








STOP AND REVERSE THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are organisms that are not native to a specific area and can cause significant harm to the environment, economy, and boating access.

The federal government has an important role in addressing AIS. Congress must:

- ▶ Instruct the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review all federal funding for AIS projects.
- ▶ Identify federal agencies where a funding shortfall exists and/or additional resources are needed.
- ▶ Provide robust funding to programs and projects that stop and reverse the spread of AIS.

There are thousands of different AIS species, and they are in every region of the U.S.

 Lion Fish	 New Zealand Mudsail	 Flathead/Blue Catfish	 Asian Carp*
 Asian Tiger Shrimp	 Invasive Tunicate	 Quagga and Zebra Mussels	<i>*Bighead/Silver Carp</i>



AIS are a national problem

- ▶ More than 40 percent of threatened or endangered species are at a greater risk due to AIS.
- ▶ The damage caused by invasive fish is estimated to cost the U.S. \$5.4 billion each year.
- ▶ Invasive quagga and zebra mussels alone cost the U.S. \$1 billion annually.
- ▶ Despite the billion dollar price tag, the federal government only spends approximately \$260 million each year to combat AIS.

Congress must ensure that all federal funding for AIS efforts is used effectively.