have this barrier of an electric fence.
10 Is this just improvised or is this a dead stop in
11 the water for this terror fish? What is the next
12 plan of action that the U.S. government is going to
13 do if this fish gets into the Great Lakes, disrupts
14 the natural ecosystem of the cool, blue, five Great
15 Lakes? What is your answer, please? We need to
16 know what is going to happen if this fish does get
17 into Lake Michigan?

18 GEN. PEABODY: I will take the first part, and
19 I will give the second part to Mr. Wooley.

20 The fish barrier dispersal system was
21 developed from previous actions taken by other
22 agencies to place electric barriers in the water
23 that have been effective. The first barrier is a
24 demonstration barrier that was based on essentially

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1 existing research. The second and third barrier,
2 Barriers IIA and IIB, IIA is under operation and
3 went to higher operating parameters as a result of
4 the research I already identified. Barrier IIB
5 will provide redundancy and security to that second
6 barrier.

7 As already discussed, there are several
8 modes for bypass of the fish barrier system that we
9 are concerned with and we're taking action on. And
10 we're taking additional research to confirm that
11 the fish barrier is effective in addition to the
12 flume test that I talked about.

13 We also -- we haven't developed a specific
14 action plan, but we do intend this year to tag
15 carp, a common carp in association with Fish and
16 Wildlife and Illinois DNR and place tag detection
17 systems along the barrier to see if any of the fish
18 actually move through the barrier. Mr. Wooley?

19 MR. WOOLEY: To answer your question about what
20 the Service is doing, we're doing everything we can
21 humanly possible to keep fish out of the Great
22 Lakes, out of southern Lake Michigan.

23 If there would be fish that would be
24 found, we would work with Illinois DNR, commercial

1 fisherman, net them, electrofish them, do
2 everything we can to reduce their population.

3 Long-term, we're honored to have Leon Carl
4 from the U.S. Geological Survey here.

5 U.S. Geological Survey is looking at techniques to
6 be able to control Asian carp. Those techniques
7 could help us reclaim parts of the heartland,
8 Illinois River, Lower Missouri River, Middle
9 Mississippi River that have been taken over by
10 Asian carp. So there is a tool and technique that
11 is being developed to help us in that part of the
12 country that we could possibly have to utilize some
13 day.

14 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question, please.

15 MR. OHLINGER: Okay, but --

16 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir.

17 MR. OHLINGER: Hang on. Let me finish.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: We've got time for two more
19 questions.

20 MR. OHLINGER: There were a couple of other
21 people that asked a few questions. Let me ask one
22 more question.

23 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, you got several people
24 behind you so, please, let's --

1 MR. OHLINGER: What's the contingency? What if
2 they wind up in the water? What are you guys going
3 to do?

4 A VOICE: Comments later. These are questions.
5 Come on.

6 MR. OHLINGER: Okay. Sounds good.

7 FACILITATOR HOMER: We got time for two more
8 questions and then we'll go to comments.

9 MR. BRAMMEIER: My name is Joel Brammeier with
10 the Alliance for the Great Lakes here in Chicago.
11 My question is for General Peabody. I noticed in
12 the presentation that you have pulled out the
13 Chicago Waterway portion of the Interbasin Study
14 which I thank you for doing that. It shows a lot
15 of foresight.

16 You mentioned the resource constraint on
17 all this work. Given that we're investing almost
18 \$80 million in the short-term on these projects,
19 how hard can we press on the resource front, human
20 and dollars, to make that Chicago Waterway portion
21 of that Interbasin Study happen quickly that is
22 being projected?

23 GEN. PEABODY: Well, in terms of resources
24 available to the Corps, I make the requirements

1 known to my higher headquarters, and then the
2 administration has to assess those requirements
3 against the resource limitations in the budget and
4 against other competing priorities.

5 In terms of how fast we can go, it will
6 depend on appropriations that are made available to
7 us. We have other sources than just our energy and
8 water source, but we want to focus on that first;
9 but we already have had assistance from the
10 Environmental Protection Agency who gave an
11 incredible amount of \$13 and a half million, I
12 think you're aware of, to deal with the bypass
13 issue as well as some of the additional research
14 that we're doing with Dr. Lodge.

15 I think the best way to answer your
16 question is that we have processes that we must be
17 faithful to to include the NEPA documentation
18 process that is thorough and deliberate; but, at
19 the same time, we will seek to find ways, just as
20 we have done with the efficacy study, as we gather
21 information, information becomes mature, if we feel
22 that there's an alternative recommendation that is
23 mature enough to be recommended outside of the
24 study time line, then we would accelerate that and

1 cycle it out just as we've done with the efficacy
2 study.

3 MR. BRAMMEIER: Thank you.

4 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next question.

5 MR. BUCHSBAUM: Hi. I'm Andy Buchsbaum,
6 Director of the Great Lakes Office of National
7 Wildlife Federation. It's good to see you
8 gentlemen. Thank you for being up there.

9 You have got a number of management
10 managers including lock closures that are proposed
11 here that you discussed. General Peabody, you
12 mentioned that there were going to be multiple
13 scenarios for different frequencies of lock
14 closures that you will be examining. I noticed in
15 the report or the framework that they have no
16 action plan, a one week a month, a two week a month
17 and three or four days a week a month which means
18 that it's zero, 25 percent, 50 percent.

19 Have you considered -- are you considering
20 scenarios at 75 percent of the time lock closure,
21 90 percent of the time lock closure, and
22 100 percent closure? And, if not, why not?

23 GEN. PEABODY: Thank you. The short answer to
24 your question is yes. The long answer is those are

1 being considered as part of the efficacy study. So
2 not full closure, but longer term closure than the
3 scenarios that were identified in the modified
4 structural operations concept. And then permanent
5 closure is an alternative that will be evaluated
6 under the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin
7 Study.

8 MR. BUCHSBAUM: So they're not being considered
9 long-term but not short-term -- or short-term?

10 GEN. PEABODY: Yes. We are not considering
11 permanent closure as a short-term action because of
12 the information requirements, the impact
13 information requirements we have. It's just not
14 available now, and we just need a lot more
15 information that will take us a considerable amount
16 of time to develop.

17 MR. BUCHSBAUM: Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. We've run out of --
19 it's 30 minutes for asking questions. I know
20 because of the line there are additional questions
21 that need to be asked. What we are asking you to
22 do, you can either make them as a form of a
23 comment, you know, when we start up. We're going
24 to take about five minutes, about a five-minute

1 break, let the panel, you know, stretch their legs
2 and calm down. But we'll take a five-minute break.
3 And then rather than asking it as a question, you
4 can make the comment. Okay? And we have?

5 MS. SPEIZMAN: We have 65 comments.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: We have 65 people who would
7 like to make comments. We need to be out of here
8 by about 6:15 because we started at 3:15.

9 MS. SPEIZMAN: Not including the web.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: That's not including the
11 web. So we're going to ask you to limit yourself
12 to a minute or two minutes. Please, no more than
13 that. Make your comment. So you guys, you got
14 five minutes. And we will not -- please, when the
15 comments come in, you are not going to get
16 responses back from the panel. These are just
17 specific comments so that they're in the record and
18 the work group can use that information as they're
19 developing new iterations of the plan.

20 A VOICE: Are you going to be calling people by
21 name?

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: We'll be calling people by
23 name. Okay? You can stay -- you guys that are in
24 line, stay put, but we'll call people up by name.

1 Just also to let you know, before you guys
2 start, there are some elected officials and agency
3 people that are going to make comments first.
4 We'll give them that opportunity, and then we'll
5 start back in with the general public.

6 (Off the record at 4:40 p.m.)

7 (On the record at 4:49 p.m.)

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: We have some protocols to
9 follow. I know you guys are up, but we're going to
10 hear from some state agencies first and then some
11 elected officials -- state agencies first and then
12 elected officials, and then we'll open it back up
13 to the general public. And we have -- as you can
14 see, I have a stack of people who want to make
15 statements. We have a limited amount of time. So
16 we're going to ask you to keep your statements to a
17 minimum, a minute, please, so that everybody can be
18 heard. If you don't get your statement in in full,
19 you have an opportunity to go to asiancarp.org and
20 put your statement on the Web site that will be
21 included as part of this meeting.

22 So Sean Logan.

23 MR. LOGAN: Thank you, and thank you all for
24 your time and inviting us to be a part of this.

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Introduce yourself.

2 MR. LOGAN: Sean Logan. I'm the Director for
3 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Many of
4 us already have connections and relationships and
5 look forward to making those even stronger in this
6 very difficult situation. You know, we are great
7 partners and will continue to be partners in this
8 effort.

9 On behalf of Governor Strickland and
10 Lieutenant Governor Fisher, we want to reiterate
11 our letter to Administrator Jackson that we think
12 the only really solid guaranteed solution is a
13 permanent ecological separation. And we understand
14 that this is a difficult situation. I share with
15 senior staff at the Department of Natural Resources
16 in Ohio that these jobs are meant to be comfortable
17 because we're impacting decisions -- stop the clock
18 -- because you all have decisions to be made.

19 Our sense of urgency I hope is not
20 mistaken for being offensive in any way; but the
21 length of time it's taken to get federal action,
22 and I include executive and legislative branch
23 combined, just to get the electric dispersion
24 barrier raises concerns for us. And so we're

1 watching you to raise our comfort level that we can
2 do this and we can do it quickly and we can't just
3 depend on whether we get the appropriations or not.
4 It's got to be something quick.

5 And even as decided in Mayor Daley's
6 summit on AIS in 2003 and Dr. Balmer's
7 premier study that that is the separation. And as
8 2.2.1 I think in the long-term action talks about
9 the closure, it's not just about reducing the risk.
10 It's about preventing it from happening.

11 So on behalf of Ohio, we appreciate the
12 time that you have given to this, and we appreciate
13 the attention, but we intend to continue to push
14 and be vigilant and continuing the sense of urgency
15 every step of the way on each and every one of you.
16 Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Todd Ambs from
18 Wisconsin DNR.

19 MR. AMBS: Thank you very much. Again,
20 Todd Ambs, Water Division Administrator of
21 Wisconsin DNR, speaking on behalf of Secretary Matt
22 Frank, the DNR, and also Governor Doyle.

23 I really do want to -- just a couple of
24 quick points because I really want to make sure

1 that the general -- we hear as many of the general
2 public that came here as possible. I really do
3 want to applaud all of your work today and the
4 multi-prong approach you put together in the plan.
5 I've been doing Great Lakes work for my entire
6 professional career, about 30 years. Over the
7 years, I would say that getting this many federal
8 officials just behind the table together is an
9 impressive undertaking, let alone with all of your
10 agency signed on to -- in an effort, a multi-prong
11 effort. So I really -- I do applaud your quick
12 work.

13 I share Director Logan's concern that we
14 make sure that urgent action is really followed up.
15 We had seven different things that we had been
16 pushing relative to this issue in the Chicago Ship
17 Canal area that was in Matt Frank's testimony to
18 Congress on Tuesday. A number of those are
19 addressed in the plan, and we're very grateful for
20 that. The significant federal resources for things
21 like ongoing monitoring and testing beyond the
22 barriers, very much appreciated. The accelerated
23 effort to finish Barrier IIB; the efforts on the
24 separation between the Des Plaines and the Chicago

1 Ship Canal, all of that stuff is very much
2 appreciated.

3 We also need to always remember, as
4 significant as the potential economic impact is
5 here in Chicago by what might happen with an
6 alternate operation of the lock system, we have a
7 multi-billion dollar sport fishing industry that is
8 at risk. It's not just about -- it is as important
9 as the environmental health is to the Great Lakes,
10 the economic well-being. We have a -- just sport
11 fishing alone on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior,
12 we have about \$425 million, 5,000 jobs just in
13 Wisconsin.

