

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 24, 2010

Contact: Anne Davis Burns at  
(703) 841-9300 or Lynn Muench  
at (314) 308-0378

## **Long Search for Live Asian Carp Proves Barriers Working Well**

Arlington, VA – After months of electro-fishing, netting, and poisoning of fish in Chicago area waterways, the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) announced yesterday that a live Asian carp has finally been found in Lake Calumet near Lake Michigan. The American Waterways Operators (AWO), the trade association for the tugboat, towboat and barge industry, pointed out today that the fact that it took so long to find an actual fish proves that the electric barriers and other preventive tactics of the Obama Administration’s \$78.5 million Asian Carp Control Framework strategy to prevent the Asian carp from establishing a sustainable population in the Great Lakes, are working well.

AWO supports nine tactics within the Framework strategy, which consists of a wide range of actions to stop the Asian carp, including rapidly constructing a new electric barrier and employing acoustic and bubble technology to deter movement of the fish. AWO also strongly agrees with the assessment of the ACRCC that finding one live Asian carp does not provide enough evidence to support closing locks on the Chicago Waterway System.

Experts agree that there is no way of knowing whether or not Asian carp can establish a sustainable population in the Great Lakes, since the fish typically reproduce in long rivers and receive cues to spawn by rising water levels.

While the potential negative impact of the Asian carp on the Great Lakes is not known, AWO supports actions to prevent the spread of the carp while keeping critical waterways open to essential waterborne commerce. AWO strongly opposes closing locks or shutting down waterways, which would have a devastating impact on the regional economy and destroy thousands of American jobs.

“We hope that all stakeholders will continue to work together in a good faith effort to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species such as the Asian carp, while keeping waterways vital to our economy open and commerce flowing,” said Thomas A. Allegretti, AWO President and CEO.

###

---

---