

# Battle to curb invasion of Asian carp

Chicago may block its canal system to prevent Asian carp infesting the Great Lakes, the world's largest fresh water resource. The move could take 25 years, cost up to \$18bn, and cause huge economic disruption

**ASIAN CARP:** Native to Far East. Introduced to southern U.S. states to control algae in sewage treatment plants. Escaped into Mississippi River in 1990s

Over one metre long, they have displaced indigenous species

*Bighead Carp*



Lake Michigan

Lake Superior

Lake Huron

Lake Ontario

Distribution of **Bighead Carp** and **Silver Carp** – species threatening Great Lakes ecosystems

UNITED STATES

500km  
310 miles

Chicago

Lake Erie:

Bighead carp reported as early as 1995

## CHICAGO WATERWAY SYSTEM



## BLOCKING CANAL SYSTEM

Asian carp pose major threat to \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery

Barge operators and other shippers say 14 million tonnes a year of commodities would be disrupted or halted

Cheaper options under consideration include making fish burgers and eating carp to extinction!

