ORIGINAL PAPER



# **Consistency of mobile and sedentary movement extremes exhibited by an invasive fsh, Silver Carp**  *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*

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Received: 1 November 2019 / Accepted: 1 April 2022 / Published online: 27 April 2022 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2022

**Abstract** Within many populations, some individuals may be more apt to move, and these individuals can substantially impact population dynamics. Invasive Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) have spread throughout much of the Mississippi River Basin, and their presence has resulted in multiple negative ecosystem effects. Silver Carp are known to move hundreds of km, which has likely contributed to their rapid spread. Our study examined movement patterns and environmental cues for movement in Silver Carp based on acoustic telemetry of tagged fsh that ranged widely (i.e., mobile) and those that did not range far from the site of their original capture and tagging (i.e., sedentary) in the Wabash River, USA. Sedentary and mobile designations were made based on observed extremes of mean annual ranges, and these designations were consistent within seasons

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**Supplementary Information** The online version contains supplementary material available at [https://doi.](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02795-6) [org/10.1007/s10530-022-02795-6.](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-022-02795-6)

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and among years. Both movement groups displayed seasonal variation in movements, with mobile Silver Carp consistently moving greater distances within each season and sedentary Silver Carp exhibiting lower variability in distances moved than mobile individuals. Discharge (change in discharge) and temperature were signifcant predictors of mobile and sedentary individuals' movements. Additional environmental variables (i.e., cumulative growing degree day, day of year, and change in temperature) also related to movement likelihood of sedentary individuals, whereas total length was the only additional variable that infuenced movement likelihood of mobile individuals. Total length was signifcantly related to movement distance for both groups of Silver Carp, but the relationship was negative for sedentary fsh and positive for mobile fsh. Results point to diferences in behavior that may require targeted management strategies to achieve agency goals to interrupt mobile individual movements that can result in range expansion. Such strategies may also limit introductions and invasions by other aquatic invasive species that exhibit similar behaviors.

**Keywords** Aquatic invasive species · Movement · Behavior type · Personality · Asian carp · Acoustic telemetry

# **Introduction**

The presence of mobile and sedentary individuals within a population has been documented in a plethora of organisms, both terrestrial and aquatic (Petty and Grossman [2004](#page-14-0); Crook [2004](#page-13-0); Gu et al. [2006](#page-13-1); Stuart and Jones [2006](#page-14-1)). Even in humans, the act of moving vast distances may be more common for specifc individuals, such as individuals carrying genes associated with "wanderlust" (e.g., Chen et al. [1999](#page-13-2)). The prevalence of mobile and sedentary individuals within a population infuences population and community dynamics, including population genetics and species range. Mobile and sedentary tendencies of organisms have been described as variation in personality (Funk [1955;](#page-13-3) Rasmussen and Belk [2012\)](#page-14-2), a response to some environmental factor (Roy et al. [2012;](#page-14-3) Mossop et al. [2017\)](#page-14-4), or as an interaction between intrinsic behavior and environmental variability (Rehage et al. [2016](#page-14-5)). The prevalence of mobile behavior types within a population is moderated by natural selection (Lowe and McPeek [2014\)](#page-14-6); thus, it can be expected to change through time or vary among populations based on changing community structure or environmental conditions (Hobbs et al. [2017](#page-13-4)) in addition to varying among species (Funk [1955](#page-13-3); Dewey [1981\)](#page-13-5).

