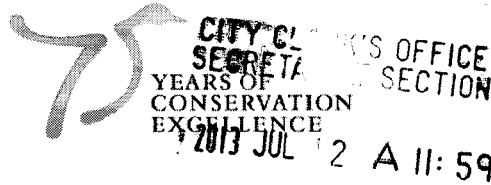


mm37.16.2



Mail to: clerk@toronto.ca

July 12, 2013

Mayor Rob Ford
Members of Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Reference Item #MM37.16

Dear Mayor Ford and Toronto City Councilors:

I am writing you today to support the motion MM37.16, recently moved by Councilor Mike Layton. Ducks Unlimited Canada strongly believes that taking immediate measures to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes needs to be an urgent priority for elected officials and policy makers at all levels of government on both sides of the Canada-U.S border and requires swift and decisive action.

We strongly recommend that the City of Toronto contact the Ministers of the Environment for the Government of Canada and Ontario, relevant US counterparts at the Department of the Interior, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Great Lakes Commission, to urge them to develop and implement coordinated actions that will prevent the entry of non-native Carp species into the Great Lakes.

Invasive Asian carp pose a significant threat to critical coastal wetlands and waterfowl. If they enter the Great Lakes, their potential to disrupt the food chain, damage coastal wetland habitat, and impact recreational boating is significant. The grass and black species of Asian carp would directly impact waterfowl habitat, due to their voracious appetite for submersed aquatic vegetation (in the case of grass carp), and mollusks and snails (in the case of black carp), which are important food sources for waterfowl. Non-native silver carp pose a threat to recreational boaters because they have a tendency to jump out of the water at the sound of a boat motor.

DUC and our sister organization in the United States, Ducks Unlimited Inc. strongly support the idea of ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, as well as utilization of a combination of barriers at other potential points of entry to prevent the dramatic consequences of Asian carp proliferation in the Great Lakes.

Evidence suggests Asian carp would also have a significantly negative impact on the regional economy of Southern Ontario, particularly the recreational boating and tourism industries, all of which are critical to the City of Toronto. The boating and tourism sector around the wider Great Lakes Basin, currently valued at approximately \$16 billion dollars, would be similarly impacted.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to act. Once established, there is very little chance of eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. Protecting the health of the Great Lakes and connected rivers requires immediate action and decisive leadership. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you move forward with this motion.

Should you wish discuss this letter and our position, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gloutney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Mark Gloutney
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Director of Regional Operations – Eastern Region

Cc: Dr. Karla Guyn, National Director of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited Canada
Paul Schmidt, National Director of Conservation, Ducks Unlimited Inc.
James W. (Jim) Brennan, Director of Government Affairs, Ducks Unlimited Canada.
Gildo Tori, Director of Public Policy, Great Lakes/Atlantic Region, Ducks Unlimited Inc.