



IT'S TIME TO ACT ON INVASIVE CARP

For decades invasive carp (silver, bighead, black and grass carp) have been working their way up the Mississippi River toward Minnesota. Hundreds have been caught in the state so far, but they are not reproducing here yet. We have a small window of time to prevent a total takeover of our waterways if we act now.

Invasive carp outcompete native fish for food and space, leading to a decline in ecosystem diversity and water quality in rivers where they are established. Silver carp can even injure boaters when they jump out of the water, decimating recreation and tourism.

**We have new solutions to prevent invasive carp from taking over our waterways.
We must implement them now by passing bills to fund these solutions (SF 2037 and HF 2389).**

Time is running out

In Minnesota, invasive carp have been recorded in the Mississippi River as far north as the Twin Cities metro and in the St. Croix and Minnesota rivers. Invasive carp captures in Minnesota have increased in recent years. DNR reports 18 captures in 2019, 83 in 2020 and 71 in 2021. In 2022, a tagged silver carp traveled 35 miles upstream in a single day to Lock and Dam 5.

While DNR reports that reproductive activity is still further downstream outside of Minnesota waters, carp populations often explode unexpectedly. Nobody knows when our stretch of the river will reach a tipping point of no return.

We have only a small window of time to stop invasive carp before they start reproducing in Lake Pepin, the metro Mississippi, the St. Croix and Minnesota rivers, and other treasured waterways.

Prevention only, no cure

There is no “cure” for invasive carp. Once these species dominate an ecosystem, government agencies spend millions of dollars trying to mitigate the damage with limited success. Tourism and recreation suffer as boating becomes dangerous and fishing conditions turn poor.

The much more effective and cost-efficient option is to prevent carp from reaching as much of Minnesota as possible.

Solutions at hand

Invasive carp prevention and management requires the use of several tools and tactics. Right now, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources doesn't have enough funding to implement the right strategies at a sufficient scale.

The bill will fund these strategies:

- Installation of a deterrent system at Lock and Dam 5 to block upstream movement;
- Adjustments to lock gates to improve deterrent efficacy;
- Expansion of fish surveys, tracking and removal programs;
- Ecosystem resiliency efforts for native fish; and
- Continued research.

**Deterrent could help
Lock and Dam 5 block
99%
of invasive carp
from traveling upstream.**

With this additional funding, the DNR can address this threat with a multi-pronged approach that will prevent invasive carp from taking over Minnesota's waterways and protect native fish and recreation.

ABOUT STOP CARP COALITION

Established in 2012, the Stop Carp Coalition is a diverse group of nonprofit organizations that include sportsmen and women, private property owners, conservation and environmental groups that have been working together to advance strategies to stop and/or slow invasive carp from advancing further north into Minnesota's waters.

Together the Coalition helped pass federal legislation that closed the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock in 2015 as a means of stopping the upstream migration of invasive carp and protect waters upstream. They've continued to work together to advance strategies that protect all waters in the state by supporting research and legislation and continuing to raise the visibility of the issue with key state and federal decision-makers.

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