

## Source Analysis 7

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In the article "Modelling bioenergetic and population-level impacts of invasive bigheaded carps on native paddlefish in backwaters of the Lower Mississippi River", researchers examined how bioenergetic models of invasive species would affect the native species of paddlefish in the Mississippi River. They did this so that they could observe the effect that invasive species would have because changes in the biodiversity of the river could cause more of those invasive species to show up. I believe that it was very important to conduct this study because there has been an increase in water pollution and in drivers of biodiversity. To truly understand the affects of this, studies needed to be done. The researchers were also able to collect data on the general health and condition of the paddlefish after the invasive species of bigheaded carp was introduced. They observed that the paddlefish's body conditions were decreased and newly born paddlefish were smaller and weaker than normal. This is an affect from the invasive species and one that can and will happen to other native species not just in the lower Mississippi River but around the world. The main way to stop this would be to reduce the amount of pollution to water that industrialized areas are adding. While this may seem like a daunting task, it's really quite simple and boils down to people being motivated and having the authority within themselves to stand up for the decline in native species.