14 Last two points I will make, the two
15 things that we continue to be concerned about, and
16 I'm very glad to hear that you are going to be
17 working on this: Risk assessment strategy because
18 we do believe that a very close look at how the
19 locks are operated is important. Governor Doyle
20 reiterated on Monday, he would have preferred to
21 have the locks closed; but, absent that, certainly
22 taking aggressive action to operate those locks in
23 an alternative way to minimize the threat of Asian
24 carp movement is very important.

1 And then, again, that long-term ecological
2 separation study, just I hope we don't emphasize
3 too much on the term "long" because it is important
4 to get that study done as quickly as possible and
5 make some good educated choices and what we're
6 going to do out into the future to make sure the
7 most important fresh water resource on the planet,
8 the Great Lakes, is protected. Thank you.

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: John Davis, Indiana DNR.
10 He's the Deputy Director.

11 MR. DAVIS: Well, thank you for this
12 opportunity. On behalf of Governor Daniels and
13 Director Carter, I'm here today with our Director
14 of Fish and Wildlife, Mark Reiter. We appreciate
15 your concern and your effort to be here and the
16 work that you have done so far, and we appreciate
17 that our sister states are here.

18 We know this is a complex, very, very
19 complex problem. We've worked with the General and
20 the Colonel on water management issues in Northwest
21 Indiana for a long, long time. And we want to go
22 with utmost speed. But I think -- I know that
23 Governor Daniels in his letter commended the
24 framework certainly as the way we want to go about

1 this, and Indiana will be here. Thanks.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. We have two comments
3 I guess from Louise -- there are two congressional
4 comments that need to be read into the record.

5 MS. SPEIZMAN: We have congressional
6 representatives who weren't able to be here, but
7 they did have statements that I will be reading.
8 First from Louise Slaughter, Congressman from the
9 28th District of New York:

10 "As an elected representative of hundreds
11 of thousands of Western New Yorkers who live along
12 or near the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, I
13 wish to express my great concern about the threat
14 posed to the Great Lakes by nonnative Asian carp.
15 There may be no greater threat to the ecosystem of
16 the Great Lakes than the introduction of Asian
17 carp, and we must do all that we can to prevent
18 this from happening.

19 As an invasive species, Asian carp have
20 the potential to disrupt the food chain, hurt our
21 ability to enjoy the Lakes and cause damage in the
22 billions of dollars. It is because of these
23 concerns that, as a co-chair of the Congressional
24 Great Lakes Task Force, I joined my colleagues in

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1 writing a letter on January 21st to the Office of
2 Management and Budget and the Army Corps of
3 Engineers requesting that they identify funds for
4 the Army Corps to purchase enough fish-killing
5 chemicals to treat the infiltrated waters leading
6 into Lake Michigan, for which the Asian carp would
7 have to pass in order to enter the Great Lakes.

8 I also recently met with President Obama's
9 top adviser on the Great Lakes, EPA Senior Advisor
10 Cameron Davis, to ask that more action be taken to
11 protect the Great Lakes from the looming threat
12 posed by Asian carp.

13 Following my meeting with Mr. Davis, I
14 joined 49 of my colleagues in writing a letter on
15 December 17, 2009, to the Department of the Army,
16 the EPA, the Coast Guard, and Fish and Wildlife
17 Services urging that they take immediate steps to
18 protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp including
19 closing the O'Brien Chicago Locks if there is
20 reasonable likelihood that Asian carp are above the
21 electric barrier; continuing the use of piscicides
22 as a rapid response measure; creating a permanent
23 hydrologic separation between the Great Lakes and
24 the Canal; increasing the voltage of the electric

1 dispersal barrier to prevent Asian carp of any size
2 from crossing the barrier; and implementing the
3 recommendations of the Asian Carp Rapid Response
4 Project.

5 In addition, last March, I testified
6 before the House Budget Committee in support of
7 including \$475 million in the fiscal year 2010
8 budget for Great Lakes restoration and economic
9 recovery. These funds were included in the House
10 Interior Appropriations Bill.

11 More recently, the U.S. Army of Corps
12 Engineers was authorized to spend some of this
13 Great Lakes restoration money, along with some of
14 their own funds, to fend off the spread of Asian
15 carp into the Great Lakes. While this money may
16 help us keep the carp out in the short-term, it is
17 only a start.

18 While I recognize that Asian Carp Control
19 Strategy Framework being presented today is a
20 draft, and while I acknowledge that it does
21 represent an important step in the right direction,
22 I remain deeply concerned that federal, state and
23 local authorities are not doing enough in the
24 short-term to contain this threat while there is

1 still time.

2 After reviewing the current draft of the
3 Control Strategy Framework, I am left with a number
4 of questions concerning the approach being
5 followed. For example, what steps are being taken
6 to ensure an adequate supply of piscicides, such as
7 rotenone, to preserve the option of using
8 piscicides quickly should the need arise? And,
9 recognizing that further information about the
10 public health, environmental, and safety
11 consequences of a temporary lock closure is needed
12 before the Army of Corps of Engineers decides
13 whether to exercise its authority to temporarily
14 close the locks, are we certain that without
15 closure we will have the time we need to suppress
16 carp populations and strengthen the system of
17 barriers, before Asian carp make it into Lake
18 Michigan?

19 Are we going to look back a year or two
20 from now and say to ourselves, "If only we had
21 closed the locks temporarily, we could have averted
22 disaster?"

23 Finally, are the timetables described in
24 the Control Strategy Framework truly the fastest we

1 can act? Installation of concrete barriers, chain
2 link fence, and fine mesh screens appears to be
3 scheduled for completion after the warmer weather
4 of the spring, after the season when the risk of
5 Asian carp invasion is greatest. Barrier IIB is
6 also not scheduled to be fully operational until
7 the fall. Likewise, full implementation of
8 modified structural operations for the locks is not
9 scheduled until the end of the year. Surely, in an
10 emergency such as ours, some of this work can be
11 completed faster than that.

12 Thank you to the agencies represented here
13 today for all that you do to protect the Great
14 Lakes, and I look forward to continuing to address
15 the Asian carp problem with you in the future."

16 The second statement is from Congressman
17 Judy Biggert from the 13th District from Illinois:

18 "Thank you for holding today's public
19 hearing on the Asian Carp Prevention Framework for
20 the Great Lakes. I commend your efforts to convene
21 all important stakeholders interested in balancing
22 the mission of the waterway systems with that of
23 Asian carp mitigation efforts. I trust today's
24 hearing will enlighten both the public and

1 principals as to the intense and coordinated
2 efforts that Illinois and relevant agencies have
3 taken -- and will continue to take -- in an effort
4 to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

5 In recent weeks, efforts to litigate and
6 legislate Chicago-area lock closures as a means of
7 keeping the Asian carp out of Lake Michigan have
8 reached nightmarish proportions. The "act
9 now-think later" mentality that they represent are
10 so misguided they can only suggest that politics --
11 and not science and sound policy -- are ruling the
12 day. For those of us who have been toiling in the
13 fields for years to keep the Asian carp at bay,
14 this new-found interest in emergency action is
15 suspect at best.

16 Of course, we all are working to protect
17 the Great Lakes ecosystem. Environmentalists,
18 sportsmen, businesses, employees, and government
19 agencies throughout Illinois and elsewhere have
20 found common cause and are working together to find
21 the right way forward. The right way is not a
22 knee-jerk legal or legislative action that ignores
23 peoples' lives and livelihoods for what sounds
24 simple yet is an alarming ineffective solution.

1 Just think for a moment about what has
2 prompted this hysteria. A dead Asian carp was
3 found below the electronic barrier, and a tiny bit
4 of e-DNA was found above the electronic barriers.
5 What is e-DNA? It could be fish feces, a fish
6 scale or fish egg discharged by ballast water. Are
7 there pools of Asian carp swimming above the
8 electric barriers? Of course not. The only
9 breeding population remains 42 miles away from Lake
10 Michigan in what some believe to be an ideal
11 habitat for them in the Peru flats.

12 Does anyone here remember when an Asian
13 carp was found in the Lincoln Park lagoon, a
14 land-locked pond in the middle of Chicago's Lincoln
15 Park Zoo? You may recall that the discovery
16 prompted Mayor Daley to enact a city ordinance
17 against releasing Asian carp into any waterway.
18 Wisely, we saw that discovery of an Asian carp for
19 what it is: An isolated sighting, not an invasion.

20 With that as background, let me just say a
21 few words about the issue at hand. First, closing
22 the locks is likely to increase the risk of Asian
23 carp entering the Great Lakes. The Metropolitan
24 Water Reclamation District of Chicago, MWRD,

1 manages waste water and storm water for Chicago and
2 124 municipalities through an intricate system of
3 sluice gates, tunnels, and reservoirs that has
4 taken decades to construct. Closing the locks
5 would overwhelm that tunnel system and cause
6 massive flooding, affecting more than 3 million
7 people and 1.4 million structures in Chicago and 51
8 surrounding suburbs.

9 If the locks were to remain closed, as
10 litigation and proposed legislation would call for,
11 excess flood water could no longer be released into
12 Lake Michigan and could flow over the top of the
13 lock -- creating more avenues for carp to migrate
14 into the lake -- just as flooding in the south
15 allowed them to enter the Mississippi River to
16 start with.

17 Some have even advocated closing the locks
18 only intermittently to avoid flooding, but the
19 locks themselves aren't even designed to seal off
20 fish; the idea of opening them intermittently only
21 demonstrates how empty the gesture of closing them
22 in the first place really is. And while the fish
23 wait their turn to enter the lake, the economic
24 damage would continue unabated.

1 As the business owners today will attest
2 to, the interruption of lock traffic would be
3 absolutely devastating to our local, state and
4 national economy. A 2007 study commissioned by our
5 friends at the Illinois Chamber suggest that lock
6 and dam closures could diminish the shipping and
7 receiving of over \$29 billion worth of petroleum,
8 chemicals, building materials, and farm products.

9 The Midwest depends on Illinois' waterways
10 -- and local businesses like you -- to receive road
11 salt, coal, and asphalt to thrive. There is no
12 viable alternative to rerouting that commerce.

13 According to the American Waterways
14 Operators, a single barge can carry an amount of
15 liquid cargo -- like asphalt -- that would fill
16 144 semi-trailer trucks or 46 rail cars. Our rail
17 and highway routes are simply not equipped to make
18 up that difference.

19 How can we keep the carp out of the Great
20 Lakes? I have some ideas to consider. Like you, I
21 believe that kill zones between the electric
22 barriers and the Lockport Lock would be effective.
23 But if we truly want to be effective, we should
24 first focus our resources where we know a

1 sustaining population of carp exists: 42 miles
2 from Chicago, in the Peru flats near Dresden.

3 We should also study the Great Lakes
4 habitat to understand where Asian carp can actually
5 thrive. Many believe the depths and water
6 temperature prevent adaption. Others suggest more
7 shallow and warm harbors or canals could foster a
8 self-sustaining population.

