



Friends of the Mississippi River

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Working to protect the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities

Friends of the Mississippi River Board Resolution

Adopted November 16, 2011

Whereas the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities is one of the most significant natural, cultural, historical, recreational and economic resources in the State of Minnesota;

Whereas the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in Minnesota are of great national significance, including the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge;

Whereas the Mississippi River provides an essential element of the national, state and regional transportation system, except for the locks and dams in Minneapolis and St. Paul;

Whereas the Mississippi River and its watershed in Minnesota provide critical habitat for native fish and wildlife species;

Whereas the Mississippi River and its many tributaries in Minnesota provide potential pathways to the Lake Superior and Red River watersheds;

Whereas Asian Carp breeding populations have caused major ecosystem disruption in the Illinois River and in the Mississippi River in Illinois and southern Iowa;

Whereas evidence of Asian Carp has been found in the St. Croix River and in the Mississippi River below Lock and Dam No. 1, in the heart of the Twin Cities, and in the Minnesota River just above its confluence with the Mississippi;

Whereas Asian Carp threaten to cause immeasurable damage to Minnesota's lakes and rivers, its recreational tourism economy and the quality of life enjoyed by Minnesota residents and visitors; and;

Whereas Governor Mark Dayton has released an "Action Plan to Stop the Spread of Asian Carp into Minnesota Waters";

Therefore the Friends of the Mississippi River Board of Directors supports the following actions:

1. Begin immediate implementation of Governor Dayton's Action Plan and facilitate a cooperative approach among state and federal agencies to obtain necessary funding and authority to support efforts to limit the spread of Asian carp in Minnesota and its border waters;

2. Facilitate immediate congressional action to provide authority for and direct the Army Corps of Engineers to execute emergency closure of Lock #1 and the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, until a long-term solution for stopping Asian Carp can be implemented;
3. Secure emergency and long-term federal funding to support a multi-state effort to limit or stop the upstream progress of Asian Carp breeding populations into Minnesota's rivers and lakes
4. Examine the potential efficacy, and, if feasible, install deterrent barriers at strategic downstream locations that will substantially slow or stop the upstream migration of Asian carp into the Twin Cities, and protect the St. Croix, Vermillion, and Minnesota rivers and the Mississippi River throughout the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.
5. Implement long-term actions to accelerate research on Asian Carp population size and movements, habitat suitability, and safe, effective fish behavior control and removal technologies; and
6. Improve habitat and population density for native aquatic species so they can better compete with Asian Carp.