



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Reston, Virginia 20192

December 18, 2025

In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 911



The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) received your July 10, 2025, request for correction (Request) of information submitted under the Information [Data] Quality Act (IQA) regarding potential USGS dissemination of incomplete and potentially misleading information by omitting the scientific connection between nutrient enrichment and invasive Asian Carp recruitment. You submitted seven information products where you believe this omission occurs. Note that one of these was not a USGS-authored product, as stated below. For each product, you requested that information be added about the role of nutrient enrichment and eutrophic backwater habitats in invasive carp recruitment. Documentation related to this request may be viewed on the USGS web page at <https://www.usgs.gov/office-of-science-quality-and-integrity/information-quality-information-correction-request-20>. The USGS response to your Request is summarized below.

Three of the information products you cited in your Request, [USGS Invasive Carp Integrated Control and Containment](#), [USGS Invasive Carp Risk Assessment and Life History](#), and the [USGS Fact Sheet 2016–3063 – USGS Science and Technology Help Managers Battle Invading Asian Carp](#), summarize on-going USGS research on invasive carp at the time of publication. The USGS was not conducting research on the effect of nutrient enrichment and eutrophic backwaters on the recruitment of invasive carp at the time of their publication, nor was USGS disseminating information about this topic. Therefore, we conclude that no corrections are warranted for these three information products.

The product [USGS Invasive Carp Strategic Framework, 2023-27](#), also cited in your Request, summarizes on-going and planned research on invasive carp. At the time of publication, there were no plans to conduct research on the effect of nutrient enrichment and eutrophic backwater habitats on the recruitment of invasive carp, nor did USGS disseminate information about this topic. The USGS works closely with state and federal partners to provide science needed to better contain and manage invasive carp, and this is not a priority that has been discussed by partners. In addition, the [USGS Invasive Carp Open Data Hub](#) is not currently developing nutrient-enrichment risk layers and nursery condition variables, and therefore does not disseminate information about these variables. For these reasons, we conclude that no corrections

are warranted for either of these information products.

Your Request also cited the product [species profile for the Bighead Carp](#) in the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) database. Although species profiles in the NAS database include a section on ecology, they cover only highlights of each species' ecology in several general categories (such as habitat, reproductive requirements, diet, age at maturity, fecundity, and time required for egg development). None of the 20 species profiles of invasive fishes in the NAS database reviewed by the USGS in response to your Request disseminated information about factors limiting recruitment. Therefore, no correction is warranted for this information product.

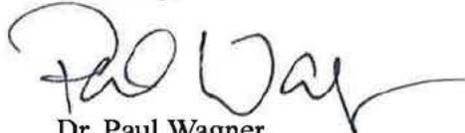
As mentioned above, the product [2025 Invasive Carp Monitoring and Response Plan for the Illinois Waterway](#) is not a USGS-authored publication. As an interagency product written by the Monitoring and Response Workgroup, which is co-chaired by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the product falls outside the USGS Information Quality Guidelines and cannot be considered for a response by the USGS.

This serves as the final USGS response to close out your IQA Request. The right to appeal is available if there is any dissatisfaction with our response. The appeal should be addressed to the Director, USGS, and it must be submitted to the USGS (via email to [InfoQual@usgs.gov](mailto:InfoQual@usgs.gov)) within 21 calendar days of the date of this final USGS response. Additional information on the procedure for submitting an appeal is found on the [USGS Information Quality Guidelines website](#) under section IV, item 4.

Thank you for your interest in invasive carp research and for bringing your concerns to our attention. You may find additional resources on the Department of Interior's efforts to detect and manage invasive carp below:

- <https://www.fws.gov/project/managing-invasive-carp>
- <https://icrc.fws.gov/>
- <https://www.fws.gov/project/invasive-carp-early-detection-monitoring>
- <https://www.fws.gov/program/aquatic-invasive-species>

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Wagner  
Acting Associate Director  
USGS Ecosystems Mission Area