Movement capacity (i.e., the ability to move frequently and over large distances) is often considered a common invasive species trait (Moyle [1986](#page-14-7); Kolar and Lodge [2001](#page-14-8); Rehage et al. [2016](#page-14-5)). Moving individuals incur signifcant risks (i.e., predation, uncertain resources; Rehage et al. [2016\)](#page-14-5). However, risks can be offset by invasions of new habitats that create additional subpopulations that contribute to a more resilient metapopulation. For example, a larger network of interconnected subpopulations can overcome genetic constraints associated with small populations by providing more reliable access to mates and sharing of alleles among subpopulations (Berthouly-Salazar et al. [2013\)](#page-12-0). Moreover, this distributed metapopulation structure ensures that large numbers of individuals can coexist without depleting local resources while increasing the likelihood of recolonization after one or more subpopulations are eliminated by some catastrophic event. These movement benefts can therefore be factors when determining the likelihood that an introduced species becomes established, spreads, and exerts negative ecological impacts to the extent that it becomes invasive. It is plausible that mobile individuals could disproportionately infuence gene flow and population dynamics relative to more stationary individuals (Trakhtenbrot et al. [2005\)](#page-14-9). In addition, mobile individuals may even be more ft than sedentary congeners (Bonte et al. [2014;](#page-13-6) Bonte and Dahriel [2016\)](#page-13-7) or have higher survival rates (White and Wagner [2021\)](#page-15-0), thereby further increasing likelihood of invasion success and range expansion. Understanding the movements of mobile individuals in populations characterized by individuals exhibiting varying movement tendencies may provide insight to help limit the spread and negative ecological efects of invasive species.

Invasive Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) in the Wabash River (USA), exhibit individual variation in movement tendencies, with individual ranges from 0 km up to>400 km (Prechtel et al. [2017\)](#page-14-10). Their movement capacity allows them to rapidly move over hundreds of km in a few days (Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)) and has been noted as one of the potential reasons why Silver Carp have become so invasive in many lotic and lentic systems (Kolar et al. [2007](#page-14-11)). Movement patterns of Silver Carp populations have been well studied, with most responding to temperature and hydrographic cues (DeGrandchamp et al. [2008;](#page-13-9) Coulter et al. [2016a,](#page-13-8) [2017\)](#page-13-10) for movement. When examined at a population level, increasing discharge or water levels may positively infuence movement rate (DeGrandchamp et al. [2008](#page-13-9); Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)) and movement distance (Coulter et al. [2016a\)](#page-13-8) but negatively infuence likelihood of movement (Coulter et al. [2016a\)](#page-13-8). Large changes in water levels over 24 h have been observed to positively infuence the likelihood of Silver Carp moving (Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)). Temperature, in combination with changes in discharge, is also known to trigger spawning in Silver Carp (Abdusamadov [1987](#page-12-1); Kolar et al. [2007](#page-14-11); Kocovsky et al. [2012](#page-14-12)) and has been attributed to movements for staging (movement to near a spawning site; Coulter et al. [2016a\)](#page-13-8) or spawning (Coulter et al. [2016b](#page-13-11)). While these studies have developed an understanding of how population-level movement responds to environmental conditions, there remains a need to identify the drivers of intra-population movements, specifcally individual movements on the extremes of the movement continuum. As previously discussed, individuals moving the most may have the potential to disperse into new areas and link subpopulations.

Movement (used hereafter as a broad term that spans behaviors associated with dispersal, migration, and routine/daily movements) and behavior can infuence the success and impacts of invasive species through all stages of invasion (Juette et al. [2014](#page-13-12)); yet, data needed to assess these factors are lacking for many invasive species (e.g., Chapple et al. [2012](#page-13-13)). Our study sought to identify diferences in the movement patterns and environmental cues related to movements of Silver Carp displaying the extremes in range, classifed as sedentary or mobile based on mean annual ranges, using telemetry data collected from acoustically tagged fsh in the Wabash River. We sought understanding of drivers for movement (i.e., Driscoll et al. [2014\)](#page-13-14) in both extreme groups (i.e., mobile and sedentary) of Silver Carp. We also wanted to determine whether behavior type is fxed at an individual level vs. occurring within a random subset of the population that varies through time (Rehage et al. [2016\)](#page-14-5). We tested the hypotheses that mobile individuals are consistently mobile and that movements of the two groups difer seasonally, given that seasonal diferences in movement have previously been observed in the Wabash River Silver Carp population (i.e., Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)). Additionally, we tested the hypothesis that mobile and sedentary individuals' movements are triggered by diferent environment cues.

