

# Asian carp



- Four Asian carp species introduced to the U.S.:

**Grass carp**

**Black carp**

**Bighead carp**

**Silver carp**

**Common carp have been here for over a century and are not referred to as “Asian Carp”**

# Why are they a problem?

- Filter feeders – strain particles from water:
  - zooplankton and phytoplankton.
- Compete with native fish for plankton
- Consume ~ 10% of body weight per day
- Physically “crowd out” other species – 80% of fish biomass in heavily infested waters
- Affect recreational boaters

**MN**

1996 & 2011 : St. Croix

2007: Lake Pepin

2003: Lake Pepin

Jan 2009: Pool 5A

Nov 2008: Pool 8

Jan 2009: Pool 9

**WI**

**IA**

Pool 17 - Common

**IL**



# Bighead carp



2003: 23 lb Bighead carp



2007: 29 lb Bighead carp

MN

WI

Nov 2008: Pool 8

Mar 2009: Pool 8  
Feb 2011: Pool 9

IA

IL

Below LD 19: Common



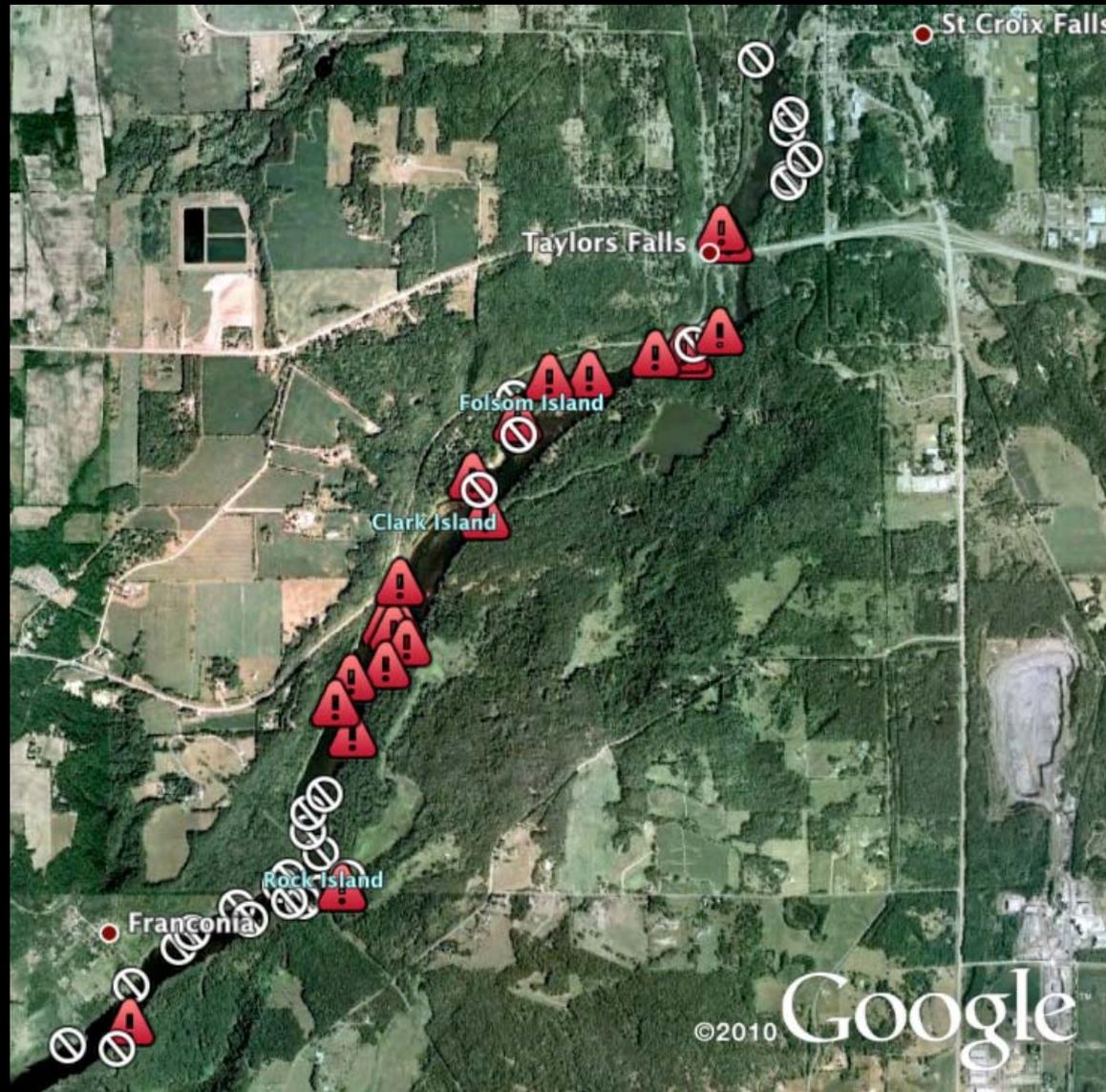
# Silver carp





**United States Geological Survey**

# 22 out of 50 eDNA samples tested positive for Silver carp in the St. Croix River – July 2011



# Ad hoc Asian Carp Task Force

## Agency or organization representatives

- National Park Service (co-chair)
  - Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
  - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (co-chair)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- City of Minneapolis
- City of St. Paul
- City of Hastings
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Three Rivers Park District
- Saint Paul Port Authority

## Technical advisors

- University of Minnesota (Peter Sorensen, Loren Miller)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
- Mississippi River Fund
- St. Croix Valley Foundation

## Observers

- Friends of the Mississippi
- Upper Mississippi River Waterways Association
- St. Croix River Association

# Governor's Action Plan

- Enhance info on Asian carp
- Evaluate deterrent barriers
- Accelerate research
- Improve habitat for native species
- **Permanent physical fish barriers**

# Potential Deterrent Barrier Sites



**Coon Rapids Dam**

**Lock & Dam 1  
lock chamber**

**Lock & Dam 2  
lock chamber**

**Mouth St. Croix**

**Lock & Dam 19 -  
Keokuk, IA**

**Minnesota River  
- Mankato?**

# Prevention: Permanent Physical Barriers

- Opportunities limited on Mississippi
- Possibilities include:
  - Lock and Dam #19 (Keokuk)
  - Lock and Dam #1 (Ford Dam)
  - Upper St. Anthony Falls
- Closing locks under emergency conditions would prevent fish from swimming through these structures
- Lock closure would require congressional authority
- Coon Rapids dam is being repaired which will improve effectiveness as fish barrier, but not 100%

# Important Next Steps

- Emergency lock closure authorization
- Funding for a feasibility study for a permanent fish barrier at Upper St. Anthony Falls
- Funding for deterrent barriers at strategic locations where feasible
- Funding to restore habitat
- Funding and assistance in accelerating research on control methods