9 I will work with my colleagues to address
10 these and other important questions to combat Asian
11 carp and protect Illinois jobs and commerce. But I
12 will not allow those who harbor an "act now, think
13 later" approach to solving this problem flood our
14 basements and kill our jobs for a quick fix that
15 won't work. Closing our locks and dams is not the
16 answer. Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR HOMER: Next Mariyana Spyropoulos.
18 Is she still here? From the Metropolitan
19 Reclamation District, Commissioner. Okay.
20 Traci Barkley? And behind Traci is Darren Melvin.
21 Again, remember, try to keep it to one minute,
22 please.

23 MS. BARKLEY: Thank you for the opportunity to
24 provide this comment. My name is Traci Barkley. I

1 represent Prairie Rivers Network. We're
2 state-affiliated with National Wildlife Federation.
3 We work to preserve and protect clean water for
4 future generations.

5 For several years, I worked on the field
6 testing for the effectiveness of the electric
7 barrier. I want to remind everyone that the
8 electrical barrier was first designed for the round
9 Goby. The round Goby passed the electrical barrier
10 by the time it was actually constructed. And now,
11 we turn to the next impending threat which is the
12 Asian carp.

13 I think we need to get out of this
14 defensive position looking at the next threat
15 because there are more and more behind what we're
16 facing right now. Every day the ballast water is
17 really in the Great Lakes with more and more
18 species possibly invading our waterways.

19 I would like to suggest that we need to
20 broaden the scope and consider that this has for
21 over 100 years been a waterway that has connected
22 two major basins and allowed for the exchange of
23 species. Permanent separation of the Great Lakes
24 is the only viable long-term solution, and we would

1 like to advocate for that and consider that in the
2 beginning of the strategy that you have outlined
3 for us. Thank you very much.

4 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. I'm going to let
5 these guys that were in line go ahead. So thank
6 you, gentlemen. I will get to you.

7 MR. PALMISANO: Greetings. My name is
8 Tom Palmisano. I'm a member of Mayor Daley's
9 Fishery Advisory Council here in Chicago. I'm also
10 one of the proprietors of Henry's Sports and Bait
11 Shop here in Chicago.

12 In this 39-page draft, I don't see
13 something mentioned. The first sighting of an
14 Asian carp in Chicago was one brought into our
15 store on June 5, 2003, caught by a gentleman named
16 Sampara. It was caught at the McKinley Park lagoon
17 which is one-half mile away from the Chicago River
18 South Branch Southport commonly known as Bubbly
19 Creek. That fish made a lot of headlines, and I
20 think things got forgotten.

21 We want to remember that the Asian carp
22 then was that close to the Illinois River --
23 Chicago River, I should say, and that close to Lake
24 Michigan. I would ask that your team keeps this

1 into consideration as you do your research, and
2 remember that we all want the best for our
3 statement. One last thing.

4 FACILITATOR HOMER: Time.

5 MR. PALMISANO: To all our neighboring states
6 on the Great Lakes, please don't blame Illinois.
7 The problem came from Arkansas.

8 A VOICE: From a fish farmer.

9 MR. DERINGER: Charles Deringer. My doctorate
10 is in education, I am a generalist, but I am also
11 trained in watershed science. I am one of the
12 three in the state that has completed a
13 government-sponsored program at the University
14 Illinois in watershed science, and I have asked the
15 Corps, how many people are involved in separating
16 the two world's largest watersheds that have the
17 training of watershed science behind them? I
18 haven't found anybody yet, but they're searching.

19 Now I am here because I did find some
20 problems with this study; and, specifically,
21 there's no use of natural predators in the system
22 to defend our wonderful watershed that we have
23 here. We've built and spent millions of dollars on
24 six SEPA stations, waterfalls, on the Sanitary and

1 Ship Canal 20 years ago, but we never put the game
2 fish in there which would be acting as natural
3 predators as a back-up for your gate.

4 Now I come from Thorncreek. Thorncreek
5 has salmon swimming up to the Chicago Heights every
6 year because of people like me and our canoe club
7 and we keep the log jams out. Now MWRD is taking
8 that responsibility over, but we can count salmon
9 coming up every year.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay, sir.

11 MR. DERINGER: We believe that our lake should
12 be maintained. We have a storm water lake that we
13 want the Corps of Engineers to look at to take over
14 because it should be the source to launch game fish
15 that would then feed into the Sanitary and Ship
16 Canal, and I brought to give this to you gentlemen.
17 Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Next.

19 MR. DUBIN: My name is Don Dubin. I'm also on
20 Mayor Daley's Fishery Advisory, represent six
21 different fishing organizations. I am in the
22 Fishing Wall of Fame also.

23 My question is, first of all --

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: Just a comment.

1 MR. DUBIN: -- why did they put the electronic
2 barrier where they put it right alongside the
3 Des Plaines River? That seemed to me to be a very
4 poor location. And also, at this point, they're
5 going to put a fence, I guess, a chain link type
6 fence. Now the chain link -- or a mesh fence, a
7 mesh fence. I assume the mesh fence will keep out
8 the large Asian carp, but what about the small fry
9 or even the eggs? That is my comment. Will it
10 stop them from coming through that mesh fence?
11 That's my comment.

12 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you very much.

13 MR. WAGNER: Hello. My name is Ken Wagner. I
14 am a captain with the Shoreline Sightseeing. I've
15 got over 35 years on the Chicago River and Lake
16 Michigan.

17 And first, some questions with your study
18 that you put out. On Page 6, you go evaluating
19 lock closures. You go into the description of the
20 O'Brien Locks and the Chicago Lock. And on Chicago
21 Lock, the second busiest lock, over 900,000
22 passengers. And then you go into Page 8 where the
23 risks associated with the closures, and you have
24 three paragraphs about the O'Brien Locks and how

1 much it's going to impact the economy and
2 everything. You have one line about the Chicago
3 Lock. You have one line dealing with all the
4 tourism that deals with Chicago.

5 The question that I was going to have for
6 Professor Lodge, can also this eDNA become trapped
7 not just in ballast tanks, as you have said within
8 the barges, but within the cooling systems of the
9 boats? All boats, recreational boats, tug boats
10 pull in water for cooling different things whether
11 it's engines, whether it's icemakers, lots of
12 different stuff.

13 Shouldn't we be doing eDNA testing outside
14 of Chicago, not just in Cal Harbor, but has it been
15 done in the Chicago main harbor, Wilmette, to see
16 if it's there --

17 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

18 MR. WAGNER: -- and other places before we go
19 and do a knee-jerk reaction and make a decision
20 that's going to put people like me and a lot of
21 other friends and families out of businesses and a
22 lot of people in hotel, restaurants, and tourism in
23 Chicago out of business? Thank you.

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

1 MR. RENTNER: Hi. My name is Eric Rentner from
2 Rentner Marine Service. We have a boat yard
3 storage facility on the Calumet River along with 30
4 plus boat yards.

5 I would like to say that over 6,000 boats
6 from Wisconsin, Chicago, and Indiana store in this
7 river for the winter. How are they going to know
8 when they can get out and when they can get back
9 in? It's going to hurt a lot of facilities. We're
10 not hearing anything about the boaters themselves,
11 not just the shipping, but the boaters that are
12 stored, and the commercial boats that are stored in
13 this river in the winter? Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Next.

15 MS. RUSSO: Thank you for giving me the
16 opportunity to talk. My name is Captain
17 Ragna Russo. My husband is Captain Robert Davis,
18 and we work with Wendella Boats.

19 To put a human face on this issue, we're
20 both captains with over 40 years on the river. Any
21 closures at all of the Chicago River Lock would
22 devastate our family especially in light of the
23 fact that, as stated today, that no other testing
24 has been conducted. We don't know if they have any

1 fish that have invaded any other waterways, but you
2 are prepared to torpedo settled industries
3 including \$17 billion worth of commerce along the
4 Chicago River and \$12 billion of money into
5 tourism, as well as their ancillary industries, the
6 people that provide for these companies.

7 What most of us in the Chicago maritime
8 industry are asking is that any and all lock
9 closures are taken off of the table until all other
10 opportunities have been tried, exhausted, and
11 proven faulty or even -- and not sufficiently
12 effective.

13 Because of the economic environment, all
14 efforts should be made to safeguard taxpayer jobs
15 including the marine industry and create new
16 opportunities such as fishing, barrier
17 construction, and maintenance. Thank you.

18 MR. WONOKER: Craig Wonoker, Chicago Water
19 Taxi. I want to say that we're all a little
20 frustrated because while you are correct there was
21 meetings with the stakeholders in the industry, it
22 was once and one week ago from today.

23 We're also frustrated because of the eDNA.
24 All the guys in the lab say there are eDNA, and all

1 the guys in the field say, gee, I can't find any.
2 Having said that, I want to say the talk of closing
3 the lock, whether temporary or otherwise, is
4 premature based on the incomplete science, when
5 balancing the livelihood of so many families and
6 the devastating effect it would have on Chicago's
7 maritime industry.

8 Dr. Lodge, as your colleague, Mr. Krinan,
9 I think said, it's like he's going down the road in
10 dust and he's assuming that that dust is the car
11 DNA, but you don't see the car, but you assume that
12 the car caused the dust so I say the car caused the
13 dust if you are looking for a car. You got to be
14 looking for everything. You can't just assume this
15 is what the answer you wanted.

16 MR. MELVIN: Thank you. I will give you my
17 statement in writing so that will make it a little
18 bit easier and a little bit quicker here.

19 But a couple of quick points. Last week I
20 threw out a hair brush. I'm pretty sure my DNA is
21 in a landfill, yet I never visited that landfill.
22 Just to be clear.

23 Second thing, I heard the gentleman from
24 Ohio say it, and Mr. Wooley said it, that there's

1 no proof of life of Asian carp in Lake Erie
2 presently. There was no proof of life or proof of
3 fish in the Chicago River System either. But you
4 initiated DNA testing there which is why we're here
5 and why we're about to go out of business, and the
6 banks and everybody else who loan people money will
7 not loan money because of the threat that's
8 being -- that we're being faced with right now. So
9 think about that.

10 The fish have been documented in Lake
11 Erie, never in the Chicago River System; yet, we're
12 doing this new, unproven technology in the Chicago
13 River System. So I challenge you to ask yourselves
14 why.

15 FACILITATOR HOMER: Gabriel Argumero.

16 MR. ARGUMERO: My name is Gabriel Argumero,
17 Chicago's First Lady Cruises. I have been working
18 on the Chicago River for seven years with Chicago's
19 First Lady, and now at the ripe age of 21 years
20 old, I am the face of the new generation of
21 mariners who wants to compete in this industry and
22 make a difference, not only within the company I
23 work for, but within the industry in Chicago
24 itself.

1 I stand here not only for myself, but for
2 those who are yet to come assuming there's an
3 industry to come to. This knee-jerk response to
4 closing the Chicago Locks based on little or, in
5 some cases, no scientific proven fact is not only
6 alarming but crushing for myself and others. The
7 temporary closing of the locks forced me to search
8 for another job away from the city that I love and
9 devastates my family where unemployment is already
10 existing with all but one member in my family.
11 Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR HOMER: Jim Farrel and then
13 John Aaron Euler next.

14 MR. FARREL: We're close to saying good
15 evening. Thank you for having this meeting.

16 First thing I would like to do is give you
17 a brief overview of some public comments we
18 prepared as a council, the Infrastructure Council
19 at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

20 First, the closure of O'Brien and Chicago
21 Locks simply must be ruled out as an option in
22 controlling the Asian carp or any other invasive
23 species. The region's commercial navigation could
24 not supply the needs without consistent,

1 continually available operating locks with a
2 commercial navigation industry that is the most
3 environmental friendly mode of transportation
4 available.

