



November 21, 2007

Mr. H. Dale Hall
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

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Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

ELIOT SPITZER
Governor of New York

TED STRICKLAND
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Director Hall:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Governors, I would like to commend the recent action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to add the black carp to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act. Together with the listing of the silver carp in July of this year, this action marks an important step in protecting the Great Lakes and the rest of our nation's waters from the devastating effects of these harmful, non-native species. As you know, over the past several years, the Great Lakes Governors and others have repeatedly requested these actions. And, we again urge you to add all forms of bighead carp to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act to ensure that our national treasure, the Great Lakes, receives adequate protection from all forms of Asian carp.

As you know, Asian carp represent one of the most imminent and most dangerous threats currently facing the Great Lakes. They compete with native species for food, destroy fish habitat, transfer parasites and diseases, and reduce biodiversity. Asian carp are difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate. And, because it is difficult to recover the ecosystems once they are disturbed, Asian carp pose an unprecedented threat to our region's environment and economy.

Additionally, the Illinois Natural History Survey has recorded an alarming number of fertile bighead-silver carp hybrids in the Illinois River. It is yet unknown what the precise impacts of these hybrids will be, but they clearly represent the potential for increased threats to the environment and to human health. For this reason, bighead-silver carp hybrids should also be listed as an injurious species under the Lacey Act.

The Great Lakes Governors continue to prioritize protecting the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other potentially injurious invasive species. We look forward to continuing to work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies in our ongoing efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at 312-407-0177 if there are questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle
Governor of Wisconsin
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

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