

RESTORING THE NATURAL DIVIDE

SEPARATING THE
GREAT LAKES AND
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASINS
IN THE CHICAGO AREA
WATERWAY SYSTEM

JANUARY 2012 // GREAT LAKES COMMISSION
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE



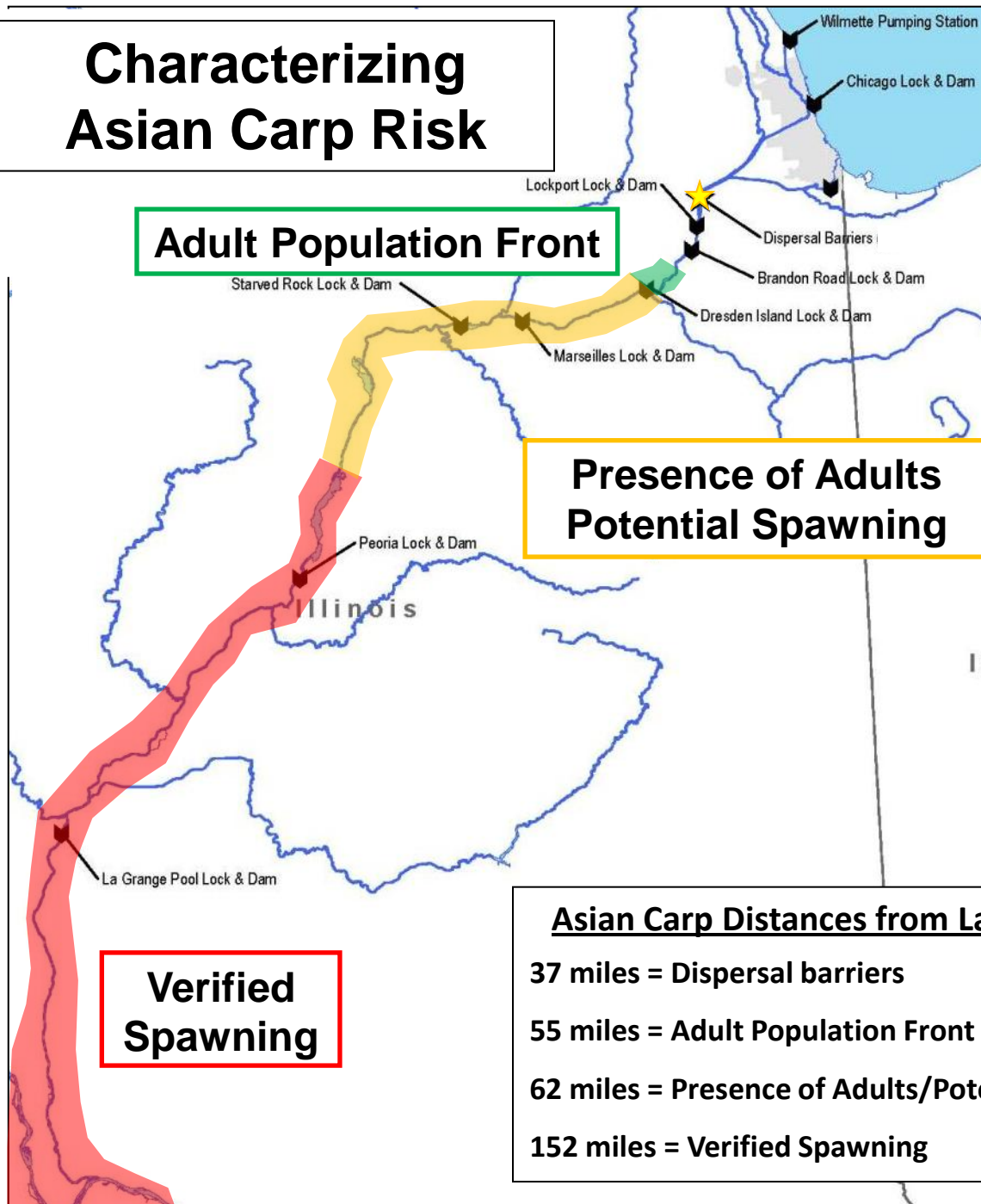
Water flow in the Chicago Area, circa 1900



Current water flow in the Chicago Area Waterway System



Characterizing Asian Carp Risk



Adult Population Front

**Presence of Adults
Potential Spawning**

**Verified
Spawning**

Asian Carp Distances from Lake Michigan

37 miles = Dispersal barriers

55 miles = Adult Population Front

62 miles = Presence of Adults/Potential Spawning

152 miles = Verified Spawning

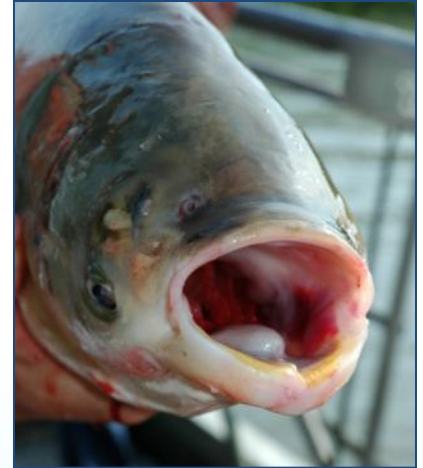


Source: Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC)

