

ELECTRIC FISH BARRIER

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY UNIT CHICAGO 630-986-2155

BACKGROUND

The electric fish barrier was constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the authority of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Act to prevent Asian Carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Illinois River system. The barrier works by generating a low-voltage electric field across the canal that prevents Asian Carp from migrating further upstream. Field testing conducted by the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers indicated that the fish barrier posed a significant risk to commercial and recreational navigation. To mitigate this risk, navigational and operational restrictions have been placed on all vessels transiting through the barrier.



REGULATED NAVIGATION AREA

The electrical dispersal barrier is located on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal between the north side of the Romeo Highway Bridge at Mile Marker 296.1 and the aerial pipeline arch located at Mile Marker 296.7. All vessels are prohibited from loitering in the vicinity of the electrical dispersal barrier. All personnel on open decks must wear a Coast Guard approved Type I personal flotation device while in the vicinity until subsequent field testing determines the waters in this area do not pose significant risk of electrical shock. Vessels may not moor or lay up on the right or left descending banks. Vessels may not pass (meet or overtake) in the vicinity and must make a SECURITE call when approaching the barrier to announce intentions and work out passing arrangements on either side. If a person falls into the water in the vicinity of the fish barrier, efforts should be made to have the person removed from the water outside the barrier field. Touching a person in the water in the vicinity of the barrier may result in an electric shock. For questions or additional information, contact Marine Safety Unit Chicago at (630) 986-2155.