



March 25, 2024

Dear Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Members:

As members of the Stop Carp Coalition, we are writing to share our support for including an invasive carp deterrent as part of your 2024 funding recommendations.

Established in 2012, the Stop Carp Coalition is a diverse group of nonprofit organizations that include sportsmen and women, private property owners, and 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.

Stopping invasive carp, which are being caught increasing numbers in the Mississippi River in southern Minnesota, requires every tool and tactic we have available. The Minnesota DNR recognizes the importance of this integrated pest management approach in the agency's recently updated Invasive Carp Action Plan. During the last legislative session, the DNR was appropriated \$1.72 million to begin plan implementation, which is underway.

However, more funding is needed for a key element of the plan: a deterrent system at Lock and Dam 5. This deterrent system is supported by LCCMR-funded research that found this site to be the most effective location for a deterrent in Minnesota, offering strong protection for the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin along with tributaries such as the Minnesota and St. Croix rivers.

Invasive carp deterrents are being tested elsewhere and are proving to be effective. Minnesota has the opportunity to capitalize on this new technology to protect our waters in ways that downstream states could not.

If we don't act now, invasive carp will continue their expansion into Minnesota waterways. As these fish damage river recreation, riverfront communities, and aquatic ecosystems, the cost to manage them will only increase. Illinois spends \$10 million each year on removal alone. Preventative deterrent systems are much more cost-effective and ensure much better outcomes for every Minnesotan who loves boating, fishing, paddling, and other river recreation.

We hope that the Outdoor Heritage Council will vote to include an invasive carp deterrent in your 2024 recommendations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stop Carp Coalition

Coalition Members:

Christine Goepfert, Midwest Campaign Director, National Parks Conservation Association

Whitney Clark, Executive Director, Friends of the Mississippi River

Rylee Hince, Executive Director, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance

Brad Gasuman, Executive Director, Minnesota Conservation Federation

Craig Sterle, Past President, MN Division – Izaak Walton League