



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor
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What's the Answer?

Grades 9 – 12

HS-LS2-7 Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.

Summary:

A Congressional Committee meeting will be simulated to gather information regarding the possible effects of invasive carps entering Lake Michigan, in general, and through the waterways of Illinois, in particular. Included in the testimony before the committee will be people effected by not only the actual invasion of the lake by these species, but also from the methods used to prevent them from reaching the lake.

Objective:

Students will: (1) research stakeholder points of view concerning invasive carps and Lake Michigan; and (2) based on their assigned role, students will lobby for the best solution to the situation.

Materials:

Article: *Is Brandon Road Lock and Dam Wall in Joliet a Feasible Invasive Carp Solution?*

By Jon Styf, Northwest Herald, Posted December 14, 2017, one copy per participant or group or use Web-based article (See Web address on next page.)

Stakeholder Cards, one per participant or group

Other resource articles/publications on the topic

Additional Participants:

Congressional Committee Chairperson

Other Congressional Committee Members

Procedure:

1. Have the students read the article provided. Conduct a general discussion on the issue.

2. Tell students that they will be conducting a simulated Congressional Committee hearing to gather information regarding the possible effects of invasive carps entering Lake Michigan, in general, and through the waterways of Illinois, in particular. Included in the testimony before the committee will be people effected by not only the actual invasion of the lake by these species, but also from the methods used to prevent them from reaching the lake.

3. Each student should be assigned a role as a stakeholder, Congressional Committee Chairperson or Congressional Committee Member. You may want to assign stakeholder groups instead of stakeholder individuals depending on the number of students in your class. Allow students time to research and prepare for his/her role. The Congressional Committee Chairperson and Members should research how to set up and run the hearing and make a set of possible questions to ask of the stakeholders.

4. Allow each stakeholder group/individual to testify before the committee in a defined time period. Include enough time for the committee members to ask questions of each presenter.

5. After testimony and questions, dismiss the committee for discussion (or allow the Chairperson time to make a recommendation, if there are no other committee members). Have the Chairperson make a recommendation on the issue based on the testimony.

Extension:

1. Now that the recommendation has been declared, have the class formulate a plan to execute this method.
2. Have the students add additional shareholders and their interests to the list.

Evaluation:

What is the best way to handle this issue? Disregard the role you were assigned and write a position paper to answer this question and support your answer with facts.

Article URL:

<http://www.theherald-news.com/lists/2017/12/14/77234c18b5eb493d9ca749685c4432f8/index.xml?page=2>

Mayor of Chicago, Illinois

Concerns:

Environmental Impact on Lake Michigan and the Chicago River and tributaries

Economic Impact on City

Political Impact

Governor, State of Michigan

Concerns:

Environmental Impact on Lake Michigan

Economic Impact on State

Political Impact

Tugboat and Lock and Dam Owners/Operators

Concerns:

Safety

Economic Impact on Company/Organization

Personal Employment Impact

Charter Fishing Operators

Concerns:

Safety

Economic Impact on Company/Organization

Personal Employment Impact

Customer Satisfaction

Bait Store Owners

Concerns:

Economic Impact on Company/Organization

Personal Employment Impact

Local Recreational Fisherpersons

Concerns:

Effect on Recreational Opportunities