

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Ninth Coast Guard District

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5730
18 December 2009

Dear U.S. Senator,

In an effort to assist in protecting the Great Lakes from the potential invasion of Asian carp, the Coast Guard has been an active member of the Asian Carp Rapid Response Group Executive Committee. We have supported ongoing efforts through our various authorities. As such, I have signed a Temporary Interim Rule (TIR) to establish a safety zone and regulated navigation area on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, in Romeoville, IL. The regulated navigation area is in effect between mile markers 295 to 297.5, and the safety zone is in effect between mile markers 296.1 and 296.7. This encompasses the area surrounding the Army Corps of Engineers Electrical Fish Dispersal Barrier.

This TIR prohibits all vessels (towboats, barges, recreational craft) from transiting the safety zone if they intend to carry water obtained from one side of the safety zone and discharge that same water, in any form, within or on the other side of the safety zone. This applies to vessels north and south bound. If vessels intend to discharge water, they must request permission from the U.S. Coast Guard prior to transiting. The TIR requires any discharge to be done in a biologically sound manner.

This regulation serves as a precautionary measure to prevent the possible movement of live Silver or Asian carp, their viable eggs, or gametes across the electrical fish barrier via the discharge of water carried in vessels. There is no direct evidence that this is an actual bypass vector, but we believe it is a prudent measure to eliminate the possibility. A copy of the regulation is attached with this correspondence.

My External Affairs Officer, LT David French, is my primary liaison between your staff and the Coast Guard's Ninth District. Please feel free to contact him directly with your questions or concerns. He can be reached at (216) 902-6021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter V. Neffenger".

PETER V. NEFFENGER
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District