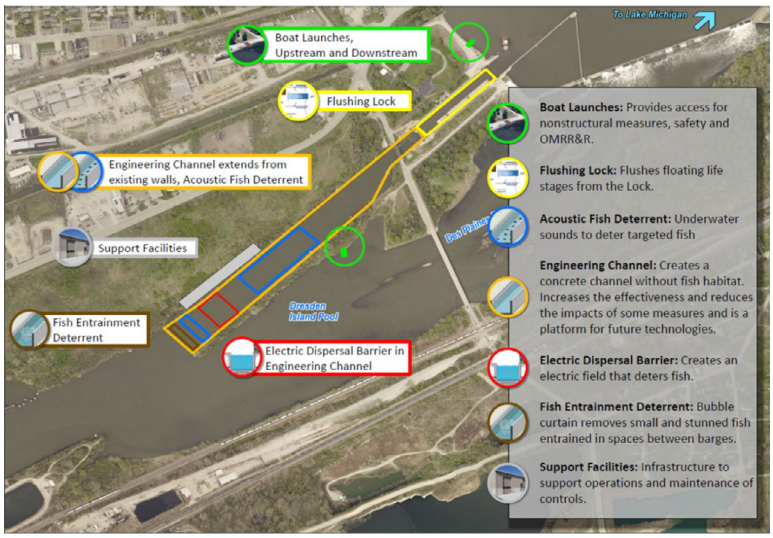
Fully Fund Invasive Carp Protections

The Alliance for the Great Lakes requests of the Biden administration and Congress:

- Appropriate additional construction funds in FY 2024 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may initiate construction on phase I of the project in May 2024.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should continue to provide the public and stakeholders with regular updates about the progress of the preconstruction, engineering, and design effort for Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

Background: Invasive carp pose a serious threat to the ecological health of the Great Lakes and the people and economies these waters support, including the region's $7 billion fishing and $16 billion recreational boating industries. Silver and bighead carp have already wreaked havoc on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, out-competing native fish for food and habitat and creating a safety threat for people who recreate on these waterways. Invasive carp grow rapidly, reproduce multiple times per year, adapt to new environments, and dominate ecosystems.



Brandon Road Lock and Dam – the next layer of protection against invasive carp

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified that additional structural and nonstructural measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, are the most feasible way to prevent the upstream migration of invasive carp. Congress agreed and authorized the Corps to proceed with its plans. The project is currently in the Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) phase (initiated in Dec. 2020). PED will take three years to complete and cost around $28.8 million. Illinois is the local sponsor for PED, and all nonfederal funds required for PED are secured from Illinois and Michigan. In January 2022, the Biden administration allocated $226 million in funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to the Brandon Road project, fully funding PED as well as the first phase of project construction. Also, in 2022, Congress adjusted the cost-share for the Brandon Road project to 90 percent federal in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This is because the project protects all eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces from the spread of invasive carp and allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to test technologies that could be deployed in other parts of the country to prevent the movement of aquatic invasive species. Additional details on the project are available at: https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/BR-Interbasin-Project/

Image Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ALLIANCE for the GREAT LAKES

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