Purpose and Goals

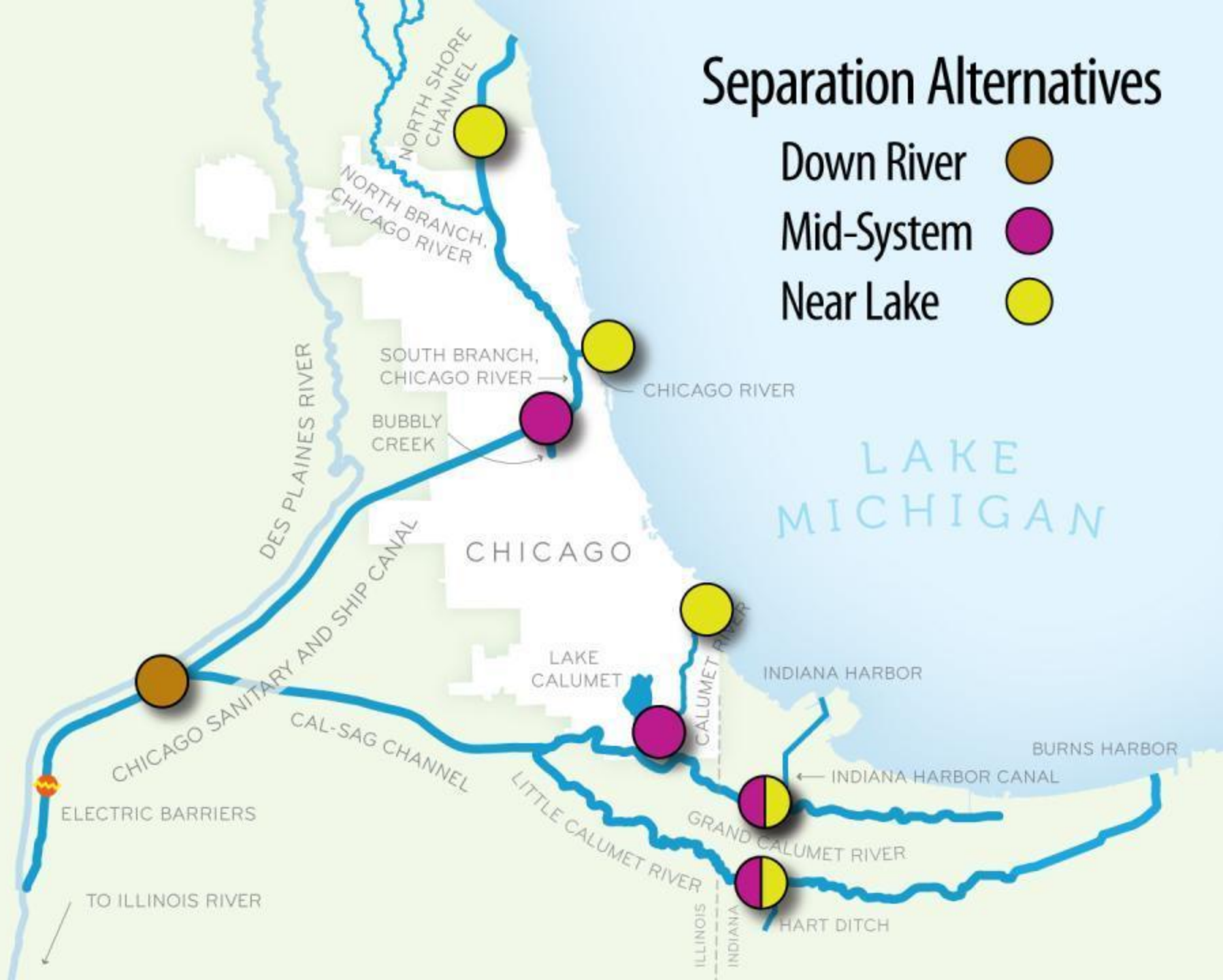
Develop alternatives to separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River watershed (in the CAWS) that will

- Prevent movement of all aquatic invasive species (AIS) between the watersheds
- Improve water quality
- Improve flood protection
- Improve commercial transportation



Separation Alternatives

- Down River 
- Mid-System 
- Near Lake 





Down River Alternative



Near Lake Alternative



Mid-System Alternative



Total Costs* (\$ Billions)



Flood Protection

Water Quality (Assuming stringent standards)

Transportation

Barriers

*Present value

Project Benefits

- **AIS costs avoided**
 - \$150M to \$500M annually; \$400M to \$9.5B long-term
- **Transportation**
 - New cargo potential, better intermodal connections
- **Water quality**
 - Expanded recreation and increased property values
- **Reduced flooding damage**
- **Employment impact**
 - 2,900 to 7,500 jobs per year

Willingness to Pay for Reduced AIS Risk

	Great Lakes Basin	Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins
Down River Alternative	\$24.50	\$8.74
Mid-System Alternative	\$11.01	\$3.93
Near Lake Alternative	\$24.60	\$8.77

(over the life of the project)

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