# **Methods**

#### Study organism

Silver Carp are large (up to 140 cm total length), planktivorous, cyprinids native to southeast Asia that are primarily distributed in eastern China (Kolar et al. [2007](#page-14-11)). Populations of the species exist in 80+countries (Kolar et al. [2007\)](#page-14-11), including established invasive populations at risk for further spread across the globe (e.g., United States, South Africa (Crookes et al. [2020\)](#page-13-15), Hungary (Molnár et al. [2021](#page-14-13)), China (Xie and Chen [2001\)](#page-15-1), Japan (Matsuzawa and Senou [2008](#page-14-14))). In some locations, Silver Carp comprise  $> 80\%$  of the fish biomass (Coulter et al. [2018](#page-13-16)). Silver Carp can negatively infuence invaded ecosystems, and high densities of these fsh have been associated with declines in native planktivorous fshes (Irons et al. [2007](#page-13-17); Pendleton et al.

[2017;](#page-14-15) Shields et al. [2021\)](#page-14-16) and changes in zooplankton community composition (Sass et al. [2014](#page-14-17)). Silver Carp have exhibited long distance movements in both their native (see Kolar et al. [2007](#page-14-11)) and invasive ranges, with some individuals moving 100 s of km (e.g., DeGrandchamp et al. [2008;](#page-13-9) Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)). This substantial movement capacity can pose a greater risk for range expansion.

#### Study site

The Wabash River flows from headwaters in Eagle Marsh (Fort Wayne, IN, USA) to the west and south before joining the Ohio River (Shawneetown, IL, USA; Fig. [1\)](#page-2-0). The Wabash River contains a single mainstem dam after which it is free flowing for 661 river km (rkm). Silver Carp were frst detected in the Wabash River in 1995 (Kolar et al. [2007\)](#page-14-11), and they now reproduce (Coulter et al. [2013,](#page-13-18) [2016b\)](#page-13-11) and move freely throughout the free flowing 661 rkm (Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8)).



<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Location of study was the Wabash River, Indiana (USA)

#### Acoustic telemetry and movement calculation

From 2011 to 2013, 300 Silver Carp were implanted with acoustic transmitters (Vemco V16-4H, 120 s mean ping interval, Vemco, Bedford, Nova Scotia, Canada) in the middle and upper portions of the Wabash River (rkm 499–600) as part of a previous study (See Coulter et al. [2016a](#page-13-8) for full details including surgical procedures). Surgical procedures for implanting of acoustic transmitters into the coelomic cavity were approved by the Purdue University Animal Care and Use Committee (Protocol # 09-040). From 2011 to 2017, tagged fish were monitored with a series of 16 passive stationary receivers (VR2Ws, Vemco, Bedford, Nova Scotia, Canada) placed on the river bottom from rkm 653 downstream to rkm 122. Locations of active stationary receivers varied from year to year (typically 9–15 annually) due to receiver loss resulting in some variation in the possible maximum range over which an individual could move and be detected (Table [1](#page-3-0)). Stationary receivers were tested at initial deployment using a range testing tag (same specs as transmitters in Silver Carp) to verify that receivers deployed at selected locations could detect tags the entire river width. However, stationary receiver ranges in rivers are not uniform (Abeln [2018\)](#page-12-2) and tag detection can vary with environmental conditions (e.g., Huveneers et al. [2015\)](#page-13-19); thus, the exact range of the stationary receivers at a particular time is unknown. However, post hoc analyses of detection histories for individuals included in this study revealed a likelihood of fsh skipping a receiver was 1.2% (48,077 movements and 565 missed receiver observations). This metric was calculated by comparing the detection histories of fshes to the order in which stationary receivers were deployed. Only main channel receivers were included in the analysis (two backwater receivers removed). The greatest number of skips occurred in May (143 skips) and the fewest skips occurred in November and January (4 skips each). Active tracking occurred from rkm 627 to rkm 425 and that entire portion of the river was tracked once per week from 2011 to 2013, April through September (Coulter et al. [2016a;](#page-13-8) Prechtel et al. [2018](#page-14-18)). Due to this limited timeframe and coverage of the larger study area, active tracking detections were only used in this study to help evaluate possible mortalities and not in the calculation of range/movement.

