

**Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA)**

**Invasive Carp Advisory Committee (ICAC)**

**Principles of Operation**

**Revised August 2022**

- I. **PURPOSE:** The Invasive Carp Advisory Committee (ICAC) is a collaborative team of State and Federal agency representatives established to provide basinwide coordination in support of multijurisdictional actions to prevent, contain, and control bighead, black, grass, and silver carp (i.e., invasive carp) populations in the Mississippi River Basin through the implementation of four regional Invasive Carp Control Strategy Frameworks (Frameworks) that stepdown implementation of the national *'Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States'* throughout the Mississippi River Basin. Six inter-agency sub-basin invasive carp partnerships collaboratively address priorities identified in the four regional Frameworks. Under the direction of the MICRA Executive Board, the ICAC's purpose is to provide basinwide coordination for the development of collaborative advice and recommendations on the development, implementation, and assessment of management and control actions across the six sub-basin partnerships to promote a unified, collaborative strategy for the Mississippi River Basin.
  
- II. **OBJECTIVES:** To accomplish its Purpose, ICAC members will work collaboratively within their respective agency's authorities, policies, and available resources to:
  - (A) Develop advice and recommendations that promote a unified, basinwide strategy in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of invasive carp management and control measures across the six sub-basin partnerships sufficient to inform future management actions at appropriate scales.
  - (B) Guide the design and development of a cohesive invasive carp population assessment across all sub-basin partnerships for consistent data collection, management, and analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of on-going management actions and inform future management actions at appropriate scales.
  - (C) Provide basinwide perspective, advice, and recommendations on sub-basin partnerships' annual work plans to maximize collaboration on a basinwide strategy through the development of project proposals that address highest priority needs.
  - (D) Recommend an annual suite of collaborative project proposals for the Mississippi River Basin for submittal by MICRA to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for funding consideration.
  - (E) Coordinate the development of an annual Monitoring and Response Plan for the Mississippi River Basin that documents USFWS funded projects as part of an overall basinwide strategy to manage and control invasive carps.

- (F) Identify additional research, technology, and data needs to effectively inform and support basinwide invasive carp management strategies.
- (G) Support the development of technologies and methods that will result in the control and management of invasive carps, and the transferability of these new tools for use in all sub-basins as applicable.
- (H) Inform the MICRA Executive Board of progress and seek guidance on overall direction, challenges, and identified needs for advancing collaborative basinwide strategies to manage and control invasive carp in the Mississippi River Basin.

III. **GUIDELINES:** Consistent with their authorities, policies, and available resources, ICAC members will:

- (A) Promote an environment of maximum collaboration, openness, and honesty in the consideration of needs, priorities, and approaches in the development of coordinated basinwide strategies.
- (B) Attend ICAC meetings and/or technical workgroup meetings, as appropriate. It is acknowledged that members' in-person participation may be restricted at times due to agency travel budgets and workload.
- (C) Work cooperatively to develop and promote science-based recommendations to achieve the Purpose and Objectives of the ICAC.
- (D) Foster and encourage collaboration and inter-basin coordination to achieve the Purpose and Objectives.
- (E) Report progress, challenges, and identified needs to the MICRA Executive Board and incorporate Executive Board guidance into overall direction for coordinated basinwide invasive carp management and control.

IV. **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:**

The ICAC is a standing technical committee within MICRA that reports to the MICRA Executive Board. The ICAC's structure is based on the MICRA Executive Board structure but is expanded to include representation from additional Federal agencies identified in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, Section 1039. Each sub-basin will be represented by a MICRA member State agency within the respective sub-basin. Agency representatives to the ICAC are intended to be senior level biologists with a combination of high-level agency perspective, scientific expertise, and technical proficiency sufficient to accomplish the committee's Purpose and Objectives, develop basinwide guidance for sub-basin partnerships and technical workgroups, and apply direction provided by the MICRA Executive Board. The ICAC may use ad hoc technical workgroups as needed to address specific needs. The ICAC and any technical workgroups formed under the committee will attempt to utilize a State and Federal agency co-chair structure. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sub-basin invasive carp partnership coordinators and technical workgroup co-chairs will participate as non-voting members of the ICAC. Additional agency representatives or technical experts whose

participation supports the Purpose and Objectives may be invited to participate in ICAC meetings and discussions to provided needed expertise but will not serve as ICAC members.

The ICAC is structured as follows:

Voting members

- State Agency Sub-Basin Representatives (one of which will serve as co-chair)
  - Arkansas-Red-White Rivers
  - Lower Mississippi River
  - Missouri River
  - Ohio River
  - Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers
  - Upper Mississippi River
- Federal Agency Representatives: (one of which will serve as co-chair)
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - National Park Service

Non-voting members

- Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership Coordinators
  - Arkansas-Red-White Rivers Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
  - Lower Mississippi River Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
  - Missouri River Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
  - Ohio River Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
  - Tennessee-Cumberland Rivers Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
  - Upper Mississippi River Sub-Basin Invasive Carp Partnership
- Technical Workgroup State/Federal Agency Co-Leads (as needed)

V. **METHODS:** ICAC members will meet as needed for the purpose of guiding efforts, reviewing progress, and developing strategies and direction for future partnership efforts to support the Purpose and Objectives. The ICAC will attempt to conduct business and meetings via e-mail, teleconference, and webinar to the extent possible. In-person meetings will be convened in locations within the Mississippi River Basin. ICAC co-chairs will provide regular updates to the MICRA Executive Board and seek guidance on overall direction, challenges, and identified needs for advancing the Purpose and Objectives. ICAC co-chairs and sub-basin partnership coordinators will work with the ICAC members and sub-basin partnerships to utilize collaborative basinwide strategies to achieve the Purpose and Objectives.

- VI. **AUTHORITIES:** To achieve its Purpose, the ICAC relies on member participation under existing missions and authorities of their respective agencies. Nothing in this document shall be interpreted to alter existing agency missions or authorities.
  
- VII. **FUNDING:** ICAC members are funded through their respective agency budgeting processes, subject to any legislative direction provided as part of appropriations. The mention of activities in this document should not be interpreted to be a commitment to future funding nor any specific funding level. Discussions of the ICAC will help inform, but will not direct, agency decisions on how they allocate their respective funding or resources.
  
- VIII. **AGREEMENT:** The ICAC members will respect the role of each agency in terms of providing resources and assistance for invasive carp prevention and control efforts. The provision of such resources and assistance will depend upon relevant authorities and available appropriations of each member agency.
  
- IX. **TERMS AND REVISIONS OF AGREEMENT:** This Principles of Operation is a living document and can therefore be updated as needed.