



STOP ASIAN CARP!

PRESS STATEMENT

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Statement By: Christine Goepfert and Marc Smith, Stop Carp Coalition Co-Chairs

Update: On May 15, 2014, the full WRRDA bill was released, and it also includes a provision that will ensure we have a new federal focus on the threat of invasive carp in the Upper Mississippi River once it passes.

“We applaud Representative Betty McCollum’s leadership to include a provision that establishes a comprehensive strategy to combat Asian carp in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River basins by creating a federal multi-agency task force led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will coordinate federal efforts to combat this threat in the region. This provision was supported by the entire Minnesota delegation.

Stop Carp Coalition Applauds Final Water Infrastructure Bill that Includes New Tool to Help Fight Invasive Carp in Minnesota’s Waters

Statement:

“Today, the Conference Committee released the final Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), which must now go to the full Senate and House of Representatives for final passage. This bill addresses various aspects of water resource management across the country, and thanks to our Congressional delegation, it will also provide us with a new tool to use in the fight against invasive carp – also known as Asian carp – in Minnesota’s waterways once it passes.

“We applaud Senator Amy Klobuchar and Representative Keith Ellison for their leadership efforts to include language in the final bill that will require closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock in Minneapolis within one year of the bill’s passage, in order to help stop the spread

of invasive carp further northward and effectively protect thousands of miles of rivers and lakes upstream. We thank U.S. Senator Franken and Minnesota Representatives Nolan, Paulsen and Walz for supporting this important effort. Rep. Nolan also served on the conference committee that ushered this bill forward.

“It is clear that invasive carp are in Minnesota waterways and making their way upstream. There have been several catches of invasive carp in the Mississippi River in Minnesota, and the U.S. Geological Survey recently identified invasive carp eggs in samples taken from the Mississippi River near Lynxville, Wisconsin. This discovery means invasive carp have spawned much farther north than previously recorded. We must do all we can to stop this northward invasion of Minnesota’s waters and the final WRRDA bill will help us do just that. We look forward to swift passage of this important legislation.

“Looking ahead, we must continue to work to protect waters further downstream, including the St. Croix and Minnesota River basins. The Coalition supports funding for research to continue to study the species, identify vulnerabilities and discover ways to slow their march north. The Coalition also calls on recreational river users to stay in one pool and don’t use the locks. Each time the locks are opened, we expose a potential pathway for invasive carp to move upstream.

Please visit www.stopcarp.org to learn more about how you can help us in this invasive species fight.

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About Stop Carp Coalition: The Stop Carp Coalition is a group of more than 20 groups representing sportsmen and women, private property owners, anglers, conservation and environmental organizations that is collaborating to bring attention to the Asian Carp issue in Minnesota, educate the public and elected officials about impacts to our environment and economy, mobilize our combined thousands of members and supporters, and advocate for quick and strategic initiatives to slow and/or stop the invasion of these harmful invasive species in Minnesota waters. Member organizations include: Anglers for Habitat, Audubon Minnesota, Central Minnesota Audubon Society, Clean Water Action – Minnesota, Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance, Conservation Minnesota, Friends of the Mississippi River, Friends of Pool 2, FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc., Izaak Walton League of America – MN Division, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Midwest Marina Association, Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA), Minnesota Conservation Federation, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, Minnesota Trout Association, Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Mississippi River Fund, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, St. Croix River Association, and Wilderness Inquiry. For more information, visit: www.stopcarp.org