Silver Carp ranges were calculated for each individual within each year (annual range) as maximum displacement (i.e., diference in rkm between most upstream and most downstream locations within a



<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Table 1** Locations of stationary receivers in the Wabash River, IN (USA), used to monitor the movements of acoustically tagged Silver Carp

An "x" indicates that a stationary receiver was active in a given year. Receivers in backwaters 1 and 2 are at river km (rkm) 499. Range covered is the distance between the most upstream and downstream receivers in a specifc year. Number of fshes in the sedentary and mobile groupings with detections from each year are listed in the last 2 rows. GPS locations for receivers are provided in Online Resource 1: Table S1

year; similar to Clapp et al. [1990](#page-13-20)). Ranges were not calculated for fsh that never moved during the study as we were unable to determine if these were fsh that were not moving or possible mortalities. Ranges were also not calculated for fish with ≤1 year of data as ranges estimated from 1 year of data were signifcantly smaller than range estimates from  $\geq$  2 years of data (Prechtel et al. [2017](#page-14-10)). No detections that occurred within 48 h of transmitter implantation were used to reduce the impact of behavior related changes due to handling and surgery on results. Detection histories for individual fsh were condensed to one detection per day per receiver, with the exception of fsh that moved past multiple receivers in a day in which case the frst detection at each receiver was retained (Online Resource 1: Fig. S1; Online Resource 2). For example, a fish that moved from receiver A to B then back to receiver A in a single day would have 3 detections for that day.

From the 232 Silver Carp that were detected post-tagging, 11 individuals were removed due to no observed movements and 20 individuals were removed due to  $< 1$  year of data. Using the remaining 201 Silver Carp, we established sedentary and mobile groups using the extremes of mean annual range values. Groupings included fsh with the smallest 20% of mean annual ranges and largest 20% of study ranges, respectively, resulting in 40 individuals per movement group (Fig. [2](#page-4-0)). These groupings were created as a balance between classifying fshes that displayed the most extreme diferences in range and still retaining a sufficient sample size within each category for statistical analyses. More extreme classifcations were initially attempted (extreme 10% of mean annual ranges) but resulted in insufficient sample size for analyses. Larger cut-ofs (25% and 35%) were also analyzed, and results are included in Online Resource 1. On average, mean annual ranges were calculated from 4.5 years of data  $(\pm 1.5 \text{ sd})$ . To verify that this grouping resulted in use of diferent river lengths, we calculated both total (sum of all detected movements) and net distance (sum of all detected movements with upstream movements being positive and downstream movements being negative) moved over the study (2011–2017) for each individual. Net and total distances moved over the study were then compared using an analysis of variance (ANOVA). Mobile individuals  $(StudyTotal[mean \pm sd] 886)$ rkm $\pm$ 471; StudyNet[mean $\pm$ sd] −58 rkm $\pm$ 102) moved consistently greater distances over the study than sedentary individuals (StudyTotal[mean $\pm$ sd] 49 rkm $\pm$ 37; StudyNet[mean $\pm$ sd] −2 rkm $\pm$ 7) (Total: F=125.52, df=1,78, *p*<0.0001; Net: F=12.33,  $df = 1,78$ ,  $p = 0.0007$ ). There was no significant difference in total length at tagging between fsh classifed as mobile (mean=707.6  $mm \pm 55.9$  SD) and sedentary (mean=694.3 mm $± 67.4$  SD; t-test: T=−0.96,  $p=0.17$ ; Online Resource 1: Table S2) and total length was not correlated with mean annual range size (correlation:  $R=0.16$ ,  $p=0.17$ ). In addition



<span id="page-4-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Mean annual range size (river km [rkm]  $\pm$  standard deviation [sd]) of Silver Carp (n=201) in the Wabash River, IN (USA) estimated from acoustic telemetry data. Sedentary and mobile individuals were chosen from the far right and far left sides of the x-axis with cut-ofs indicated by vertical dashed lines. Fish with a mean annual range size $=0$ or≤1 year of data were excluded. On average, mean annual ranges were calculated from 4.5 years of data  $(\pm 1.5 \text{ sd})$ 

to the annual ranges of sedentary and mobile individuals, we calculated several additional response metrics, including mean rkm of annual range, minimum rkm of annual range, maximum rkm of annual range, and total and net movement distances (distance between consecutive detections, net movement factors in directionality; Coulter et al. [2016a\)](#page-13-8). Inclusion of these additional metrics provides a more complete examination of the diferent ways fsh may move (e.g., apparent migrations vs. unidirectional movement).