5 Second, with the Chicago Lock, tens of
6 millions of dollars are at stake in accommodating
7 recreational boating, commercial passenger vessels,
8 and all the other tourism that they talked about.

9 What I would like to do is let you know
10 that we have prepared eight suggestions of action.
11 I'm not going to read them all. I would like to
12 talk about one in particular -- three in
13 particular, and that is that I would like to hear
14 more talk about focusing on installing chemical
15 kills and acoustical barriers in and adjacent to
16 the 600 foot lock chamber at Lockport to be used --
17 and I want to say this very emphatically -- to be
18 used as commercial and recreational traffic or lock
19 through the chamber. This is the check point of
20 the region.

21 Secondly, block the passage of fish of all
22 types by issuing an executive order congressional
23 mandate charging the United States Environmental
24 Protection Agency the mandated adjusted standards

1 which maintain oxygen levels that will not support
2 an aquatic ecosystem in the 15-mile section of the
3 Sanitary and Ship Canal as well as the Cal-Sag
4 Channel upstream from Lockport Lock.

5 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

6 MR. FARREL: I will be done in a second. This
7 is a manmade channel which is currently 70 percent
8 effluent, and this would create an aquatic dead
9 zone between Lockport and the Subcontinental Divide
10 which should be the environmental separation that
11 everyone here in this room would love to see, not
12 closing the locks.

13 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

14 MR. FARREL: And because of our concern for the
15 environment, we would like to see the oxygenation
16 move south of Lockport so the rest of the
17 Mississippi River basin is getting as clean water
18 as possible. Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: John Aaron Euler and then
20 Del Wilkins.

21 MR. EULER: I'm John Euler with Mercury
22 Sightseeing Boats. I am a father of two, two
23 children, already struggling to keep us afloat. So
24 I'll lose my job due to the closure of the locks.

1 I hope you will consider putting people like me and
2 other co-workers to work instead of bringing other
3 people, you know, with the Corps from other parts
4 of the country. I just wanted to say that. Thank
5 you.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Del Wilkins and then
7 Chip Collopy.

8 MR. WILKINS: Quickly on behalf of the American
9 Waterway Operators Association, we would like to
10 say that we certainly support the stop of the
11 migration of the Asian carp, but we certainly have
12 a fundamental message, just one point and one point
13 alone, whether to protect the environment or to
14 ensure the continued flow of bottom marine commerce
15 is an unnecessary choice and, quite frankly, one
16 Michigan cannot afford to make.

17 We would like to further say that we
18 certainly support the efforts by all the agencies
19 working together. And we would like to remind the
20 agencies that we see and we strongly oppose the
21 closing of locks. Why? Because, quite frankly,
22 the closing of the locks just would not work. In
23 an environment today with jobs in such short supply
24 and while we have the means of this Illinois

1 waterway to supply key jobs to hard-working
2 American families, it's certainly not an
3 alternative to shut the locks.

4 The record reflects our testimony before
5 the subcommittee of nine proposals that we think
6 should be fully exhausted before the locks can even
7 be considered to be closed. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Michael Ohlinger is next.

9 MR. COLLOPY: Thank you. I had some prepared
10 remarks, but it doesn't do justice and we've got
11 huge issues, families losing their jobs and
12 businesses. So I guess I have a couple questions
13 and I will, you know, submit our remarks.

14 I got to tell you guys, Friday afternoon,
15 we get a half hour to ask questions, this is huge.
16 And you guys -- this is coming at us from left
17 field, and we're supposed to respond in a coherent
18 fashion and get you to listen to us in a minute? I
19 mean, that's tough. That's really tough for us.
20 It's our business. It's our livelihood. It's the
21 City of Chicago. It's the commerce. It's the
22 whole thing.

23 So my question is, with respect to the
24 eDNA testing, I thought I heard you say you could

1 not tell the difference between the two species of
2 carp? You can tell which carp were there? Okay,
3 I'm sorry.

4 Then my other question was, the Little
5 Calumet and the Grand Calumet Rivers, will they be
6 closed as well? They are below the O'Brien Lock.
7 So I'm not sure.

8 GEN. PEABODY: We're looking at options for
9 that.

10 MR. COLLOPY: Right now, if you were to close
11 the O'Brien Lock, there's still a path to Lake
12 Michigan. So this knee-jerk reaction to the lock
13 just doesn't seem to be the answer when there's two
14 waterways that connect Lake Michigan. Okay.

15 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Terry Doyle is
16 next.

17 MR. OHLINGER: Well, I'm a chimney sweep from
18 Northern Illinois, Lake County. This electric
19 fence just seems like a cattle prod with an
20 extension cord. I don't know what you guys are
21 going to do about it, but I asked for a contingency
22 plan and it really doesn't seem like you guys have
23 one, do you? Nobody can answer me?

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: This is just for comments.

1 You are not going to get a response.

2 MR. OHLINGER: Okay. Well, I just hope that my
3 old man, who was a Navy guy that fought for these
4 shores of the United States who brought me down to
5 Lake Michigan to the Naval Armory when I was a
6 little kid to see the Silver Sides sitting, buried
7 in sunken water basically up to its gills. The
8 most decorated sub afloat. It was moved out of
9 Chicago because it didn't pay rent at Navy Pier by
10 Mayor Harold Washington back in '87.

11 There are heros in Muskegon, Michigan.
12 There's another hero sub up in Manitowoc,
13 Wisconsin, called Cobia.

14 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, you got your minute.

15 MR. OHLINGER: I'm almost done. I would
16 appreciate you guys in the government who work for
17 us to please keep them out of the lake. Thank you.

18 MS. DOYLE: My name is Terry Doyle. I
19 represent Calumet River Fleeting. We are a tug
20 boat company in South Chicago. We employ
21 40 full-time employees and 20 seasonal employees.
22 We operate from O'Brien Locks north and out into
23 Lake Michigan.

24 The talk of the locks being closed, just

1 the talk, the press and everything else, has caused
2 severe damage to our business already and to all
3 our customers' businesses.

4 The locks are not watertight. They were
5 never meant to be. So closing locks really doesn't
6 stop anything. So we ask that you look at closing
7 the locks and partial closings of the locks as the
8 last, absolutely last resort. And even then, what
9 will it do? Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Gary Wilson and
11 Rick Haslip.

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you. My name is Gary Wilson
13 from Oak Park, Illinois. I grew up in Michigan,
14 and I have lived in Illinois and Chicago for about
15 25 years. I'm trying to see this from both
16 perspectives.

17 The most puzzling thing for me since this
18 whole thing broke in November was the failure to
19 close the locks on a temporary basis and adhere to
20 a precautionary principle which say close the
21 locks, let's figure this out, and once you get a
22 handle on it, then we can determine whether the
23 locks should stay closed or not.

24 The other thing I would be very wary of

1 you going forward is when you hear politicians from
2 Illinois talk about Chicago and Illinois economy
3 being devastated, I would be wary of that. If
4 these folks want to see a devastated economy, they
5 should go to Detroit. Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay, just go ahead.
7 You're next. And after that, we've been getting
8 some questions in off the Internet, from the web
9 cast. We'll take those next, comments next.

10 MR. HASLIP: I'm Rick Haslip, manager of the
11 Goose Island Boat Yard here in Chicago. I have
12 been in the marine business in the city for 25
13 years, and I'm here to voice my opinion that any
14 disruption or alteration of the Chicago Lock would
15 be detrimental to our boat yard as well as every
16 other boat yard and marina on the Chicago River and
17 Sanitary Canal as well as the Cal-Sag Waterway.

18 I believe strongly that altering lock
19 operations is not the appropriate long-term
20 solution to this problem. It has not been thought
21 through thoroughly and I think that more time
22 should be given in exploring all other options
23 before disrupting numerous businesses along this
24 extremely busy river system. That's all I have to

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1 say.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Elissa, go
3 ahead.

4 A VOICE: It seems like everybody here doesn't
5 want the locks closed, doesn't want to sit --

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, sir. Please.

7 MS. SPEIZMAN: I got some comments that came in
8 both through letter and on the web. The first one
9 is a letter that came from --

10 A VOICE: We don't have time for all this.

11 FACILITATOR HOMER: She's going to condense it.

12 MS. SPEIZMAN: I'm condensing it. It will be a
13 minute.

14 The catfish farmers of Arkansas. We
15 appreciate the opportunity. We understand the
16 concern over the population levels of bighead carp
17 in the Mississippi River and support efforts to
18 control the populations of wild carp in the rivers
19 and prevent their introduction into the Great
20 Lakes.

21 We want to clarify the confusion and
22 misinformation that is often quoted in the press
23 related to the introduction of bighead carp into
24 the wild. Catfish farmers have been blamed for

1 this; and careful examination of the facts of the
2 history of the introduction of these fish show they
3 likely escaped from a variety of locations that
4 include universities, state and federal hatcheries,
5 and private farms in the 1970s. The facts show
6 clearly that bighead carp were present in the wild
7 more than a decade prior to the flooding of catfish
8 farms in the 1990s.

9 Our industry prides itself on the national
10 practices with high standards. Preventing us from
11 selling our fish would result in significant
12 economic losses in an impoverished region of the
13 country. That's the gist of what they had to say.

14 I also had five commenters who all
15 commented: Trent Wickman, William Barton,
16 Nancy Holly, Captain Art Miller of the Lucky Strike
17 Fishing Charters, and Vic Dragowitz all saying
18 they'd like the locks closed.

19 And then I will be back with a few more of
20 the comments. We have more people who are here to
21 say things.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Ken Wagner and then
23 Mark Reigle is next.

24 MR. WAGNER: I don't know if I'm taking too

1 much --

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: If you have already been
3 up, I would appreciate it if you would let somebody
4 else speak.

5 MR. WAGNER: The only thing I would like to
6 state --

7 FACILITATOR HOMER: You had your speech.

8 MR. WAGNER: All hinges on jobs not --

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: Mark Reigle.

10 A VOICE: Keep going. He had to leave.
11 Jim Farrell. Charles Deringer? You have already
12 spoken.

13 MR. DERINGER: I spoke and that was during the
14 technical session. I was in line to speak, and I
15 have comments on the studies. I need a minute.

16 A VOICE: Don't cut him off.

17 MR. DERINGER: I would like to respond to
18 the --

19 A VOICE: Let him speak.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, sir.

21 A VOICE: Let him speak.

22 MR. DERINGER: Listen, the catfish industry is
23 very much set against this.

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, we're trying to keep

1 it equitable for everyone. You had a chance to
2 make your comments, so please let's make sure --

3 MR. DERINGER: The direct --

4 FACILITATOR HOMER: Jerry Casey.

5 (Multiple voices.)

6 A VOICE: Let him speak.

7 A VOICE: We're wasting two minutes of messing
8 around.

9 A VOICE: All you guys are.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir. Please.

11 MR. DERINGER: I ask for a minute. That's all
12 I ask. The Corps recognizes the need for this fish
13 as a humanitarian source of food. You know, we
14 could be feeding the people in Haiti this fish. We
15 don't have to be dropping our dollars over there.

16 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Sir.

17 MR. DERINGER: This is a valuable source food,
18 one of the best food sources in the world. Now the
19 catfish history has worked in lobbying the FDA to
20 keep this off, for the last ten years off the
21 Title 3 food source. We would be doing that.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Captain Casey.

23 MR. DERINGER: The other -- now, wait a minute.

24 2.214 --

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: You already had your
2 minute.

3 MR. DERINGER: Your clock isn't too good. At
4 2.214, you talk about blue-green algae blooms out
5 in the lake. What are we doing about these
6 municipalities? They're dumping sewage in the
7 lake. Let's get rid of the problem in Lake
8 Michigan so we don't even have the carp going out
9 there looking for it. Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Larry McDonald next?

11 MR. CASEY: Captain Jerry Casey with Chicago's
12 First Lady Cruises. I just wanted to make a
13 comment. My concern here obviously because I work
14 in the industry is the livelihood of many of the
15 people around me, generations that go back in the
16 City of Chicago that work in the maritime industry.
17 And I have got to say that I am both encouraged
18 and, in some cases, alarmed at the speed at which
19 this -- my government has been able to put things
20 together. We got -- you gentlemen have been able
21 to come together in a very short period of time,
22 which is encouraging; but the alarm comes up when I
23 hear statements such as the fact that these carp
24 have existed in Lake Erie. They no longer are

1 there, which tells me by my background that they
2 couldn't -- they can't exist in that ecosystem. So
3 why should they be able to exist in Lake Michigan?
4 Why is it that big of a concern? This is going to
5 cause myself and the other generations of people
6 behind me that work in the industry here in Chicago
7 to lose our jobs.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

9 MR. CASEY: Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Phil Moy is next.

11 MAYOR McDONALD: I am Larry McDonald. I'm
12 Mayor of the City of Bayfield, Wisconsin, a lake
13 community on Lake Superior.

14 Asian carp entering the Great Lakes really
15 endangers the future of my community. Our
16 commercial fishing, sport fishing, and tourism
17 industries all rely on a clean, healthy
18 Lake Superior. Clean, healthy Lake Superior only
19 comes if the rest of the Great Lakes are clean and
20 healthy. Simple stuff, I think.

21 I have been asked by many members of our
22 community who knew I was going to come down to
23 respectfully request that you folks do a good,
24 clear and direct job to keep the Asian carp out of

1 the Great Lakes. You guys have to figure out what
2 that is. I know it's a complicated issue. I have
3 heard many, many different things today,
4 interesting things, learned a lot. I'm still
5 concerned there's indicators in the Chicago area.
6 I'm really encouraged by the dedication of the
7 success I hear from this group. It's good.

8 I have been in politics for many, many
9 years. Don't let dollars and don't let politics
10 get in the way of this success. You got your hands
11 on it. Do it. Thanks.

12 FACILITATOR HOMER: Andy Buchsbaum with the
13 National Wildlife Federation is next.

14 MR. MOY: I'm Phil Moy. Probably most of you
15 know me anyway. I have been Chairman of the
16 Dispersal Barrier Advisory Panel for the last
17 14 years.

18 A few quick points. First, I don't think
19 closing the locks is the appropriate near-term
20 action. We need a long-term approach which would
21 address the cargo movement needs, the flood water
22 needs, and the sanitary water discharge needs of
23 Chicago as well as protecting the Great Lakes.

24 Also, I'm a little bit frustrated with the

1 plan where it's re-examining a lot of options that
2 the barrier panel has considered in the past. I
3 hope you will take into consideration the work that
4 has been done to evaluate some of those things
5 instead of just starting at ground zero. Thanks.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Andy.

7 MR. BUCHSBAUM: I had a question before. Am I
8 allowed to make a comment now?

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: You are in the comment.
10 Just one minute.

11 MR. BUCHSBAUM: Quickly. Thank you all. As
12 you know, I have been -- I'm Andy Buchsbaum. I
13 have been critical before of this panel, subsets of
14 this panel's efforts as have many in the
15 environment community.

16 I wanted to actually compliment you that
17 this version looks better. There's still some
18 problems, but this looks better because it actually
19 considers everything, including possibly temporary
20 lock closures. But it also has better monitoring,
21 expanded monitoring, and it also deals with
22 flooding which is very important.

23 Now three things: Number one is, right
24 now, it looks like this plan is not a plan. It's a

1 framework. It's a bunch of ingredients listed
2 together. It needs to be gathered so there's a
3 lock-by-lock, channel-by-channel plan that includes
4 all the measures together. We don't have that yet.
5 So it's hard to see how effective this will be.

6 Number two, there's no long-term goal
7 here. There's long-term studies. There's no
8 long-term goal. This needs to articulate a
9 long-term goal which needs to be ecological
10 separation, however that's defined. That is the
11 stopping of movement of live organisms from the
12 Mississippi River basin to Lake Michigan. That's
13 got to be the long-term goal, otherwise, there's no
14 reason doing the long-term study.

15 Number three is as passionate as people
16 are in this room about not closing the locks, and I
17 don't think we need to focus just on the locks,
18 there's also people passion all over the Great
19 Lakes in the opposite direction because they're so
20 concerned about losing their livelihoods because
21 they depend on the Great Lakes and Asian carp will
22 hurt them.

23 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay, sir.

24 MR. BUCHSBAUM: I am hopeful that -- I am

1 hopeful that there will be a way to move these two
2 goals together so those passions meet. Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Artemio Romero. I
4 am running through them as they were listed.

5 A VOICE: I am reading his. He says, "Summer
6 is approaching. Why do you wait for the season for
7 summer jobs? Why did you let this go so long? You
8 should build the gates out -- you should have built
9 the gates south last year. Now many people are
10 going to lose their jobs and be out of jobs. My
11 work consists of just making my most income out of
12 the summer. I know -- I know a lot of my
13 co-workers are depending on the locks and the
14 rivers to make ends meet. They are captains and
15 boat men. They will go hungry and so will our
16 family. Thank you."

17 FACILITATOR HOMER: Hector Barrios. Same?

18 A VOICE: Basically the same thing, yeah.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: Karen Malonis. And then
20 after that is Mike McElroy. Camilo was after that.
21 Please speak into the microphone and get closer to
22 it so everybody can hear you.

23 MS. MALONIS: Can you hear me? My name is
24 Karen Malonis, and I'm reading this statement on

1 behalf of Ned Dikmen, Chairman of the Great Lakes
2 Floating Federation, who's out of town. "The
3 federation represents 4.3 million boaters on the
4 Great Lakes including 7,000 boaters in the Chicago
5 area with moorings and winter storage facilities in
6 the Chicago hoppers and the river system.

7 We are not ready to agree to the lock
8 closure partly because of the major role the locks
9 play in the lives of boaters as they traverse back
10 and forth from the water to their storage areas.
11 The boaters' economic contributions to Chicago's
12 economy is more than \$100 million. Of this total,
13 15 million is allocated to the Chicago Park
14 District for mooring fees which subsidize jogging
15 tracks, tennis courts for the citizens of Chicago.
16 Shutting the locks in question would likely trickle
17 the stream of revenue.

18 The Federation proposes that we need more
19 substantiation to support the locks closure than
20 the so far undefined eDNA evidence. No disclosed
21 information has identified whether the eDNA is live
22 fish, dead fish or fish that were cooked and
23 discarded in the lake. No marine biologist has
24 been able to render a decision with a statistical

1 analysis showing the significance of the
2 questionable finding of one Asian carp in a 5-mile
3 stretch and the eDNA found in Lake Calumet of the
4 Calumet River. The boating" --

5 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

6 MS. MALONIS: -- "community would be open to
7 considering a policy that involves the less
8 frequent use of the locks similar to the flotilla
9 protocol that is used for the bridge openings on
10 the Chicago River during the boaters' seasonal
11 migratory transition grants to and from their
12 storage yards."

13 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

14 MS. MALONIS: Thank you.

15 FACILITATOR HOMER: Mike McElroy.

16 MR. AGRA: Mike is deferring to me. My name is
17 Captain Robert Agra. I'm the third generation
18 owner of American Cruise Lines in Chicago.

19 Continued operation of Chicago Lock is
20 critical for our business to survive. Any closure
21 of the Chicago Lock during the hours of operation
22 will result in the closure of our company and the
23 loss of approximately 85 jobs.

24 At the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers'

1 meeting last week, Colonel Quarles stated the
2 Chicago River will be closed to navigation whenever
3 the Chicago Lock is closed. This will prevent us
4 from operating the Chicago Architecture Foundation
5 River Cruise on the Chicago River. It will be
6 done.

7 Closing Chicago Lock will not stop the
8 Asian carp. Focus on the measures that you have
9 outlined and come up with that will.

10 Thank you for saving Chicago's jobs. You
11 can get the carp, but you could still save jobs.
12 If you close the lock, you will kill jobs, and you
13 won't stop the carp.

14 FACILITATOR HOMER: Ben Hirsch. And then
15 Susan Urbas.

16 MR. HIRSCH: Good afternoon. I have heard a
17 lot of praise from the multi-organizational efforts
18 to prevent the migration of the Asian carp in the
19 Chicago Waterways, mostly from members of the
20 organizations involved. I just hope no one breaks
21 their arms patting themselves on their backs yet.

22 Many people have spoken about the
23 far-reaching economic impact of closing the
24 operation of the Chicago Locks, and I am one of

1 those people whose job is going to be put in
2 jeopardy merely by the suggestion that this would
3 happen. Excuse me, I'm nervous.

4 Basically, my question is, and I know
5 you're not taking questions, so take it
6 rhetorically, what need -- if the barrier is
7 working, what need is there for the closure of the
8 locks? And if the barrier doesn't work, what
9 assurance do we have that any other measures that
10 you guys take who are in charge of this are going
11 to work as well?

12 And basically that's about it. I'm just
13 very concerned for my job and those of my friends
14 and colleagues.

15 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. URBAS: My name is Susan Urbas. I am chair
17 of a group in Chicago that we call the Port
18 Development and Safety Council for the Port of
19 Chicago. We represent all the stakeholders in the
20 marine community, and that's the industrial
21 commercial as well as all the agency people.

22 And I just wanted to add a couple of
23 comments to what -- the industrial commercial
24 people have pretty much fully expressed their deep

1 concern about this rush to do the lock closure. I
2 think there's one group that hasn't been presented
3 yet from our stakeholders, and that is the concerns
4 of kind of the community as a whole.

5 We have a vibrant river-lake community of
6 marine stakeholders, and we have over the past
7 decade particularly worked very hard to create a
8 balance of uses, particularly on the Chicago River.
9 One of those that has not been mentioned yet is the
10 human power traffic, the people who enjoy the water
11 that way and what that means for the environmental
12 and ecological development of the city to have that
13 happening right downtown. I happen to be president
14 of a group, Chicago River Rowing and Paddling
15 Center, which is right at Lake Shore Drive.

16 So I just think -- I also think that the
17 science is -- you need to slow down a little bit
18 and not rush to lock closure and put all this at
19 risk. It's been so hard fought for something that
20 isn't really clearly established.

21 FACILITATOR HOMER: Daniel Romito and
22 Eric Landen. Okay.

23 A VOICE: Pass.

24 A VOICE: Pass.

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Judy Johnston and then
2 Mike Ryan.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. I am Judy Johnston,
4 speaking as an advocate for the Great Lakes and a
5 concerned citizen, although I am a member of
6 several Great Lakes organizations.

