

What is WDNR doing about Asian Carp?



Outreach and education

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources coordinates with an extensive network of aquatic invasive species (AIS) professionals and volunteers on outreach efforts to inspect boats and ensure boaters and anglers take steps to prevent spreading aquatic invasive species. DNR efforts are also ongoing to reach industries at risk of importing Asian Carp and other AIS, including the aquaculture industry, bait dealers and pet stores.

Bait harvest regulation

The Department has banned the harvest of bait fish from the Mississippi River and its tributaries to avoid spreading fish disease or having young Asian carp, which resemble popular bait species, from being taken to another water for use as bait.

Enforcement

WDNR has banned the sale, transport, possession and introduction of live bighead, black, grass and silver carp. The state is partnering in a multi-state effort to inspect interstate fish transport carriers for live Asian Carp.

Supporting research

WDNR is supporting research by USGS to find ways of eradicating Asian carp and other AIS species or limit their ability to spread to other waters.

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Monitoring at-risk waterways

Since 2003, the Department has been monitoring for Asian Carp in Pool 11 of the Mississippi River in and around the mouth of Cassville Slough. DNR is also partnering with the University of Notre Dame and others to test for Asian carp DNA in the state's Lake Michigan tributaries and harbors. Commercial fish harvesters in the Mississippi River report any Asian Carp captures to WDNR.

Posting rivers and streams

WDNR has worked with partners to post signs at stream access sites alerting boaters about the need to take prevention measures before leaving the stream.

Fish passage

The Department is developing guidance on fish passage projects to ensure Asian Carp and other AIS are prevented from moving upstream.

Habitat protection

WDNR is working to protect and restore the Upper Mississippi River as a diverse ecosystem with quality habitat. Research shows that diverse, healthy ecosystems fare better when coping with invasive species.

Prevention planning

WDNR has worked with multiple state and federal agencies to develop action plans to prevent the spread of carp and other aquatic invasive species in the Mississippi River system and to the Great Lakes.

For more information, contact:

Bob Wakeman, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
141 NW Barstow St, Room 180
Waukesha, WI 53188
(262) 574-2149 robert.wakeman@wisconsin.gov



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