



RESOLUTION

Adopted November 19, 2020

Advancing Prevention and Control of Invasive Asian Carp

Whereas, the Great Lakes Commission has a 30-year history of engagement on efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Great Lakes basin; and

Whereas, four species of nonnative carp — bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), black (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), grass (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and silver (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) carp, collectively known as invasive Asian carp — pose an imminent threat to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem and economy because of their ability to reproduce rapidly and consume large quantities of food; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes provide the backbone for a multisector \$6 trillion regional economy that includes a \$7 billion commercial and sport fishing industry and a \$15 billion recreational boating industry that could be severely impacted if Asian carp become established in the Great Lakes basin; and

Whereas, in response to the magnitude of the Asian carp threat, numerous agencies and organizations are involved and multiple plans are in place to meet the threat at the basin, regional and national scale in the United States and Canada; and

Whereas, full funding for the national Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States (“National Plan”), the U.S. Asian Carp Action Plan, Canada’s Asian Carp Response Plan and associated agency efforts is necessary for effective monitoring and control efforts against Asian carp, including the ability to respond quickly to new detections, implement emergency actions, enforce regulations, develop and implement new management techniques and maintain coordinated efforts that leverage expertise and resources from multiple federal, Tribal, regional, state, provincial and local agencies; and

Whereas, Asian carp may be introduced and spread through activities within the commercial fishing, aquaculture, transportation, bait, pet, aquarium, and live fish market industries despite federal, state and provincial regulations that are in place and designed to prevent the introduction and spread of Asian carp via these pathways; and

Whereas, cooperation across the jurisdictions is needed to effectively enforce these regulations for the Great Lakes basin and is supported through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Law Enforcement Committee and the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperative Enforcement Operations; and

Whereas, U.S. and Canadian resource agencies recognize that grass carp and their presence and reproduction in the western Lake Erie basin is a high priority requiring focused and aggressive assessment and control action and are

implementing a Lake Erie Grass Carp Response Strategy working in partnership via the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Erie Committee; and

Whereas, states are actively developing and investing in control measures and closing waterway connection points to combat further spread of Asian carp, including those listed in the 2013 Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Focus Area 2 summary report and other control points in the Mississippi River basin; and

Whereas, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, with support from partners through the Asian Carp Regional Coordination Committee (ACRCC), is pursuing multiple important and necessary control measures including extensive monitoring, population assessment and harvesting efforts in the Illinois River, and is implementing a brand and marketing strategy to support fish processors and product makers in increasing silver and bighead carp product sales; and

Whereas, ACRCC agencies and partners are investigating different technologies and treatment methods that could be applied in a lock chamber to reduce the risk that Asian carp or other AIS could move through a lock, while minimizing harmful impacts to the ecology and beneficial use of water resources, avoiding damage to vessels and infrastructure, and maintaining safe working environments for public and mariners; and

Whereas, in 2014, the USACE released the complete GLMRIS Report, which evaluated options and technologies available to prevent the spread of multiple AIS in either direction between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) and other aquatic pathways; and

Whereas, in 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented a recommended plan in a Chief's Report for the Brandon Road Study, to construct a new one-way Asian carp control point at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and the U.S. Congress has proposed legislation to authorize this project; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers support Congressional authorization and funding for engineering and design options for a Brandon Road project, and the state of Illinois is the nonfederal sponsor for the project and will work with other jurisdictions and stakeholders in the region; and

Whereas, the Brandon Road project only addresses movement of Asian carp and other AIS from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin and additional action is needed to prevent movement of AIS in the opposite direction; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission calls on the U.S. Congress and the administration to provide sufficient funding for base agency programs and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to ensure full implementation of the Asian Carp Action Plan, National Plan, and associated prevention and control measures for Asian carp; and

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission calls for continued action by U.S. federal partners to support states in their efforts to further identify, research, monitor, harvest, and implement control measures to reduce and strive to eliminate the degree of risk from connection points in addition to the Chicago Area Waterway System;

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission supports flexibility in the design of control points to allow for the installation of technology and control measures that are available now, or may be available in the future, to reduce the risk of AIS movement to maximum extent possible while complying with all applicable state regulations; and

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission calls on the U.S. Congress to authorize and appropriate funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to engineer, design, and construct a new one-way, north-bound control point at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to prevent the movement of Asian carp and other AIS from the Mississippi River into the Great Lakes basin; and

Be it further resolved, that the federal cost-share for a control point at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam should reflect Congress' acknowledgement that this project is a national priority, and the federal cost-share for the entirety of the project should minimize the fiscal burden on the nonfederal sponsor and other supporting states and provinces; and

Be it further resolved, the Great Lakes Commission urges the U.S. Congress and administration to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District's request for funding to develop options for a one-way, south-bound control point(s) to help prevent the transfer of AIS from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River basin and other water bodies; and

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission calls for and offers its services to support continued national and binational coordination and collaboration among all involved parties in the implementation of the Asian Carp Action Plan, National Plan, and other short- and long-term actions to prevent the further introduction and spread of Asian carp; and

Be it further resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission supports the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec who work collaboratively with partners to identify and execute projects supporting short-term and long-term actions to prevent the further introduction and spread of Asian carp and offers its continued commitment to coordinate and collaborate on shared efforts for the benefit of the region; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission offers its services to support the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee and its partners in efforts to identify and accelerate development and implementation of the most promising technologies for long-term control of Asian carp, and establish specific goals and targets to prevent their further introduction and spread, reflecting the widespread and persistent nature of the problem.

*Adopted at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, November 17-19, 2020, held online.
The resolution was passed unanimously.*