7 You have heard a great deal of scientific,
8 economic, and logistical information, and I don't
9 want to repeat any of that. However, from a
10 logical, common sense perspective, I should think
11 we have had enough experience through the years
12 with the negative, nay, disastrous effect of
13 invasive species. Therefore, we must do everything
14 possible to stop this one from progressing further.

15 I urge you to use all strategies utilizing
16 the best available science to preserve and protect
17 this essential resource, the Great Lakes. Thank
18 you.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: Judy Johnston is next.

20 MR. RYAN: I'm Mike Ryan. I am a sport fishing
21 advisor for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission from
22 Indiana.

23 Back in the late '90s, we've seen the
24 problems, both the Gobys going downstream and carp

1 coming upstream. And everything's been stagnated.
2 We had a lot of time to work on it. Funding fell
3 out. The Corps of Engineers -- I don't know what
4 happened, but everything stagnated for a number of
5 years.

6 I just hope this draft comes to plan and
7 we can work this out to keep the carp out of the
8 Great Lakes. Thank you.

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thom Cmar and then
10 Joseph Terc.

11 MR. CMAR: Good afternoon. I am Thom Cmar.
12 I'm an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense
13 Council.

14 I'd like to use my minute to talk about
15 ecological separation. It's the only permanent
16 reliable long-term solution to the problem of
17 transfer of invasive species between the Great
18 Lakes and the Mississippi River. And we believe
19 that with appropriate study, this can be done in a
20 way that would actually minimize the impacts on
21 commerce in Chicago and bring substantial economic
22 benefits to Chicago in the form of long overdue
23 investments in transportation and waste water
24 infrastructure.

1 We should not assume that we have no
2 choice which depends on a 19th century canal
3 system. We would welcome the opportunity to work
4 with all stakeholders to solve this problem,
5 protect the Great Lakes, and bring a 21st century
6 waste water and transportation infrastructure to
7 Chicago. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Joseph Terc and then
9 David Rieser. No? David? Jason Neises,
10 N-e-i-s-e-s, or Lynn Osmond? Okay. And then
11 Kindra Lake Towing is next.

12 MR. NEISES: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm
13 Jason Neises with the Chicago Architecture
14 Foundation, and I just want to speak up for the
15 cultural aspects of the Chicago River and how
16 greatly it contributes to our city. We are a
17 45-year-old organization that celebrates Chicago
18 architecture. The primary way we do that is on the
19 river.

20 To remove that from our offerings would be
21 detrimental to not only our organization, but to
22 Chicago's image as an international destination for
23 culture, primarily architecture. We have something
24 that's unlike any other city in the world. The

1 removal of the navigation on the river would harm
2 our organization and the city very, very greatly.

3 We are concerned about the migration of
4 Asian carp, but we also want a solution that will
5 allow us to maintain our prominence as an
6 international destination for tourism, culture, and
7 architecture. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Dick Wagner is
9 next.

10 MR. KINDRA: Good afternoon. I'm John Kindra,
11 and I want to give you a couple of suggestions.

12 One, we don't want to have the locks
13 closed, and we would like to keep the invasive
14 species, the carp, out of Lake Michigan. So my
15 simple solution is just kill them. Michigan wants
16 them killed. You guys have the rotenone. I hope
17 you have the political will. We want them dead. I
18 can't say it more clearer than that. Start
19 wherever you want to start and kill them all.
20 Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Jeff Goad.
22 Steve Wise. Joel Brammeier.

23 MR. WISE: Thank you. My name is Steve Wise.
24 I am the Natural Resources Director of the Center

1 for Neighborhood Technology.

2 The best solution to any problem only
3 arrives when we ask the right question. In this
4 case, we're missing it by about two letters. We
5 need to ask, what is carp spelled sideways and how
6 do we stop that from entering the lake? If this is
7 an informative hearing, I'll leave you to figure
8 out what that means. It's a four little word
9 rhyming with flap and it means sewage.

10 MWRD explained on the news hour the recent
11 performance of our sewer and storm water
12 infrastructure shows that sewage overflows of the
13 lake are not rare events. In fact, in its brief,
14 the MWRD offers a frequent system (phonetic) to
15 prevent sewage overflows to the lake as a reason to
16 maintain the status quo. I explained that in the
17 ten reversals to the lake in the last decade, five
18 of the ten reversals occurred in the last 16
19 months. It's not getting better. It's getting
20 worse.

21 Even with the stark admission before us of
22 the strategy offered to deal with invasive carp
23 leaves this carp-spelled-sideways question off the
24 table except for the proposal to add screens at the

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1 sluice gate in the locks. We're ignoring the key
2 root cause of the problem here and we're still
3 claiming the inalienable right to dump overflow
4 sewage, as necessary, albeit as a last resort into
5 the lakes.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. That's your time.

7 MR. WISE: I would like to get to my
8 recommendation, if you don't mind.

9 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir, you got to be
10 equitable to everybody here.

11 MR. WISE: At this point, we have largely
12 ignored the options including green infrastructure
13 which other communities are using to reduce and
14 eliminate sewage overflows, and this is an option
15 we have here.

16 The Coordinating Committee's solutions
17 ignore flood and overflow prevention at the
18 regional Scale Green Infrastructure to help make
19 these other solutions feasible, and it's an option
20 that would leverage investment, involve all the
21 parties, and help solve the problems.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you, sir.

23 Paul Ryzak. And after Paul, Clark Bullard.

24 MR. RYZAK: I'm a captain. I work -- I work on
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1 the Chicago River, and I need the locks open. I
2 don't want to lose my job. So please don't close
3 the locks.

4 Also if you are thinking about -- maybe
5 one idea about getting rid of the carp is maybe
6 diverting some waste water from one of the power
7 plants and just smoking them out of the river.

8 FACILITATOR HOMER: Jack Darin is next.

9 MR. BULLARD: Hi. I'm Clark Bullard. I serve
10 on the board of the National Wildlife Federation
11 and Prairie Rivers Network. I came here to speak
12 for myself and to offer a suggestion.

13 I don't think we have the two and a half
14 years that you say we need to study all the options
15 for stopping endangered species passing up and down
16 the Chicago Waterway System. I'm concerned that
17 the short-term actions are not sustainable, the
18 ones that are outlined with rotenone and everything
19 else; and that we simply cannot win a prolonged war
20 of attrition against an enemy that lays thousands
21 of eggs at a pop.

22 So we do need to get moving on looking at
23 ecological separation. And I'm asking that out of
24 your two and a half years that you're going to

1 spend on the Chicago portion of this study that you
2 spend the first nine months between now and
3 Christmas studying the ecological separation issues
4 so we can get some facts on the table and people
5 can start imagining and analyzing and designing
6 21st century transportation systems that have
7 water-borne commerce on both sides of the divide,
8 21st century waste water, storm water, and sewage
9 technology.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

11 MR. BULLARD: Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR HOMER: Albert Ettinger is next.

13 MR. DARIN: Jack Darin. I am the director of
14 the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter. Thank you for
15 being here today and for listening.

16 I really want to thank the team that
17 worked so hard in December, and I consider it to be
18 a heroic action to try to protect the lake. While
19 most of us were enjoying our holidays, your teams
20 were out there trying to protect our Great lakes,
21 and I think we owe you all a great debt.

22 We supported that action and we know that
23 more like it are going to be probably likely in the
24 near future. We would also like to see a future

1 where we weren't constantly having to poison our
2 river system to protect the lake. I know that you
3 all share that goal.

4 Ecological separation seems to be the one
5 way that we could keep the locks open. Then we
6 could continue the water quality gains that we've
7 invested in in this region, and then we could
8 really protect the Great Lakes from the carp. So
9 thank you. We look forward to working on that.

10 I think as hard as it is to see a path
11 forward, it would be almost impossible to see a
12 path forward without this Great Lakes Restoration
13 Initiative. I want to say a couple words about
14 that because I salute the administration's vision
15 for putting that together and for Congress funding
16 that in its first year. I think that all of us in
17 this room and the people that we represent,
18 regardless of where you come out on what the
19 solutions here are going to be, they're going to
20 cost money and they're going to need the scientific
21 framework that the GLO gives us.

22 So I think we should all work together to
23 try to make sure that we have the resources and the
24 coordination to implement those. Thank you.

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. David Reese is next
2 followed by Ronald Russo.

3 MR. ETTINGER: I'm Albert Ettinger of the
4 Environmental Law and Policy Center. I just want
5 to make one comment.

6 There's been a lot of discussion here
7 about the locks. The permutation, though, should
8 consider varieties. It may be that some of the
9 locks should stay open and others shouldn't. And
10 also, in particular, the Sanitary and Ship Canal is
11 not necessarily in the same package as the O'Brien
12 and the Chicago Locks.

13 The other thing I would just emphasize is
14 that the Chicago River and the Lower Des Plaines is
15 not worthless. Any plan that we have here should
16 respect the fishing and the recreation and the
17 other resources that are going on in the Upper
18 Illinois River, the Lower Des Plaines, and the
19 Chicago River. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: We have some additional --

21 MARCIA: We have some web cast comments.

22 MS. SPEIZMAN: I will do just a few of these
23 now. They have been coming in all afternoon.

24 This one is from John Parker: Why did our
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1 senators in congress, state and federal, wait so
2 long to face this issue? How long has it been
3 coming? This is not a new issue.

4 The next one is from Ed Welsh, who's the
5 Legislative Director for the Passenger Vessel
6 Association: Given that complete or regular
7 closure of the Chicago Harbor Lock and nearby river
8 per Alternative 2 offered by the Corps of Engineers
9 will jeopardize the very existence of the six
10 Chicago passenger vessels companies, the 600-plus
11 employees, and the world famous Chicago
12 architecture tours, couldn't the defense in-depth
13 strategies to block the carp be located on the
14 south branch of the Chicago River below where the
15 passenger vessels navigate?

16 The next one is from Jay Randall with the
17 Minnesota DNR, Invasive Species Prevention
18 Coordinator. He just wants to let people know that
19 he's monitoring the event today via the web on
20 behalf of the State of Minnesota.

21 Thomas Marks, the New York Director of the
22 Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council. In 2005, I
23 wrote a letter of concern to Dr. Chris Goddard of
24 the perceived then potential failures of the

1 electric barrier and the lack of urgency and
2 intensity by the Army Corps of Engineers working on
3 the electric barrier project. I was assured the
4 plan, a multi-tiered plan such as that being
5 presented now, was in place. Dr. Goddard addressed
6 all our concerns with an air of confidence that
7 their plan was unlikely to fail.

8 Today, I can assure you that all my
9 concerns and fears back in 2005 have come to pass.
10 Also, the dispersal panel and the Army Corps
11 deviated from the multi-tiered plan of the electric
12 barrier backed by an ecological barrier and,
13 finally, ecological separation.

14 The question to you today is what is
15 different? Is it the same agencies? Why should I
16 be anymore confident today? You already have a
17 poor track record for success which actually
18 started with the electric barrier to stop Gobys
19 from reaching the Mississippi River. I've lost all
20 confidence in your ability to execute any plan,
21 good or bad, to stop Asian carp from reaching Lake
22 Michigan. They are already there.

23 One more, then I will step back.

24 Bruce Noble says: Why has it taken so long for

1 some action on the Asian carp issue? The Army
2 Corps of Engineers and EPA have known the carp have
3 been migrating north and up the river system for
4 quite some time. Both have had time to study the
5 issue in the last couple of years. I don't agree
6 with the thought process of study. The problem is
7 coming with bunch of recommendations and then
8 seeking funding for a final solution.

