

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



August 27, 2010

Asian Carp Targeted by Illinois Researchers Using BioSonics DT-X Echosounder

*Illinois Natural History Survey Seeks an Answer to the Million Dollar Question:
How Do We Stop the Asian Carp?*

SULLIVAN, IL. – The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) is helping solve one of our nation’s most significant biological problems; invasive Asian Carp threatening the Great Lakes’ estimated \$7 billion fishery. To better understand how far the carp have advanced and the extent of the problem, INHS will rely heavily on the science of hydroacoustics using a newly purchased DT-X digital scientific echosounder from BioSonics, Inc. Matt Diana, Fisheries Aquatic Research Biologist and project leader from INHS, chose a BioSonics echosounder based on its proven capabilities in accurately assessing fish populations. INHS has extensive experience working with BioSonics equipment and both state and provincial agencies across the Great Lakes have adopted BioSonics as a standard instrument for fisheries stock assessment. The



BioSonics DT-X Echosounder

The new BioSonics echosounder will allow Matt and his team to identify the location and size of individual carp in the river and make biomass estimates of the total carp population in different stretches of the river. As Diana explained, *“We will be using DT-X in tandem with multiple gear types to evaluate the ability of different gears to detect Asian Carp. Hydroacoustics will be employed to both detect the presence or absence of Asian Carp as well as determine densities where they are present.”* In doing so INHS hopes to aid in tracking the potential expansion of Asian Carp populations and help others to focus their efforts in stopping their advance.

Two species of Asian Carp—the bighead and silver carp—were imported into the southern United States to keep aquaculture facilities clean and to provide fresh fish for fish markets. Bighead and silver carp escaped into the wild in the 1980s and have been swimming northward ever since, overwhelming the Mississippi and Illinois River systems. Asian Carp are voracious eaters that compete directly with native fishes for food. The



Asian Carp

The Great Lakes are now at serious risk from Asian Carp, which have been found recently in the Chicago Waterway System connecting the Great Lakes to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



About INHS

Since 1858, the Illinois Natural History Survey has been the guardian and recorder of the biological resources of Illinois--the state's biological memory. With a staff of over 200 scientists and technicians, it is recognized as the premier natural history survey in the nation. Over the years, its mission has remained fairly constant: to investigate the diversity, life histories, and ecology of the plants and animals of the state; to publish research results so that those resources can be managed wisely; and to provide information to the public in order to foster an understanding and appreciation of our natural heritage.

About BioSonics

BioSonics is a manufacturing, consulting, and engineering firm specializing in the application of hydroacoustic (sonar) technology for monitoring and assessment of aquatic biological resources. For over thirty years, BioSonics scientific echosounders have been used for accurate assessment of fish abundance, distribution and behavior. Versatile and rugged design allow for installation in every aquatic environment imaginable. BioSonics offers a complete range of technical services to meet the unique criteria of each client's project goals and site requirements. Survey design, installation, data collection, environmental monitoring, data processing, analysis and reporting are our specialties.

Contact:

Eric Munday
General Sales Manager, [BioSonics, Inc.](http://www.biosonicsinc.com)
emunday@biosonicsinc.com
206 782 2211