

American Fisheries Society
Southern Division
Adopted February 8, 2013

RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL PLAN FOR BIGHEAD,
BLACK, GRASS, AND SILVER CARPS IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution the term “Asian Carp” refers to four species: black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and;

WHEREAS, feral bighead, grass and silver carp have all established reproducing populations in several major rivers in the United States and;

WHEREAS, “the continued captures of adult black carp in Louisiana and in other parts of the Mississippi River Basin provide strong evidence that the species is reproducing and already firmly established” in the United States (Nico et al. 2005) and;

WHEREAS, bighead carp, black carp, grass carp and silver carp have been reported from 23, 44 and 15 states, respectively and;

WHEREAS scientific risk modeling based on climate match predicts the potential geographic range of Asian carp to include most of the United States and much of North America (Mandrak and Cudmore 2004; Nico et al. 2005; Cudmore and Mandrak 2011) and;

WHEREAS, Asian carp have become established and thrive in the altered conditions of river ecosystems in the interior of the United States and;

WHEREAS, bighead carp and silver carp directly compete with native planktivorous fishes and the abundance and condition of native fishes have decreased in portions of the Mississippi River Basin following the establishment of bighead and silver carp (Irons et al. 2007, Phelps et al. *unpublished data*) and;

WHEREAS, silver carp pose a threat to human safety due to their jumping behavior when startled and have caused numerous personal injuries and property damage to recreational boaters and fishers (Kolar et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, fishing, hunting, boating, and other wildlife-associated recreation may be adversely affected by feral populations of bighead and silver carps (Kolar et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, the life history traits of Asian carp indicate that these four species have a high probability of causing ecological and economic effects where populations become established (Mandrak and Cudmore 2004, Kolar et al. 2007; Nico et al. 2005) and in some locations of the Mississippi River Basin, such effects have occurred and;

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WHEREAS, using risk assessment methods described by the Risk Assessment and Management Committee (1996) the US Geological Survey concluded that the organism risk potentials for bighead, black, and silver carps were all high meaning that these fish present an unacceptable risk (Kolar et al. 2007; Nico et al. 2005) and;

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service added all forms of live bighead, black and silver carps to the list of injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act, prohibiting their importation and interstate transport except for limited permitted purposes and;

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force organized an Asian Carp Working Group to develop a comprehensive national Asian Carp management and control plan and;

WHEREAS, the Asian Carp Working Group was charged with developing a plan that first and foremost protects our Nation's natural resources and using a collaborative process that effort was highly successful and that group published the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* in 2007 (National Plan; Conover et al. 2007) which developed 48 strategies and 131 recommendations to manage and control Asian Carps and;

WHEREAS, implementation of the National Plan should begin immediately to prevent further introduction and to stop the spread of Asian Carps into uninvaded waters throughout the United States (Conover et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for implementation of those strategies and recommendations in the National Plan is approximately \$286,000,000 over 20 years, and;

WHEREAS, the 13 federal agency members of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force have not received federal appropriations or begun to implement the National Plan since it was approved for implementation in 2007 and;

WHEREAS, Congress established the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act; Section 1201) with authority to develop and implement programs to prevent, monitor, and control introductions of aquatic nuisance species in waters of the United States (NANPCA; Section 1202),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 8th day of February in the year 2013 at Nashville, Tennessee urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$286,000,000 over 20 years to fully implement all the strategies and recommendations contained in the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* as approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 2007.