# Analyses

Since annual variation in environmental conditions (e.g., water levels and temperature) could potentially infuence diferences in range and movement, we frst examined whether annual range sizes or rkm used (mean, max, min) varied between sedentary and mobile groups within each study year. To do this, we used linear mixed-efects models ('lmer'; Bates et al. [2015\)](#page-12-3) with movement group and year as fxed efects and individual fsh ID as a random efect. Next, we examined whether the seasonal movement patterns of sedentary and mobile fsh were similar or if a total or net movement in a particular season contributed to diferences in range between the two groups. For these comparisons, we used a linear mixed-efects model with movement group and season as fxed efects and individual fsh ID and year as random efects. Lastly, we examined the efects of biotic (total length) and abiotic (temperature, change in temperature over 24 h ( $\Delta$ Temp), discharge, change in discharge over 24 h ( $\Delta$ Dis), day of year [DOY], and cumulative growing degree day [CGDD, base  $10^{\circ}$ C]) on the total and net movements of mobile and sedentary fish as well as whether an individual would move (be detected on a diferent stationary receiver) or not (detected on the same stationary receiver) between detections. Temperature (mean daily air temperature, °C) was obtained from a weather station near the center of the study site (NOAA station GHCND: USC00129430) and used to calculate CGDD. Water temperature data were not available for the duration of the study; however, water temperatures in the Wabash River were previously shown to be highly correlated with air temperatures from this weather station (Coulter et al. [2016b](#page-13-11)). We calculated growing degree day (GDD) as [(maximum daily temperature−minimum daily temperature)/2]−10 °C base temperature (Chezik et al. [2014;](#page-13-21) Coulter et al. [2016b\)](#page-13-11). If GDD was negative, a zero was substituted. Cumulative growing degree day is the sum of all previous GDD within a given year. We obtained discharge information from the U.S. Geological Survey stream gaging station (Gage 03335500) at Lafayette, IN (USA), which is located near the center of the study site. Discharge data were not available from this gaging station from 3/31/2012 through 7/17/12 and 5/17/2014 through 5/25/2014. We therefore used discharge information from the next gaging station downstream (Covington, IN [USA], gage 03336000) to estimate Lafayette discharge using a regression created from dates when concurrent gage measurements were available at both gages (Lafayette discharge  $[m]=28.21$ [Covington discharge]<sup>2</sup> + 44.34[Covington discharge] + 18.40;  $R^2$  = 0.996). Movements (pairs of consecutive detections) were assigned environmental data using either the mean value over the movement (temperature, discharge), change in values over the movement ( $ΔDis, ΔTemp$ ), or the value at the start of the movement (DOY, GDD, CGDD, total length). We measured total length (mm) of each fish during transmitter implantation and adjusted these values for years since tagging by adding estimated growth to measured total length at tagging. We estimated growth using the growth equation from Stuck et al. [\(2015](#page-14-19)) for Silver Carp from the Wabash River.

For each group and response variable (i.e., move/ no move, total distance, net distance), we used generalized linear mixed-efects models ('glmer'; Bates et al. [2015\)](#page-12-3) with abiotic and biotic variables listed above as fxed efects and individual fsh ID as a random efect. To examine if fsh would move or not, we used a binomial family model with the same fxed and random efects as the linear models examining movement distance. We evaluated environmental predictor variables for correlations prior to inclusion in models and no variables were signifcantly correlated (Pearson correlations, all $\langle r=0.45\rangle$ . We assessed models of every possible combination of biotic and abiotic predictors using Akaike's Information Criterion with small sample size correction  $(AIC_C)$  using the 'dredge' command (Package MuMIn, Barton [2018\)](#page-12-4) and we averaged models with delta  $AIC_C$  ( $\Delta AIC_C$ ) < 2 using conditional model averaging. We conducted all statistical analyses in R (v. 3.5.2, R Core Team [2018](#page-14-20)) with an  $\alpha$  = 0.05.

