

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-87

A RESOLUTION URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATORS AND AGENCIES, TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF THE SPECIES OF FISH COMMONLY KNOWN AS ASIAN CARP ENTERING THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, the City of Ashtabula, Ohio is proud to be one of the port cities of Lake Erie, and celebrates its historic connection to the Great Lakes, one of the most important and beautiful natural resources of the United States, of North America, and the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are now threatened by an invasive species of fish, known variously as Bighead Carp and Silver Carp, commonly known and referred to herein as Asian Carp; and,

WHEREAS, Asian Carp are known to be voracious feeders which disrupt the natural food chain wherever they are introduced, resulting in the drastic reductions or even elimination of native species such as Perch, Walleye and Steelhead Trout

WHEREAS, sport fishing industry of Lake Erie is an integral part of the economy of the City of Ashtabula and its neighbors, bringing in millions of dollars and supporting hundreds of jobs annually, and that industry is dependent upon the existence of a healthy population of the very species now threatened by the Asian Carp invasion; and,

WHEREAS, the warm, shallow waters are agreed by experts to constitute a nearly perfect breeding ground for Asian Carp, and it is confidently predicted that once introduced this species will destroy the fishing industry in Lake Erie; and,

WHEREAS, the Asian Carp is currently found in the Mississippi River system, which connects to the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other waterways; and,

WHEREAS, decisive action on the part of the State of Ohio, the United States of America, and the legislators and agencies of these governments, would almost certainly avert a ecological and economic disaster of enormous proportions, while indecisiveness and inaction will have the opposite effect, such that a genuine emergency exists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the City of Ashtabula finds and declares that the species of fish commonly known as Asian Carp constitute a public nuisance and are known to be injurious to the environment, the economy, and public health, safety and welfare.

SECTION 2. That the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, in its own behalf and together with sister communities located all around these Great Lakes, do hereby urge immediate, decisive action on the part of the State of Ohio Legislature, the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the United States Congress, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Corps of Engineers, the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, and any and all other involved or responsible agencies, to take all necessary steps to halt the introduction of the species commonly known as Bighead Carp, Silver Carp and/or Asian Carp into the Great Lakes.

SECTION 3. That among the steps it is urged be taken, by way of example and not limitation, are the following:

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- A. The closure of the locks of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Sewer and the Illinois and Michigan Canal;
- B. The construction of fish control dams on the Chicago River and the Des Plaines River;
- C. The creation of a physical and ecological separation between the Mississippi River system and the Great Lakes system so that no aquatic organisms may pass between the two;
- D. The education of the public concerning the dangers of using bait fish from unknown sources in the Great Lakes so as to avoid the use of Asian Carp minnows and fingerlings that might escape and begin to populate the Great Lakes.

SECTION 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and related to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its Committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the requirements of Section 10 of the Municipal Charter of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, and of R. C. Section 121.22.

SECTION 5. For the reasons stated in the preamble, this resolution, if approved by the votes of five (5) or more members of Council, shall take effect immediately, otherwise 30 days thereafter.

PASSED: May 16, 2011

Charles P. Brockway
President of Council

Vote:

	Yea	Nay
Brockway	<u> x </u>	___
Kist:	absent	
Balog:	<u> x </u>	___
Pugliese:	<u> x </u>	___
Stranman:	<u> x </u>	___
Lattimer:	<u> x </u>	___
Trisket:	<u> x </u>	___

ATTEST: _____
LaVette E. Hennigan
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____
Anthony J. Cantagallo
City Manager

Approved as to form and correctness this 16th day of May, 2011.

Michael Franklin, City Solicitor