

STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO ASIAN CARP INVASION ACT (HR 6385)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) and Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH)

ASIAN CARP THREATEN THE ECONOMIES AND ECO-SYSTEMS OF 16 STATES IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVER BASINS.

- *Upper Mississippi River Basin:* Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan
- *Ohio River Basin:* Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, New York, Indiana, and Illinois

Four invasive species of Asian Carp are quickly spreading into water bodies in these states and devastating native plant life and fish populations.

- *Bighead:* Can weigh up to 110 pounds. Known risks include rapid range expansion and population increase which could decrease abundance of native mussels, other invertebrates, and fishes.
- *Silver:* Can weigh up to 60 pounds and can jump at least 10 feet out of the water. Known risks include rapid range expansion and population increase which could decrease native mussels, other invertebrates, and fishes.
- *Grass:* Can eliminate vast areas of aquatic plants that are important as fish food and spawning and nursery habitats.
- *Black:* Can reduce abundance of already rare snails, mussels, and other invertebrates.

States cannot afford the economic impact of Asian Carp infestation -
Minnesota's water recreation economy alone is worth \$4 billion and is under threat.

H.R. 6385 CREATES A FEDERAL STRATEGY TO CONFRONT ASIAN CARP IN TWO OF THE NATION'S MOST SIGNIFICANT WATERSHEDS.

Today, there is no federal strategy to slow the spread of Asian Carp in the Upper Mississippi or Ohio River Basins. Several federal agencies are working to address the threat of Asian Carp in these regions, but their efforts should be more coordinated and focused.

This bill places the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the lead of a new multi-agency effort that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. H.R. 6385 directs these agencies to develop a coordinated strategy for supporting state and regional efforts with high-level technical assistance, best practices, coordination and other resources.

H.R. 6385 includes a section of findings and requires an annual report to Congress.

For more information contact:

Congresswoman Betty McCollum – Paula Sunde (5-6631; paula.sunde@mail.house.gov)

Congressman Steve LaTourette – Sarah Cannon (5-5731; sarah.cannon@mail.house.gov)