# **Results**

## Annual variation

Fish used in this study were detected for a mean of > 4 years (mobile:  $4.70$  years  $\pm 0.25$  SE; sedentary: 4.73 years  $\pm$  0.20 SE) for an average of 30–40 day per year (mobile: 31.79 day/year  $\pm 7.47$ SE; sedentary: 39.90 day/year  $\pm$  14.43 SE). Ranges used by sedentary fsh were signifcantly smaller than mobile fish  $(F_{1,6}=122.54, p<0.0001)$ , with pairwise comparisons showing diferences between the groups in every year (Fig. [3](#page-6-0)). Years 2015–2017 had signifcantly smaller ranges overall than earlier years except for 2012 (F<sub>1,6</sub>=6.483,  $p < 0.0001$ ). However, mobile fsh ranges were driving this trend, and sedentary ranges showed no signifcant diference from year to year. Mean rkm was not diferent between sedentary and mobile groups  $(F_{1,6}=0.979,$  $p=0.326$ ; Fig. [4](#page-7-0)); however, mobile fish used signifcantly higher and lower max and min rkm than sedentary fish (max rkm:  $F_{1,6} = 14.06$ ,  $p = 0.0004$ ; min rkm:  $F_{1,6}$ =[4](#page-7-0)6.09,  $p$  < 0.0001; Fig. 4). Similarly to range values, diferences among years (min rkm:  $F_{1,6} = 8.35$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; max rkm:  $F_{1,6} = 13.132$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) were driven by mobile fish, and sedentary fsh showed no signifcant annual variation in these values. Pairwise comparisons revealed that mobile fsh max rkm was signifcantly higher in 2011–2015 compared to 2017. Additionally, mobile fsh min rkm was lower in 2012–2014, 2016 and 2017 compared to 2011 and 2015.

# Seasonal variation

Total distances moved were signifcantly greater in mobile fish then sedentary fish  $(F_{1,3}=131.25)$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ), but movements were not different among seasons  $(F=1.12, df=1,3, p=0.340; Fig. 5)$  $(F=1.12, df=1,3, p=0.340; Fig. 5)$ . However, net distances showed both a signifcant diference between groups  $(F_{1,3}=35.49, p<0.0001)$  and among seasons  $(F_{1,3}=29.91, p<0.0001;$  Fig. [6\)](#page-9-0). Pairwise comparison showed net movement was lower in the fall and winter compared to other seasons.

Abiotic and biotic drivers of movements

Discharge, ΔDis, and temperature were signifcantly related to whether an individual would move or remain stationary for both groups (Table [2;](#page-9-1) Supplemental File 1: Table S3—move/no move average model coefficients). Average model coefficients for discharge and temperature were 41 and 3.2 times higher, respectively, for the mobile group than for the sedentary group. Additionally, total length was a signifcant predictor for the mobile group to move or remain stationary, and all other variables (CGDD, ΔTemp, DOY) except total length were signifcant predictors in the averaged model for the sedentary group. Movement distance was related to total length for both groups, although the direction of the relationship was diferent (sedentary—negative, mobile positive; Table [3;](#page-10-0) Supplemental File 1: Table S4 averaged model coefficients). Discharge,  $\Delta$ Dis, and CGDD were signifcantly related to distance moved in sedentary Silver Carp. Only DOY, in addition to

<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Annual ranges in river km (rkm)  $(\pm$  standard deviation [sd]) of mobile and sedentary Silver Carp in the Wabash River, IN (USA) from 2011 to 2017. Mobile Silver Carp exhibited signifcantly larger range sizes than sedentary Silver Carp in all study years ( $p < 0.05$ ). Numbers of Silver Carp in each movement group varied annually and are provided in Table [1](#page-3-0)



<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Fig. 4** Mean **a**, **b** maximum, and **c** minimum river km (rkm)  $(\pm$  standard deviation bars [sd]) used by acoustically tagged mobile and sedentary Silver Carp in the Wabash River, IN (USA). Mean rkm was not diferent between movement groups. Maximum and minimum rkm were both diferent between movement groups which were higher and lower in the mobile group. Diferences among years within the mobile group are indicated by letters. The sedentary group was never diferent among years



length, was related to movement distance for mobile individuals.

