

RESOLUTION
PROTECTING NATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY:
REGULATION OF NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES
INCLUDING BLACK CARP (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)

Sponsors of the resolution: Members of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

To whom the resolution is addressed: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), and other state and federal natural resources agencies and persons in those agencies responsible for management of fisheries and aquatic biodiversity; the President of the United States; the Governor of Arkansas, the U.S. Congressional delegation from the State of Arkansas; and the American Fisheries Society (AFS).

The issue: In accordance with the American Fisheries Society, the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society recognizes the tremendous impacts that non-indigenous species have on native aquatic species and ecosystems. Black carp, a large Asian fish used in the aquaculture industry, poses such a threat, especially to native mollusks and crayfish.

Black carp have been imported by the aquaculture industry to control yellow grubs and other parasites in aquaculture ponds. Although this species was first introduced into the U.S. in the 1970s, its use has escalated in recent years due to an introduced trematode parasite that has had detrimental impacts to farm-raised catfish and the associated aquaculture industry. As a result, both triploid and diploid black carp have been stocked into channel catfish ponds in Arkansas and other states, and the risk that these fish will populate natural waterways is significant.

The proposed solution: The Arkansas Chapter AFS urges state and federal fisheries agencies and organizations, and the aquaculture industry, to work cooperatively toward implementation of the following actions in order to limit risks to natural ecosystems posed by black carp and other non-indigenous species while promoting efforts to effectively control fish parasites in the aquaculture industry:

1. AGFC should take immediate action to implement restrictions on black carp by developing an Arkansas Black Carp Certification and Regulation Program. All black carp at large in the state should be certified triploids. Steps should be taken to replace diploid black carp currently in use in the aquaculture industry with triploid black carp. Only AGFC-permitted triploid black carp producers should be in possession of diploid individuals. Permitting of a triploid black carp production facility should entail appropriate measures to minimize the possibility of diploid escapement. Introduction of black carp (diploid or triploid) into natural waterways would be strictly prohibited.

2. USFWS should list diploid black carp as an injurious species under the Lacey Act, to prohibit the importation of more diploid black carp into the U.S. This listing should be written to allow interstate transport of triploid black carp.
3. The USFWS should resume its black carp certification program, which would promote the use of only triploid black carp throughout the aquaculture industry and would greatly reduce the risk of diploid black carp being introduced into natural waterways.
4. USFWS, AGFC and other natural resource agencies and organizations should actively pursue the development of environmentally sound alternatives to the use of black carp for snail control, through appropriation of funds and other resources.
5. The USFWS, AGFC and other natural resource agencies and organizations should work cooperatively with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act of 1990) to establish a national policy to monitor international transfer of non-indigenous species.