

**NOTICE: ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY ZONE (CSSC, MM 296)**

Unconfirmed fish sampling results received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 suggest that Asian Carp are closer to the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Dispersal Barrier than previously believed. This prompted the USACE to propose an increase in voltage from 1 volt per inch to 2 volts per inch on Barrier IIA, as soon as possible. Operational testing of Barrier IIA will commence on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and is expected to take two days. Safety testing (using hopper barges and tugs in various towing configurations) will follow successful operational testing. Safety testing is expected to commence on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and is estimated to take two additional days.

During USACE operational and safety testing, the Coast Guard will be enforcing a safety zone encompassing all waters of the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal from mile marker 296.1 to mile marker 296.7. No person or vessel may enter the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port (COTP) or the on-scene Patrol Commander. The operational testing of the barrier will be carried out during day-light hours, from approximately 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., each day. The USACE is currently planning a single mid-afternoon break period at approximately 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. to allow vessel traffic to transit the area. However, these times are approximate and are dependent on the test performance of the barrier system. Notification of planned breaks will be made through Broadcast Notice to Mariners. However, even during these break periods, permission must be requested from the COTP or on-scene Patrol Commander prior to transiting.

After the operational testing of the barrier, safety testing will commence. Safety testing is expected to take two to three days and will have similar break periods to allow vessel traffic to transit the area.

If safety tests reveal new concerns, then a more extended period of canal closures may be necessary to ensure waterway safety in the area. In the event this occurs, additional information regarding economic impacts will be taken into consideration prior to a decision being made.

For additional information regarding this Notice, please contact Sector Lake Michigan, Prevention Department at 414-747-7182.