Net distance, a metric of movement distance and direction combined, did not have fsh total length as a signifcant predictor for sedentary or mobile groups. Change in discharge was the only signifcant predictor in the averaged model for the sedentary group (Table [4;](#page-10-1) Supplemental File 1: Table S5—averaged model coefficients). An averaged model could not be generated for the mobile Silver Carp as only one model had a  $\Delta AIC < 2$ (Online Resource 1). Temperature and CGDD were both signifcant predictors in this model for the mobile group.

<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 5** Mean total distances (river km [rkm])  $(\pm \text{stand}$ ard deviation bars [sd]) moved by acoustically tagged Silver Carp in the Wabash River, IN (USA). When year and individual were accounted for, total distances moved were not diferent between movement groups or among seasons



#### **Discussion**

Sedentary fsh exhibited consistently less variability in their movements than mobile fsh, and their movements were not as strongly associated with environmental variables when the same environmental predictors were significant (i.e., smaller coefficients; e.g. temperature), suggesting that sedentary fsh may be less reactive than mobile fsh to the examined environmental predictors. However, a greater variety of environmental variables were related to sedentary fsh movements than mobile fsh, especially in determining whether an individual would move or remain stationary. Alternatively, mobile individuals' movements were generally related to variables with a temporal component (DOY or CGDD) and/or total length. In addition to reacting more to environmental cues, mobile fsh may have also been sensitive to factors not included in this study (e.g., densities, Rasmussen and Belk [2012](#page-14-2)), resulting in higher movement frequencies. Many of the observed signifcant relationships with movement distance were diferent, or diferent in magnitude, between the two movement groups, indicating that resource managers may beneft from targeting a specifc movement group for management.

Seasonal and annual variations in movements were apparent for mobile, but not sedentary fsh, suggesting that mobile fsh pose the greatest risk of moving into uninvaded habitats at specifc times and related to life history events. Although ascertaining the purpose of a movement (e.g., spawning vs. dispersal) is beyond the scope of this study, data from the mobile <span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 6** Mean net distances (river km [rkm])  $(\pm \text{stand}$ ard deviation bars [sd]) moved by acoustically tagged Silver Carp in the Wabash River, IN (USA). Positive values indicate net upstream movements and negative values indicate net downstream movements. When year and individual fish were accounted for, net distances moved were different between movement groups and among seasons  $(fall and winter < spring)$ and summer). Net distances moved were not diferent among seasons for sedentary fsh and were diferent among seasons for mobile fish (indicated by  $*$ )



<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Table 2** Results of model averaging to examine variables contributing to likelihood of a mobile or sedentary Silver Carp to move or remain stationary



Variables included in one or both of the averaged models were: cumulative growing degree day (CGDD, base of 10 °C), river discharge (Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), change in river discharge over 24 h ( $\Delta$ Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), day of year (DOY), air temperature (Temp, °C), change in temperature over 24 h (ΔTemp, °C), and fsh total length (TL, mm). Models also both include a random efect of individual fsh identity

Group	<b>CGDD</b>	$\Delta \text{Dis}$	$\Delta$ Temp	Dis	<b>DOY</b>	Temp	TL
Mobile							
Estimate	18.343	$-2.351$	1.341	2.307	$-0.287$	$-1.92$	0.074
<b>SE</b>	12.377	2.827	2.776	0.12	0.12	3.273	0.03
$\boldsymbol{p}$	0.139	0.406	0.63	0.466	0.017	0.558	0.013
Sedentary							
Estimate	$-995$		0.406	$-0.806$		0.379	$-0.032$
<b>SE</b>	0.25		0.229	0.247		0.25	0.003
p	< 0.0001		0.077	0.001		0.131	< 0.0001

