

# URGENCY

*A local contribution and commitment for this project is needed to leverage state and legislative funding.*

**We need to have the funds in place by March 2012** so the DNR can proceed with the bidding and construction process. We would like to have a contract in place so a contractor can have the electric fish barrier in place by late spring or early summer to protect the Iowa Great Lakes.



Iowa Great Lakes Association  
PRESERVING A BALANCED ENVIRONMENT

EAST OKOBOJI  
Lakes Improvement CORP



# URGENT

**Fundraising Request**

**Threat of Jumping Fish to the Iowa Great Lakes**



An electric fish barrier similar to the proposed electric barrier for Dickinson County has been in place near Windom, Minn. for 20 years (pictured above).

It has proven to be very effective at preventing common carp from entering the Heron Lake Complex. A similar barrier would be just as effective at preventing Asian carp from entering the Iowa Great Lakes.

WEBSITE  
[www.iagreatlakes.com](http://www.iagreatlakes.com)

YOUTUBE VIDEO:  
[www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=x3Bf0WhvsNk](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=x3Bf0WhvsNk)

CONTACT  
**Phil Petersen**  
EMAIL: [philpetersen@mchsi.com](mailto:philpetersen@mchsi.com)  
CELL: 712-320-6028

**Jumping Fish Fundraising Committee**  
Neal Conover & Phil Petersen, Co-Chairman  
Complete list of Committee Members  
available at [www.iagreatlakes.com](http://www.iagreatlakes.com)

**Participating Protective Associations**  
East Okoboji Lake Improvement Corporation  
Okoboji Protective Association  
Spirit Lake Protective Association  
IGL Water Safety Council  
Iowa Great Lakes Association



**PROBLEM:** Asian carp (bighead and silver) were found throughout the Little Sioux Watershed in 2011. The Iowa Great Lakes are part of the Little Sioux Watershed and last summer, bighead carp were found in East Okoboji Lake and silver carp were found as close as Lost Island Lake in Palo Alto County. Although both kinds of Asian carp can threaten our lake's ecology and water quality, silver carp are infamous for their ability to jump high out of the water when frightened by a passing boat. This ability makes them a potential danger. Being hit by these fish can cause serious injury to skiers, tubers, wake boarders, or jet skiers.

To understand the risk, check out this video  
[www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=x3Bf0WhvsNk](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=x3Bf0WhvsNk)

Asian carp have plagued the Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers in recent years and are rapidly spreading throughout the Midwest. Two dams on the Little Sioux River had been preventing these fish's migration until flooding in 2011 allowed them to swim upstream and threaten our lakes.

**SOLUTION:** Prevent Asian carp from entering the Iowa Great Lakes from the Little Sioux River by installing an electric fish barrier near the existing DNR dam at the outlet of Iowa Great Lakes. This location will protect all of the Iowa Great Lakes. This barrier would be similar to a common carp electric fish barrier installed 20 years ago on a tributary to Heron Lake near Windom, Minnesota that has proven to be effective. For several months the DNR has been actively involved in designing an electric fish barrier at the Lower Gar Outlet location. The estimated cost of this barrier is \$700,000.

**FUNDING:** Iowa Senator David Johnson and Representatives Jeff Smith and John Wittneben have been requested to obtain state funds for this project. In order to obtain state funds we need to show strong community financial support for this electric fish barrier. For this reason we feel it is necessary to raise at least \$200,000 from the lakes community. This fund raising effort has a broad basis of support and needs everyone to provide financial support to show the legislature this concern is truly community wide

## Electric Fish Barrier -

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Q1 - Why are Asian Carp a concern for our lakes?

Both bighead and silver carp grow quickly outcompeting native fish for resources and their presence could cause ecological and water quality impacts. Bighead and silver carp can grow to nearly 4 feet long and weigh as much as 100 lbs. Silver carp can leap out of the water when startled by a boat resulting in potential danger to boaters and serious injury to skiers, tubers, wake boarders, or jet skiers.

#### Q2 - Can we wait until the Silver Asian Carp are in the Iowa Great Lakes and then kill them off?

Other states that are already infested have learned there is no effective way to kill the Asian Carp once they have infested your waters.

#### Q3 - Is there a better location for the electric fish barrier than at the Lower Gar Outlet?

No, the DNR already owns the land at the Lower Gar Outlet eliminating the time and expense of acquiring new land. In addition, if the electric fish barrier is placed further downstream there is a risk that fish coming out of the lakes would become trapped between the state dam and the electric fish barrier causing these fish to die after water levels go down.

#### Q4 - How does the electric fish barrier work? Will the electric fish barrier be effective?

An electric fish barrier uses a low voltage current to turn fish away. If a fish continues to move up stream they can become immobilized at which time the water current sweeps them back downstream. A 1995 study by South Dakota State University demonstrated that the Heron Lake electric fish barrier was effective in keeping common carp from entering Heron Lake from Jack and Okabena creeks. To view the SDSU study follow this link <http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/wfs/176-F.pdf>

#### Q5 - Why is the threat taking place now?

Flooding on the Missouri River and Little Sioux River in 2011 allowed fish to pass over two dams on the Little Sioux River that had previously worked to prevent fish from moving upstream.

#### Q6 - Protecting the Iowa Great Lakes from the Asian carp is a good idea, but are there other advantages for this electric fish barrier?

Yes, the installation of an electric fish barrier at the Lower Gar Outlet will help prevent game fish (e.g. walleye, muskie, and bass) from leaving the lake.

#### Q7 - Who will build and operate the electric fish barrier?

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will design and build the electric fish barrier with the help of experienced contractors with years of experience building electric fish barriers. The electric fish barrier will be designed to be effective for both high and low lake levels. Once the electric fish barrier is built the DNR will operate and maintain the electric fish barrier.

#### Q8 - What will happen to the funds raised if they are not needed to construct the electric fish barrier?

Any surplus funds raised for the electric fish barrier will be used by the lake protective associations to protect the Iowa Great Lakes from other Aquatic Invasive Species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil.

# THANK YOU

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Your contribution can be made to any of the lake protective associations. Contributions made to the non-profit 501C3 organizations listed below are tax deductible.

**Okoboji Protective Association**  
Mark Your Donation: Fish Barrier Fund  
PO Box 242  
Okoboji, IA 51355

**Spirit Lake Protective Association**  
Mark Your Donation: Fish Barrier Fund  
PO Box 51  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

**Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council**  
Mark Your Donation: Fish Barrier Fund  
PO Box 232  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

In addition to the above organizations, the Iowa Great Lakes Association and East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation support the immediate implementation of this electric fish barrier.