9 The carp aren't waiting on studies. They
10 are doing what nature intended, spreading their
11 range. I don't want to see the silver carp get
12 into the Great Lakes system and destroy this
13 ecosystem. The two-star general of the U.S. Army
14 Corps of Engineers may think it's okay to wait and
15 study the issues, but there are a lot of folks in
16 the great State of Michigan that want some action,
17 not more talk and studies. The U.S. Army Corps of
18 Engineers and EPA have been asleep too long at the
19 switch. I want to see some action now. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Somebody for Ronald Russo.
21 And Pete Laman is next.

22 MR. BARGER: Good evening. My name is
23 Blake Barger. I'm a captain of Wendella Boats.

24 I have been working with Wendella for

1 14 years; and, to put a real face on this, I have a
2 17-month-old daughter at home and, in the beginning
3 in April, I'll have a son. My wife has already
4 told me and I already had planned to teach my
5 children how to drive a boat. If this happens, you
6 close the locks, they don't have that.

7 Not only that, I grew up in Michigan, in
8 the Flint area. I know what unemployment is like.
9 I have seen it. I still see it in my own family.
10 We don't need this here. We all need this. Keep
11 it open. Study it. Make sure that they can
12 actually live in the lake. Make sure they can
13 survive the waters of the Great Lakes at the lower
14 levels. From my understanding, they live in the
15 warmer waters of the river.

16 What if you shut down the airports and
17 told them you can only operate so many hours of the
18 day, especially O'Hare Airport? It will have the
19 same effect on the economy.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Mike Walsh and
21 then Don Dubin is next.

22 MR. LAMAN: Pete Laman, Port of Indiana, Burns
23 Harbor. Thank you for the opportunity to address
24 the panel.

1 The locks are a vital part of the Port of
2 Indiana, Burns Harbor. Roughly, one-third of the
3 port's shipments transload through the locks which
4 connect Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River
5 system. They provide us a critical link to the
6 Gulf of Mexico where cargoes can be transloaded
7 between river barges and ocean-going vessels from
8 anywhere in the world -- to anywhere in the world.

9 Since the St. Lawrence Seaway closes every
10 winter, the river provides us our only connection
11 for shipping our cargoes to anywhere in the world
12 through the lock system. On average, the Port of
13 Indiana ships 400 barges and 700,000 tons of cargo
14 through these locks. We employ more than 3,000
15 people, and that represents more than \$350 million
16 in business revenue. We also account for
17 \$8 million in state revenue taxes, and \$84 million
18 in personal income for our Hoosiers.

19 This does not include the impact of other
20 businesses along Lake Michigan, such as
21 Arcelormittal, U.S. Steel, BP Whiting, and Western
22 Michigan Ports and also our regional railroads that
23 connect to the ports and provide service around the
24 country. Northwest Indiana --

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Time is up.

2 MR. LAMAN: Thank you. Northwestern Indiana is
3 the home of the largest fuel-producing region in
4 the country, and these locks are vitally important
5 to these steel mills. Thank you.

6 MR. DUBIN: My name is Don Dubin. I am really
7 disappointed. I came here because, for the last
8 year or two, I have been hearing all about the
9 Asian carp, the doom and gloom. And I have a
10 proposal that I have not heard anywhere as a
11 solution, and it would be good for the environment,
12 and it would not cost jobs or anything. In fact,
13 it would improve a lot of things.

14 I don't have time to talk about it because
15 you can't answer these questions on a bing, bing,
16 bing, bing. However, I do have in writing a report
17 that I feel I would like to give to somebody with
18 my name and e-mail. Please call me. I would like
19 to talk to somebody on this. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Mike Walsh.
21 And then Richard Crowe.

22 MR. WALSH: Hello. My name is Mike Walsh from
23 Marine Services Corporation. We have a boat yard
24 and marina on the Calumet River.

1 It would be an absolute detriment to our
2 business, to our employees, and to the boaters of
3 the Chicagoland region to close the locks. I
4 strongly address you guys to take a biological
5 approach to this, and please do not close the
6 locks. Thank you very much.

7 FACILITATOR HOMER: John Holden is next.

8 MR. CROWE: Hi. My name is Richard T. Crowe,
9 and I'm the creator of the Chicago Supernatural
10 Tourism Act in 1973. 25 years ago I created the
11 first supernatural cruise with the Mercury Cruise
12 Line. If you close the locks, I'm going to lose
13 25 percent of my annual business.

14 But it's not just me. As you heard from
15 many others, you got the trickle-down effect.
16 People who come on my cruise are not going to go to
17 the Billy Goat and buy a burger. They're not going
18 to stay in a hotel. They're not going to build the
19 tax base and pay the majority of the Cook County
20 taxes here when they come to visit Chicago. So
21 that's one thing.

22 The other thing I would like to point out,
23 I belong to the Chicago Convention of Tourism
24 Bureau, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the China

1 Town Chamber of Commerce. I have not been notified
2 about this meeting except for my association with
3 the Mercury Cruise Line. You made no attempt
4 whatsoever to contact people in the industry that
5 are going to be affected by the decisions, are
6 going to be killed by the death of a thousand cuts
7 inch at a time by what you do with the locks.

8 So whoever is responsible for informing
9 people who are directly affected, you failed
10 miserably on that. I hope you do better on keeping
11 the carp out of the lake.

12 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Gregg Pupecki,
13 P-u-p-e-c-k-i, is next.

14 DR. HOLDEN: My name is John Holden. I'm a
15 reproductive endocrinologist in Rockford, Illinois,
16 who took an interest in this dilemma about three
17 years ago and was concerned that there's a whole
18 lot of hankering going on and not a lot of action
19 taken. So I took it upon myself to invest a
20 considerable amount of money and developed a pilot
21 process and plan in Havana, Illinois. In five
22 months, we will be prepared to receive as many fish
23 as people can deliver to us, and I'm willing to pay
24 up to 5 cents per pound, and that is my proposal

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1 for actually doing something about it. Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Craig Wonoker is next.

3 MR. POPECKI: Thank you very much. Because you
4 guys can't comment anymore or answer questions, I
5 just want to be the first to thank you for making
6 the decision not to close the Chicago Lock. And
7 the Chicago River. And the O'Brien Lock.

8 I'm here basically as a captain. I work
9 in the tourism industry. I'm Director of Sales for
10 Wendella Boats and Chicago Water Taxi. Chicago's
11 commercial passenger vessel industry, part of
12 Chicago's \$12 billion tourism industry, has
13 experienced unprecedented growth and continues to
14 create high-paying -- high-quality, good-paying
15 jobs. Any closure to the Chicago Lock, the second
16 busiest lock in the nation, and the Chicago River
17 will destroy Chicago's commercial passenger vessel
18 industry.

19 Let me be clear: Any closure of the
20 Chicago lock, the second busiest lock in the
21 nation, and the Chicago River will destroy
22 Chicago's commercial passenger vessel industry and
23 dramatically affect the \$12 billion tourism
24 industry that we've grown here in the city. Thank

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1 you.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Dave Noorlog is next.

3 MR. WONOKER: Craig Wonoker. In the earlier
4 time, I gave my comments from my company, Chicago
5 Water Taxi. So speaking as a private citizen, I
6 want to thank you guys, I know it's late on Friday,
7 for staying up here and listening to it and
8 graciously listening basically how wrong you are,
9 and I want to thank you for understanding that.

10 FACILITATOR HOMER: Michael Borgstrom is next.
11 Dale Roeling.

12 MR. NOORLOG: Thank you, gentlemen, for
13 listening to us at least. I'm Dave Noorlog. I own
14 Chicago Marine Crane, Dave's Welding Service which
15 is a ship building and repair business on the south
16 side located on the Calumet.

17 The Chicago Locks are very important to
18 our business, also my wife's business which is
19 involved with lake front industry. I do have a
20 commercial fishing boat on the Great Lakes. We
21 have a couple of boats available for you guys. You
22 can use them any time. One of them is a crane
23 boat, a couple other fishing boats on the rivers.

24 Our people know the rivers very well.

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1 They have been on them for 30 years, some of us
2 longer. We've been all over this, the rivers. We
3 have waste treatment plants all over these rivers.
4 We could start out very easily with the affluent,
5 at least, an increase in the chlorine levels to get
6 safe zones in between each section of this river,
7 up and down this river. Just an idea. Something
8 to throw out at you.

9 But, please, don't close the locks. Our
10 businesses that we -- I have spent my whole life
11 trying to build these businesses. I'm employing
12 people that are good people, work hard every day.
13 They have invested their entire lives into these
14 businesses. You close the locks, we're done.
15 We're looking for something else to do.

16 So I guess we'll be, you know, killing
17 carp or something. Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

19 Michael Borgstrom is next.

20 A VOICE: Pass.

21 FACILITATOR HOMER: Pass. Pam Millers.

22 Jacqueline Kindra. John Kindra.

23 MR. KINDRA: I pass.

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: Jeff Wilcoxon. I'm trying

1 to line them up here.

2 MS. KINDRA: I'm Jackie Kindra. Every job in
3 this country is vital. It's not acceptable to
4 trade one set of jobs in Indiana for some in
5 Illinois.

6 We've got to get this right. We've got to
7 have free-flowing commerce and a lake -- a
8 carp-free lake. We have to make it happen.

9 MR. WILCOXEN: Hello. My name is Jeff Wilcoxen
10 on behalf of Heartland Processing. Sorry, I'm
11 nervous. We have a wonderful plan and action with
12 Dr. Holden, and our staff and the process sales
13 will get rid of all the bighead carp that you could
14 possibly get to us. We'll process it. It will
15 come out clean, it's environmental friendly, green
16 product, everything comes in, comes out, there's no
17 waste products. I think it would be wonderful
18 asset to you if you could find them. Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR HOMER: Joseph O'Connor.
20 Jeff Wilcoxen.

21 MR. WILCOXEN: That was me.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Bob Lund.

23 A VOICE: Pass.

24 FACILITATOR HOMER: You are?

1 MR. O'CONNOR: Joseph O'Connor. Good
2 afternoon. I am Joseph O'Connor. I am a retired
3 sea captain from the oceans. I live in this
4 region.

5 I think the general public fails to
6 understand how much commerce goes on this waterway
7 system connecting the Mississippi River and the
8 Great Lakes. We're talking maybe 16.9 million tons
9 of cargo, \$17 billion worth of revenue to the
10 region. And I think that if you close this
11 waterway system, you have to take that economic
12 impact into consideration. Thank you.

13 FACILITATOR HOMER: Mel Grupka.
14 Mark Whitehead. Vernon Patrick.

15 MR. PATRICK: My name is Vernon Patrick. I'm
16 on the Board of Directors for River City Marina
17 Condominium Association, and I'm the President of
18 the Chicago Watercraft, a maritime business within
19 that operation there.

20 We just spent five years to make our place
21 squeaky clean and everything else, and we see
22 ourselves a stakeholders in the river for sure.
23 We're the only condominium facility in the entire
24 city proper. With my business, I spent about ten

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1 years building it up. I have about a million
2 dollars' worth of assets there, and I'm going to
3 have to in three months move the entire thing to
4 the lake front. So imagine what I'm going to have
5 to do with my assets. I'm going to have to leave
6 some of those assets there and then try to build
7 another business. I have a choice. Do that or
8 give my employee -- employ my staff members or not.

