The Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society

BLACK CARP RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the black carp *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Richardson, 1846), a large mollusk-eating fish native to Asia has been intentionally introduced into the U.S. within the Mississippi River Basin with the intent to use it for control of zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and yellow grub (*Clinostomum complanatum*); and

WHEREAS, nonindigenous aquatic species invariably escape or are intentionally released into streams and lakes; and

WHEREAS, the introduction and proliferation of the black carp has been determined to have a high risk of severely altering North American native aquatic ecosystems and specifically freshwater molluscan fauna; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that the black carp will avoid native mollusks and selectively consume zebra mussels, and will likely alter the native flora and fauna of Illinois like previous exotic introductions; and

WHEREAS, our rivers, streams and lakes support the largest and most diverse freshwater molluscan fauna in the world including many species threatened with extinction; and

WHEREAS, to prevent extinction of these species, it is imperative that propagation and further importation of black carp be prohibited to prevent the intentional or unintentional release of black carp into North American waters; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society respectfully requests that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list the black carp as an injurious species, and take such steps as necessary to eliminate all existing populations of the black carp in North America. Further, the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture should work together to prohibit any additional importation of any exotic organism until such time that the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Rick Assessment Protocol and American Fisheries Society guidelines are employed to carefully evaluated the potential for negative effects of importation of other such exotics.

Approved March 12, 2002