

1 A RESOLUTION commending the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
2 Resources for the removal of Asian carp.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky's diverse river and lake ecosystems help sustain the
4 Commonwealth's people, economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

5 WHEREAS, annually, recreational boating and fishing involve more than one
6 million participants, contribute more than three billion dollars to Kentucky's economy,
7 support more than 17,000 jobs, and add to the quality of life for Kentucky's citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's mission is
9 to conserve, protect, and enhance the fish and wildlife resources and provide related
10 recreational opportunities to the Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Asian carp, consisting of invasive carp species of silver carp, bighead
12 carp, grass carp, and black carp were introduced into the United States for the control of
13 algae, vegetation, and mollusks on fish farms and escaped into the Mississippi River and
14 its tributaries; and

15 WHEREAS, invasive carp have infiltrated Kentucky portions of the Ohio,
16 Tennessee, and Cumberland River basins, including Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley,
17 where recreation contributes to the local economy; and

18 WHEREAS, the invasive carp populations have the potential to outcompete or
19 displace native sport fish and therefore adversely affect Kentucky's lake and river
20 fisheries, and jumping silver carp have the potential to inflict serious harm to recreational
21 boaters; and

22 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources determined
23 that commercial fishing could play an important role in the control and abatement of
24 invasive carp, and initiated the Asian Carp Harvest Program in 2013 to allow commercial
25 fishers access to otherwise restricted waters; and

26 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources also
27 instituted special agreements with commercial fishers to experiment with novel fishing

1 technology to target invasive carp more efficiently without incurring sport fish bycatch;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources also initiated
4 subsidy and contract fishing programs whereby federal funds can be utilized to
5 incentivize commercial fishers to harvest invasive carp and discourage expansion of their
6 populations; and

7 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has worked
8 to foster an entrepreneurial environment that promotes the commercial fishing industry's
9 removal and use of invasive carp; and

10 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is partnering
11 with federal agencies to test an experimental, bio-acoustic fish fence at Lake Barkley
12 Lock and Dam in hopes that a future network of invasive carp deterrents will discourage
13 movement and access to lakes; and

14 WHEREAS, the amount of invasive carp removed from Kentucky waters as a result
15 of abatement efforts has continuously increased, with 35 million pounds of carp removed
16 to date; and

17 WHEREAS, many recreational anglers, boaters, and commercial guides in Western
18 Kentucky have reported improvements in fishing as a result of the aggressive removal of
19 invasive carp;

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

21 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
22 ***Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. In honor of its tremendous and successful efforts to rid Kentucky's
24 lakes and rivers of invasive carp and to restore enjoyment of the waterways for boaters
25 and fishers, the Senate of the Kentucky General Assembly commends the Kentucky
26 Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

27 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this

- 1 Resolution to Senator Robin Webb for delivery to the Commissioner of the Kentucky
- 2 Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.