9 But those are just a few things I wanted
10 to say. I know it's tough to hear all these
11 negative things. There's not one person from my
12 industry, which is the hospitality, recreational,
13 boating industry, someone in the same industry as
14 Wendella and some of these boats companies on a
15 smaller scale, but not one of them is on your panel
16 to help devise the needs and concerns of this
17 community in with yours. And there should be.
18 They need to talk about this thing (applause) and
19 that's my point.

20 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

21 MR. PATRICK: The other thing is I want to make
22 one comment. Kill the carp. Put them in a big
23 pool, put them in a private lake. Let the guys
24 make their money at the private lake and get rid of

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1 the carp now.

2 FACILITATOR HOMER: Ed Landmikl.

3 MR. LANDMIKL: I'm Ed Landmikl, a long-time
4 Great Lake fisherman. I have been at the barrier,
5 from Barrier I from day one. You put in rusty
6 steel cable instead of railroad rail. Why isn't
7 Barrier III hooked up or Barrier II, whatever you
8 want to call it? There's a bunch of electrodes in
9 the water that aren't hooked up. Why aren't you
10 looking at why the Des Plaines River isn't flowing
11 downstream? There's less than a foot clearance
12 underneath the bridge. The first log hits it, the
13 rest of the stuff builds up with water, builds up
14 with debris. I have pictures right here to show
15 what it looks like.

16 I can see that you didn't have the
17 barriers on because the plumbing froze up because
18 there was no heat from the transformer. You failed
19 this job totally. I'm sick. I have been there
20 since the 1960s. Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Lia Montgomery.

22 MS. MONTGOMERY: I'm Lia Montgomery. My
23 husband and I drove down from Wisconsin, four
24 hours, and that's okay because you are not going to

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1 have any hearing up there.

2 This isn't about being mad Chicago and
3 it's not about jobs, you guys. Chicago does big
4 things. When this whole river diversion started in
5 the 1895, Chicago spent \$31 million in the early
6 1900s. \$31 million. You don't think that was
7 controversial? It was. It was hugely
8 controversial.

9 And now you got to think really big again
10 because this is bigger than all of us. This is
11 Lake Michigan we're talking about. The Great
12 Lakes. This is 20 percent of the world's fresh
13 water supply. 20 percent. It's bigger than us.
14 It's all the Great Lakes. It's our children's
15 future.

16 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay.

17 MS. MONTGOMERY: Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: David Vogt.

19 MR. VOGT: My name is David Vogt. I am a
20 member of Sam Unlimited and Sam Sports Fishing Club
21 of Illinois, a member of the Paw Paw Conservation
22 Club. I'm here from Paw Paw, Michigan.

23 I've traveled with Eddie Landmickl over the
24 years and been down to the barrier many times, and

1 I've always asked him, how come those cables aren't
2 hooked up that are laying there on the side, the
3 building off to the side? And I guess that's
4 called IIB.

5 I have been down there for the last five
6 years on and off. Up until the last couple of days
7 ago, they're still laying there. So I don't know
8 why IIB was never hooked up. I feel a real failure
9 that those people responsible after all these years
10 of the Asian carp coming forward, they haven't done
11 it. I think they really failed.

12 I say closing the locks wouldn't be too
13 popular in here. I don't have anything else to
14 say. Something has to be done right now. We had
15 our chance and we blew it, I guess.

16 FACILITATOR HOMER: There's a couple more
17 questions or comments from the web cast, and then
18 that will be it.

19 MS. SPEIZMAN: Thank you. This one is from
20 James Stevens: Why does the draft framework not
21 emphasize the use of fish harvesting and decreasing
22 use for Asian carp to reduce the pressure being put
23 on the barriers? These fish should be made legal
24 or else finding other uses for the fish so we can

1 make the best of a less than ideal situation in the
2 inland waterways and reduce pressure.

3 The next one is from Julie Wolin: Will
4 today's slide presentations be available? Yes,
5 Julie.

6 David Smith: What specific barriers and
7 timing are being considered for the Grand Calumet
8 River and the Little Calumet River?

9 Martha Schultz wants to know, How do the
10 potential technologies, sonic, bubble, et cetera,
11 mentioned differentiate carp from other species?
12 How will they affect the other species?

13 Cheryl Nimm says, Permanent separation of
14 the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River system
15 is the only viable long-term solution to keep the
16 Asian carp from establishing a population in the
17 Great Lakes. It's the main goal of the government.

18 William Barton says, It would appear the
19 time for study is long past considering the
20 progression of the Asian carp from the southern end
21 of the Mississippi. There are many studies already
22 completed. Why not make decisive, most effective
23 action based on existing information in parallel
24 with further study?

1 Mike Wilson: Do you intend to perform
2 eDNA testing in Lake Michigan itself?

3 And unnamed: The carp have been moving in
4 our waterways for over 30 years and yet there's not
5 a plan to stop them. There appears not to be
6 current budget backing for any plan that may be
7 composed. Is this true?

8 Denise Debuch says, Would a length of
9 water in a river or canal that was totally flooded
10 with nitrogen gas rather than air be a sufficient
11 fish barrier to protect one part of the water trail
12 from species from another part? It might be a
13 cheap and easy way out without polluting or
14 damaging the environment.

15 Jerry Rasmussen says, Has everyone
16 forgotten that the Asian carp thrive in cold water
17 systems and natural range which includes portions
18 of Siberia?

19 Rich North says, The problem is twofold.
20 First, what do we do now? Secondly, why did it
21 start? The federal government should immediately
22 stop the import of exotic species into the U.S. for
23 whatever reason to avoid these meetings in the
24 future.

1 Tom Daggett of the Daggett Law Firm in
2 Chicago says, Any long-term solution will block or
3 at least limit navigation to the canal as in
4 closing the locks. The U.S. Constitution clearly
5 assigns the legal authority for such actions of
6 Congress, not the president or the Executive
7 Branch. Critics of the committee's strategy for
8 its failure to address the long-term solution
9 should be informed of the need for congressional
10 action to legally undertake such actions.

11 Greg Maritz says, I represent a large
12 number of Michigan-based charter fishing operators
13 that make our livings off of clean and healthy
14 lakes. We are tired of Chicago pumping its waste
15 water into our lakes and now refusing to shut down
16 its lock system will be one of the most devastating
17 ecological disasters of modern times. Close the
18 locks and fill in the canal waterway to permanently
19 disconnect the two ecosystems.

20 Debra Pollock, a deckhand with Shoreline
21 Sightseeing says, Please exhaust all other
22 resources and options before deciding to close the
23 locks. Thousands of jobs are at risk including
24 mine. Closing the locks is not a solution.

1 John Iberson with Iberson Sport Fishing
2 says, This is the one invasive species that we have
3 a chance of stopping. It would be a shame to let
4 the opportunity slip by to stop this. As a charter
5 fishing captain on Lake Michigan for the last
6 25 years, I have seen the impact firsthand the
7 damage invasive species can cause. There's a lock
8 closure would be a good first step, but other plans
9 need to be made to stop the invasive species. This
10 should be part of an overall plan for the lake.

11 My question would be who will compensate
12 all the charter businesses for lost income when the
13 ecosystem is destroyed and there's no sport fish to
14 catch? This lock closure goes much farther than
15 the City of Chicago. The city should be looked at
16 as only one small portion of the overall problem.
17 The small towns along the lake have as much to lose
18 or more than the City of Chicago.

19 Sarah Cole says, Can you provide
20 additional details considering the Asian Carp
21 Control Strategy Framework Draft, Section 2.2.18
22 regarding funding opportunities.

23 And Joel Reitsma says, Considering the
24 economy, I don't know the numbers, but consider and

1 weigh the aspect of the maritime cargo, the
2 maritime commuter industry in the environmental and
3 solution footprint as opposed to a footprint of
4 alternative transportation of those goods and
5 commuters. Thank you so much. And that's it.

6 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. Two more.
7 Arnie Leder and then Michael Mini.

8 MR. LEDER: My name is Arnie Leder. I am with
9 the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited. I have a
10 prepared statement. Rather than read the entire
11 thing, I will just try to get to the high points.

12 First of all, the ecological separation of
13 the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River System
14 should be an explicit top goal of the Interbasin
15 Feasibility Study. This is the only viable way to
16 stop the direct exchange for aquatic invasive
17 species between the neighbor systems over the
18 long-term. Everything less is just a half measure.

19 In addition, the time frame for the
20 Interbasin Feasibility Study is not aggressive
21 enough. The portion of the study examining the
22 options for ecological and physical separation
23 should be completed by the end of 2010. The goal
24 for completion of the entire study should be 2011,

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1 rather than 2012. Implementation of the study
2 recommendation should be put on an equally
3 aggressive schedule.

4 The long-term goal for the fate of the
5 Chicago Area Waterway System should not need to
6 maintain navigation, but, rather, to find
7 alternatives that will prevent the invasion of
8 Asian carp or other invasive species from one basin
9 to the other and still provide for movement of
10 goods, flood control, and water storage management.

11 Aggressive monitoring and netting efforts
12 should not be limited to just the Chicago Area
13 Waterway System at the near shore areas of Chicago.
14 It should be expanded to include a broader swathe
15 of near shore areas --

16 FACILITATOR HOMER: Sir.

17 MR. LEDER: -- of Lake Michigan.

18 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you.

19 MR. LEDER: And we also recommend that the
20 other Great Lakes stay together, Lake Michigan
21 states be included in the study.

22 FACILITATOR HOMER: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. MINI: Good evening. My name is Mike Mini.
24 I'm Government Relations Director of the

1 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

2 The chamber recognizes the tremendous
3 asset that Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes
4 represent to the commercial success of our region,
5 we fully understand the serious implications of
6 invasive species; and we've supported efforts over
7 the years to ensure the safety and economic
8 viability of the state waterways.

9 However, the economic importance of the
10 link that area waterways provide between the
11 Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to Lake Michigan
12 cannot be understated. The lock system enables
13 critical commerce and sustains thousands of jobs.

14 Closing the locks permanently or
15 temporarily without the absolute assurance that it
16 represents the only remedy to prevent Asian carp
17 from gaining access to the Great Lakes is
18 unnecessary and risks severe damage to our economy
19 at a time when we can least afford it.

20 We urge the government and the private
21 sector to continue to work together to find
22 innovative and technological solutions that balance
23 the competing economic interests of the Great Lakes
24 regions. Thank you.

1 FACILITATOR HOMER: Thank you. And that's it
2 for the comments.

3 Just a reminder. For those of you who
4 want to travel to Ypsilanti on Wednesday, there
5 will be another hearing, a meeting like this, in
6 Ypsilanti, Michigan. It starts at 3 o'clock in
7 afternoon and goes to 6. It's at the Marriott in
8 Ypsilanti.

9 Is there anything else I need to -- before
10 you go, if you have written comments and you want
11 to submit them, please do it through the
12 asianarp.org Web site. They will accept comments
13 through that Web site. And anything else? Thank
14 you very much and we appreciate all your interest.


15 (Whereupon, the Public Hearing
16 adjourned at 6:24 o'clock p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)
4

5 ANNA M. MORALES, being first duly sworn,
6 On oath says that she is a court reporter doing
7 business in the State of Illinois; and that she
8 reported in shorthand the proceedings of said
9 Public Hearing, and that the foregoing is a true
10 and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
11 taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
12 given at said Public Hearing.



15 
16 Certified Shorthand Reporter
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