

#### #4

The Mississippi River Basin has been greatly impacted by a number of invasive fish, plants, and mussels and continues to be threatened by new AIS introductions. MICRA developed an *Action Plan to Minimize Ecological Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Mississippi River Basin* as a basin-wide approach to guide coordinated efforts to prevent additional species invasions, and to contain and control populations of priority AIS established in the Basin. The Mississippi River Basin states were actively involved in developing the national Asian carp management and control plan, and are extremely concerned that the plan has not been implemented on a national scale. A MICRA delegation traveled to Washington, DC in March 2011 to inform federal agencies and members of congress of the dire situation that many states in the Mississippi River Basin are facing to prevent, contain, and control Asian carp and other invasive species infestations. MICRA, working with the MRBP, has taken a lead role in implementing recommendations in the national management plan, specifically those relating to the use of grass carp. MICRA recently organized a diverse group of stakeholders who developed a Scope of Work (SOW) to conduct a national analysis of grass carp regulation, production, triploid certification, shipping and stocking. MICRA published a Request for Quotes (RFQ) for the completion of the SOW, and is now working to secure funding for the national analysis. MICRA, together with the MRBP, are a strong partnership that continues to provide leadership in addressing AIS issues in the Mississippi River Basin.