41% of Continental U.S.

Watershed Size

31 States

90+ Rivers
200+ Fish Species

States & Federal Agencies
Tribal
Federal Chartered

Multiple Management Authorities

Over-exploited Resources

Habitat Alteration and Loss

Declining Fisheries Resources

Fish Movement Among Jurisdictions

Interjurisdictional Challenges

Habitat Fragmentation

About 2,000 miles (3,219 km) across
Time for Change

“Patch-Work of States”

- Coordinated efforts
  - Management units
  - Sub-basin
  - Basin-wide
MICRA

- 1989: Draft agreement
- 1990: 28 state agency directors
- 1991: Association

Mission:

“to improve the conservation, management, development and utilization of interjurisdictional fishery resources (both recreational and commercial) in the Mississippi River Basin through improved coordination and communication among the responsible management entities”
Goals

1. INTERNAL COORDINATION
Coordinate basin-wide management of interjurisdictional fishery resources and aquatic habitats among the responsible management entities.

2. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION
Increase awareness, support, and funding for basin-wide management of interjurisdictional fishery resources and aquatic habitats.
Objectives

1. Coordinate implementation of interjurisdictional fishery and aquatic resource management programs throughout the basin. [IJ FISH]
2. Identify priority habitat restoration needs for the Mississippi River Basin, coordinate with national and regional aquatic habitat initiatives, and provide a forum for information and technical exchange. [AQUATIC HABITAT]
3. Coordinate prevention and control measures for Aquatic Invasive Species to ensure sustainable native aquatic ecosystems within the basin. [AIS]
4. Develop and implement a communication plan for disseminating information to target audiences. [COMMUNICATION]
5. Secure funding for long-term operational needs and implementation of basin-wide programs. [FUNDING]
Executive Board

- Six sub-basin groups
- Two federal entities
  - USFWS
  - USGS
- Three non-voting:
  - Chairman
  - Chair-elect
  - Coordinator
On-going Projects

- Economic value of recreational and commercial fishing in Mississippi River Basin
- National Analysis of Grass Carp
- Native Species Aquatic Habitat Action Plan
- Communications Plan
Technical Committees

- Paddlefish and Sturgeon
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Native Mussels
- Gamefish
- Aquatic Habitat
Developed standardized methods for paddlefish sampling, tagging, and data reporting.

Cooperative management of a basin-wide paddlefish mark and recapture database; developed a 10-year project report.

Facilitated the development of sub-basin paddlefish management plans.

Developed a Paddlefish Genetics Plan.

Developed Paddlefish Stocking Protocols (updated January 2012).

Provided funding for the ‘Paddlefish Conservation and Management’ symposium at the 2006 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and the symposium proceedings.
Aquatic Invasive Species

- MICRA hosts the Mississippi River Basin Panel on ANS; one of six regional panels advising the national ANS Task Force
- Developed a Model Rapid Response Plan for AIS in the Mississippi River Basin
- Developed a rapid risk screening process
- Hosted Incident Command System (ICS) training and tabletop exercise
- Cost-shared development of a traveling AIS display for the national Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium
- Sponsored an International Asian carp symposium and proceedings
- Cost-shared ANS/boater surveys in 7 states
- Produced multiple outreach products
Native Mussels

- Precursor to the North American Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS)
- Annual financial support for FMCS meetings and coordination
- Native Mussel Committee chairman provides continued coordination with FMCS
Gamefish

- Funded The Watershed Institute report on management actions affecting sauger
- Sponsored ‘Catfish 2000 Workshop’ held in conjunction with an International Catfish Symposium
- Provided funding for publication of the ‘Catfish 2000’ proceedings
Aquatic Habitat

- Conserve and protect high quality habitats
- Restore and create aquatic habitats and system functions
- Forum for information exchange among sub-basins
- Coordinate basin-wide needs and priorities
Communication

- Sponsor a MICRA delegation to visit members of Congress and Federal agency leaders annually in Washington, DC
- Stakeholder Engagement and Congressional Outreach Workshops
Strength in Numbers

- Working together to “move the needle” on big issues that affect fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin
For More Information:

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