



**Helping People Protect the Great Lakes**  
[Donate now!](#)

We are well underway with the public comment period on the Army Corps of Engineer's study for a solution to stopping the Asian carp.

Can you help by either speaking out at a public hearing or submitting comments on-line by March 31st?

We need as many voices heard as possible to get us on the right track. I'll be at the Traverse City hearing on January 27th if you can join me. Here is some basic information you need to know:



Cheryl Mendoza next to Asian carp at Shedd Aquarium's Invasive Species Exhibit in Chicago.

**What Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin Interbasin Feasibility Study (GLMRIS) Public Comment Period is about:** A study authorized by Congress in 2007 mandating that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determine options available to prevent invasive species from moving through the Chicago waterway in both directions.

**Why GLMRIS is important:** While there is little debate that fast action to prevent movement of Asian carp is the top priority, there will be no move toward building a permanent solution without successful completion of this federal study.

**What is happening now:** Upcoming public meetings in Green Bay, WI, Traverse City, MI, Cincinnati, OH, Ann Arbor, MI, Milwaukee, WI and more. If you can, make it a priority to attend a public meeting and **register to speak** before the meeting so you will be given preference - I hear they are being sticklers about this. See the full list of meetings and how to register to speak [here](#).

**Tips for speaking out:** Democracy is messy. It works best when the public is engaged and sharing their opinions on important policies and government work. That is why we need you to stand up and share your concerns and opinions about the need to stop the Asian carp. We understand speaking at public hearings can be intimidating, particularly federal hearings. Even the most seasoned advocates can get intimidated. But please don't let that stop you - this is our right! The advice I was given from one of those advocates who

attended a hearings was: "Hit em' hard, respect their 5 minute allowance, and don't be shy about asking for another 5 minutes at the end if you have more to say." And here are some points we need to make clear:

- Stick to studying "prevention." The Army Corp of Engineers is expanding the scope of their work (in other words, time and our money!) on options that will likely not stop the Asian carp from making their home in the Great Lakes -- even though Congress mandated they focus on prevention.
- The timeline for action is unacceptably long with the earliest on the ground action not taking place for another 5 YEARS! While we study, the carp are swimming.
- To bring about meaningful action more quickly, the Corps need to get engaged with the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Cities Initiative's study on how to address tricky issues like flooding and transportation in the Chicago area - their work could save the Corps years in studies and millions of dollars, helping us get to a real solution faster.

You can check out the comments I'll be giving on Thursday [here](#).

**How to submit comments on-line:** If you can't speak out at a public meeting, your comments are still incredibly important. Submit your comments on-line [here](#).

Once again, we need to make our voices heard loud and clear to protect our Lakes! Thanks to all the advocates out there making a difference - you constantly inspire me.

Cheryl



p.s. If you want to learn more and read some talking points, I put even more information on our website [here](#).

P.S.S. Please let me know if you do speak out or send comments!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Disclaimer:** These alerts are intended to provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas among citizens and organizations working to protect aquatic habitats in the Great Lakes basin. The interpretations and conclusions presented in this alert represent the opinions of the individual co-authors. They do not represent the views of Freshwater Future, subscribers, donors or any organization in this alert.

===== You  
are on this list because you are in the database of Freshwater Future. If you would rather  
not receive these updates and action alerts, please contact us at [info@freshwaterfuture.org](mailto:info@freshwaterfuture.org)  
to be taken off of our list or use the link below. THANKS.

[Unsubscribe](#) [jcarlos@greeningdetroit.com](mailto:jcarlos@greeningdetroit.com) from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
Freshwater Future P.O. Box 2479 Petoskey, MI 49770

Our telephone:  
231-348-8200

Copyright (C) 2010 Freshwater Future All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend