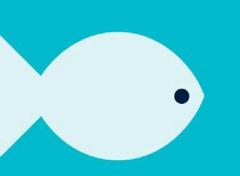
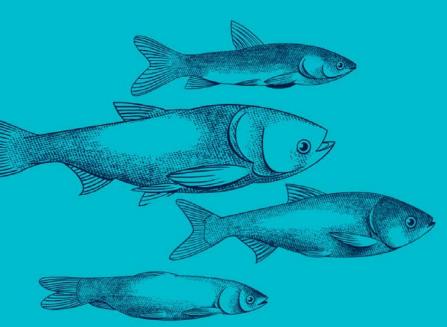


# Welcome



Today's Agenda

#### Moderator: John Rogner Assistant Director, IDNR



Welcome Colleen Callahan, Director IDNR Background Kevin Irons, Assistant Chief, Fisheries Division, IDNR **University of Illinois Experience** Dr. Dawn Aubrey, Executive Director, Rensselaer Dining, Sodexo Rebranding Nick Adam, Design Principal, Span Studio Culinary Chef Chris Koetke, CEO, Complete Culinary LLC **Sales and Marketing** Melissa Rullman, National Sales Director **Copious Carp Collaborative** Join us (and next steps) Ted Penesis, Director, Community Outreach, IDNR

# Background fish-biology-management

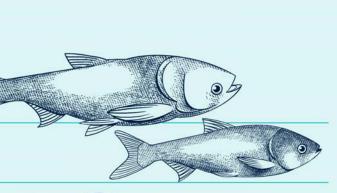
Background fish—biology—management

### **Kevin Irons** Illinois DNR, Assistant Chief of Fisheries kevin.irons@illinois.gov





#### Background







Asian carps: four species (Bighead, Silver, Black and Grass Carp)

Multiple sources but native to China, East Asia (one of most cultured/consumed fish in the world)

Imported into United States in 1960's/1970's (escaped)

Established in major U.S. river basins (Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio)

#### Background - brought to US as a responsible thing to do



#### Food and Agriculture Organization (UN - FAO)

- 6th most fin fish consumed world wide (FAO 2004)

#### Importation to US of Asian carps (including grass carp) as early as 1963

- USFWS/Auburn/Arizona Game and Fish/Arkansas Game and
- Fish Commission/private hatcheries

#### (US) Water Pollution Act of 1972

 $- {\rm Encourage}$  use of a quacultural alternative for water reuse

#### USEPA funded work in Benton Arkansas

National Marine Fisheries Service (1976) — Funded WQ investigations in sewage treatment systems

Bighead carp is an excellent food animal, its acceptance by consumers in the U.S. is rapidly increasing. — USFWS's Third Report to the Fish Farmers, Dupree and Huner 1984 in History of Introductions..., Kelly et al. 2011 Background

10 1 2

Todays avg size; max size

5-10 lbs; 40-65 lbs

8-15 lbs; 40- 80 lbs

03

12095

10-20 lbs; 40- 100 lbs

#### Background



8-20 lbs; 60-115 lbs

#### Background — often recognized this way here in the US (up to 70% total biomass)

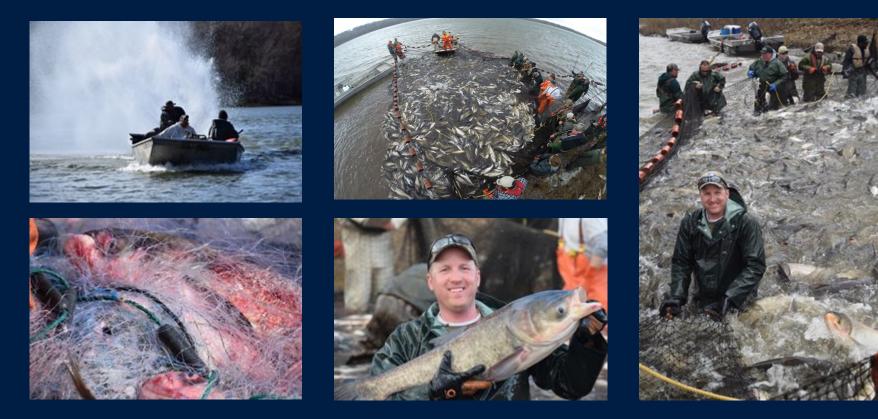


Silver carp is dominating commercial harvest as well

#### Background — but recognized this way around the world



#### Background — Fishing, we have a workforce



Methods evaluated: Monterey Bay Seafood Watch Good Choice!

Background

# The ACRCC (a key partner)

27 US and Canadian federal, state, provincial, and regional institutions

Formed in 2010 to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes

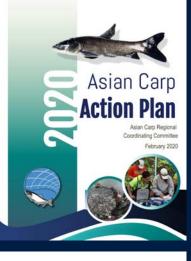
Co-chaired by the USEPA and USFWS

#### Monitoring Response Workgroup is a subcommittee

Monitoring and Response Plan

Co-chaired by State of Illinois and Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Enabled jumpstart of business analyses, including marketing/branding www.asiancarp.us







Asian Carp Monitoring and Response Plan



## Background Overall Strategy



Upper River Contract removal Detectable front - less than 5% of 2012 population Science driven Modeling Downstream management

Response as needed

#### CAWS

Barriers

Monitoring

Response

#### Lower River

Independent Commercial Harvest

Modeling

Harvest important to protect ecology AND prevent spread

Model for a nation

## Background Challenges



### What's in a name? Carp is a 4 letter word Carp represents dozens of species Common carp introduced in 1880s across US Well known, but challenges due to strong taste (bottom feeder)



## Background Challenges



### What's in a name?

Not a bottom feeder
Not grandpas "carp" (must change perception)
4 Asian carp species
Light, flakey, nutritious (more later)

The right thing to do ecologically (Green Choice!) Opportunity to rebrand, Why we are here!



#### Background — Not a bottom feeder

## Phytoplankton

Zooplankton





Specialized gill raker structures

#### Background — a National issue (first Illinois, then transform national rivers)



### Scope

Large Rivers across nation Illinois River alone (240 miles) 20-50 M lbs annually Protein needs Healthy choice Historic fishing identity

#### Background — a healthy choice!

A delicious healthy choice

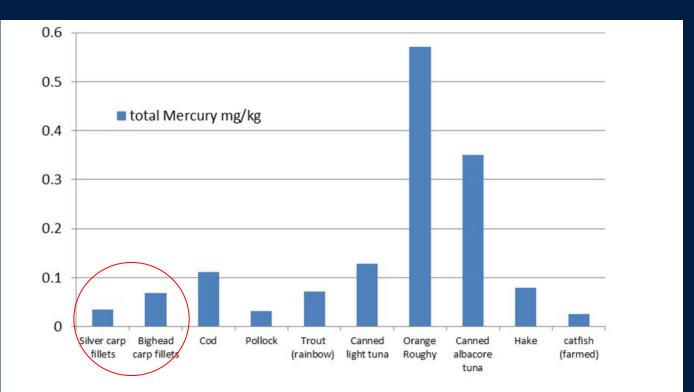
Asian carp is a nutritious fish, and a great source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids.

**Fresh and clean** 

Asian carp is a clean, top-feeding freshwater fish, very low in contaminants\* and heavy metals\* that compares favorably to Tuna, Cod and Orange Roughy.

\* Well below US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limits.

#### **Background** — using Mercury as an example, a healthy choice!





Background – Eat well, do good.

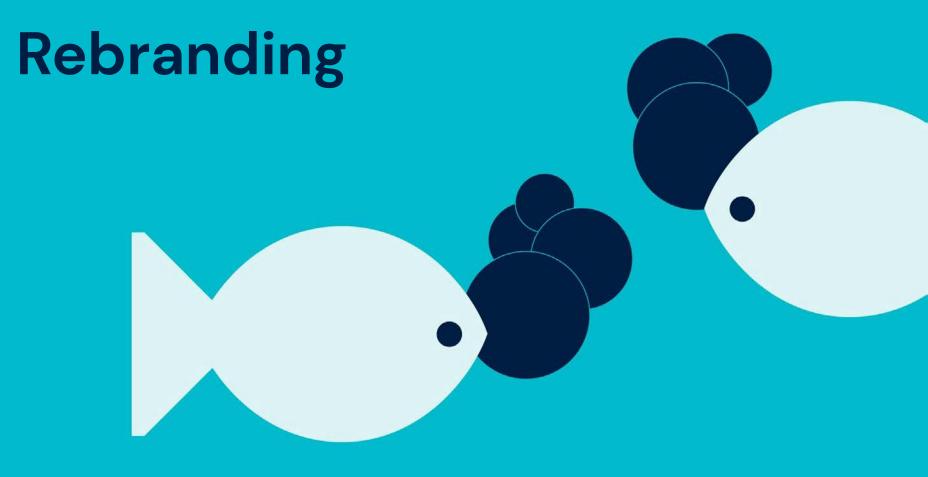
A key moment to develop public-private partnerships to solve problem ... ... thus a marketing strategy to aid industry and thus help prevent spread.

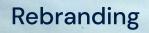
#### **Background** — Proven SUCCESS in dining halls



**UNIVERSITY HOUSING:** University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

# University of Illinois Experience





Nick Adam Design Principal, Span Studio www.Span.Studio

### Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Asian Carp Steering Committee (ACSC)

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- Southern Illinois University (SIU)
- Indiana Wildlife Federation
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

# Our charge was to rebrand Asian carp to be increasingly desirable for consumption.

In turn helping mitigate the ecological challenges of Asian carp, while providing a positive impact on our food system and economies.

## As this is an enormous task, we assembled a team of experts:

- Span (strategy, naming, visual design)
- M. Harris (strategy, pr, marketing, earned media)
- Daylight (systemic design research)
- Donna Speigel (strategy, brand voice)























# l**\*aylight**

MacArthur Foundation

# Metropolitan **Planning** Council







#### Sustainably wild, surprisingly delicious





# We spoke with 115 regular Illinoisans across the Chicago metro area.

- 75% of them considered fish a favorite food

- 28% of their favorite restaurants specialize in fish
- In the last week, 25% of their meals included fish

These people were fish lovers. When describing their eating habits, they used words like: Healthy, Indulgent, and Clean

All qualities of Asian carp.

# Freshness, Flavor, and Sustainability

Were the top 3 considerations in respondents' fish purchasing decisions

All qualities of Asian carp

# Fresh, Flavorful, Savory, Clean, Simple, Light

Were the top 6 descriptions respondents used to describe the way they like fish to taste

Again, all qualities of Asian carp

We found that Asian carp has all the characteristics people love about fish, but there is a perception issue based on the name.

# The great news is, this is not a unique problem.

Fish have often been renamed partly due to chefs, foodies, and anglers always looking for the hot new thing, but also because of overfishing. Simply, we often look for new things to eat.





Alligator Pear Chinese Gooseberry

Avocado Kiwi

Patagonian Toothfish Goosefish Slimehead Dolphinfish Horse Mackerel Stumptown

Large Catfish Snakehead

Chilean Sea Bass (this is actually a cod) Monkfish **Orange Roughy** Mahi-mahi **King Mackerel** Whitefish

Delacata Channa

### Our teams have been collaboratively designing a new brand identity for this fish based on its true characteristics.

This work has been done with significant market research and market testing.

Most importantly, the new brand embraces transparency, as we do not believe in deception of the public.

We have designed a brand tool-kit to create cohesive stories about this delicious, highly sustainable fish.



#### Brand tool-kit contents

- Brand Strategy and Name
- Communication Guidelines
- Brand Voice and Tone
- Graphic Identity and Standards
- Designed Collateral
- Communication Toolkits
   (food processors, retailers, chefs and restaurateurs, food service, food advocacy)



# The one-pager we shared prior to today's meeting makes use of the tool-kit

- Illinois' most sustainable fish
- Eat well, do good
- Too much of a good thing
- Local and wild-caught
- A delicious healthy choice
- Fresh and clean
- A delicious way to grow the economy



Illinois' most sustainable fish. Asian carp is a mildly flavored, firm, flaky, freshwater fish. Its place is among the most popular white fish - more savory than tilapia, cleaner tasting than catfish, less flaky than cod. Ext woll, do good. Every time you serve, sell or enjoy Asian carp, you're helping restore our local waterways and the return of native fish. Asian carp is a sustainable, healthy and delicious alternative to other farm-raised or wild-caught fish. Infinite possibilities. Asian carp has a clean, mild flavor profile that marries well with a range of seasonings. It's a chef's blank canvas for creativity-pan fry, steam, broil, bake, roast, or grill. Asian carp can be ground for burgers, fish cakes, dumplings and tacos. Too much of a good thing. Not a bottom-feeder, Asian carp is a clean, top-feeding fish. Originally introduced to filter plankton they outeat our native fish, disrupting our ecosystems. Asian carp are a serious threat to our local waterways.

A key differentiator. The more we eat, the better the environment.

As we prepare for a national launch with media coverage, we are keeping the name and core branding assets "in the vault."

— to ensure the greatest impact for the launch

The brand launch is being planned for late June just prior to our presence at the Boston Seafood Show this July and subsequent marketing roll out.

To support the launch, in development is:

A National Launch Event (late June) Boston Seafood Show (July 11–13) Earned Media Coverage

To support the launch, in development is:

Custom Website Film and Video Media Social Media Ad Campaign Philanthropic Strategy

To support the launch, in development is:

Sales Collateral National Sales Director (she already begun working)

To support the launch, in development is:

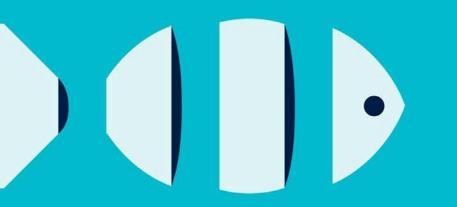
- National Launch Event (late June)
- Boston Seafood Show (July 11–13)
- Earned Media Coverage
- Custom Website
- Film and Video Media
- Social Media Ad Campaign
- Philanthropic Strategy
- Sales Collateral
- National Sales Director (has already begun working)

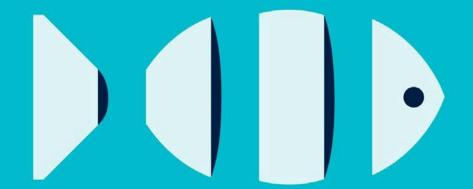
# All these tactics will support and promote growth of the industry, your businesses.

Eat well, do good.

These efforts of research, design, marketing, are all an investment by IDNR.

The goal is to help the environment while creating positive impact in the food system and economic opportunities for your organizations.





# The paradox:

Plentiful locally Wild and Sustainable Versatile High quality protein

Misunderstood Maligned Disregarded This needs to change!

### Processing Asian carp

- Size
- Color
- Multiple cuts
- Bone challenge
- Versatility

## Asian carp varieties

### Bone structure Market forms:

- Whole
- Boneless strips
- Ground





# Flavor and culinary application Boneless strips



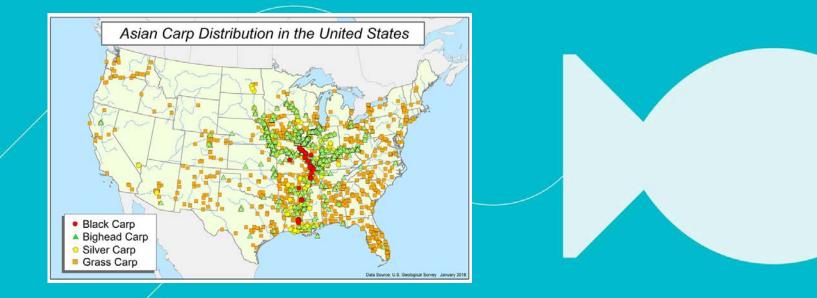


### Minced



smoked and whole/fillet

# **Sales and Marketing**



## Asian Carp will deliver river to table!

Sales and Marketing

### Melissa Rullman National Sales Director Copious Carp Collaborative AsianCarpSales@gmail.com

Sales Partners: Where do we want to go....

# Market Channels:

Retail, Anchor Partners
Food Service
Distributors
Industrial



Support

# Telling the story: Key Sales Support

- Sales Presentations
- Product Samples
- Marketing and Collateral Materials
- Promotional Programs
- Social Media / PR Programs / Community Engagement
- Customer and Staff Trainings

We need your help!

Call to Action: We need your help to get Asian carp on kitchen tables, on menus, in grocery stores and dining venues.



#### Sustainably wild, surprisingly delicious

#### Melissa Rullman

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#### Kevin Irons

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