<span id="page-10-0"></span>**Table 3** Results of model averaging to examine variables contributing to total distances moved by mobile and sedentary Silver Carp

Variables included in one or both of the averaged models were: cumulative growing degree day (CGDD, base of 10 °C), river discharge (Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), change in river discharge over 24 h ( $\Delta$ Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), day of year (DOY), air temperature (Temp, °C), change in temperature over 24 h (ΔTemp, °C), and fsh total length (TL, mm). Both models also include a random efect of individual fsh identity

<span id="page-10-1"></span>**Table 4** Results of model averaging to examine variables contributing to net distances moved by mobile and sedentary Silver Carp

Group	CGDD	$\Delta \text{Dis}$	$\Delta$ Temp	Dis	<b>DOY</b>	Temp	TL
Mobile <sup>a</sup>							
Estimate	$-9.617$	$-0.595$	$-2.203$	$-0.572$		13.918	
SE	3.418	3.431	3.368	3.63		3.317	
$p_{\parallel}$	0.005	0.862	0.513	0.875		< 0.0001	
Sedentary							
Estimate	$-0.416$	0.742	$-0.32$	-		0.543	
<b>SE</b>	0.336	0.338	0.381			0.349	
$\boldsymbol{p}$	0.217	0.029	0.401			0.12	

Variables included in one or both of the averaged models were: cumulative growing degree day (CGDD, base of 10 °C), river discharge (Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), change in river discharge over 24 h ( $\Delta$ Dis, m<sup>3</sup>/s), day of year (DOY), air temperature (Temp, °C), change in temperature over 24 h (ΔTemp, °C), and fsh total length (TL, mm). Models also both include a random efect of individual fsh identity

– indicates a variable not included top models used for averaging

a Not averaged, single top model

fsh do indicate that spawning movement may be a potential infuence on movements of these fshes (e.g., high movement in spring/summer). Additionally, positive net distances moved by the most mobile fsh indicate that there could be potential disperers within this group. Additionally, mobile fsh tended to move more frequently under conditions that coincided with an "open river" (i.e., dams open to allow free-fowing water) in many regulated rivers and flooding allowing fshes to move more freely among river sections. Open dams and high-water levels would allow mobile fish to invade locations that are otherwise inaccessible at a time during which they are moving the greatest distances. The use of temporary barriers (e.g., seasonal electrical barriers) could constrain movements

during this critical time and limit both dispersal and spawning activity. This strategy could be used to prevent and/or control invasion without requiring the full-time use of expensive.

Movements (upstream rkm used and range) in mobile fsh generally declined over the course of the study, although the cause of this is unclear. Little of this annual variation appears to correspond to river conditions. For example, 2012 was a severe drought year in Midwestern North America, yet the movements of mobile individuals were not reduced in this year. Instead, the decline in movement through time may be more likely related to study design issues such as reduced stationary receiver coverage in later years.

The presence and dispersal behavior of mobile individuals in an invasive population is particularly important, as these individuals contribute to invasion success (Cote et al. [2010;](#page-13-22) Juette et al. [2014](#page-13-12)). Mobile Silver Carp were consistently mobile throughout our study (i.e., they consistently exhibited movements typical of those at the mobile extreme of the movement continuum). However, expression of a particular behavioral type (i.e., mobile vs. sedentary) may still vary in relation to factors we did not examine. For example, dispersal behaviors may decrease with increasing genetic interrelatedness (Cote et al. [2010](#page-13-22)), which could occur in cases where invasive species establish with limited founder populations. Our study examined the movement of individuals from the middle of an invasive population, and future work should examine the prevalence of mobile individuals at invasion fronts to better understand the role they play in invasion success. Mobile individuals at the invasion front may be more apt to move and able to colonize new habitats once sedentary individuals are recruited to that habitat (Rehage et al. [2016\)](#page-14-5). Mobile individuals, especially at the invasion front, could therefore lead to more rapid establishment and expansion of invasive species ranges (Thomas et al. [2001;](#page-14-21) Phillips et al. [2006;](#page-14-22) Bénichou et al. [2012](#page-12-5)).

The presence of sedentary individuals in a population may also promote the invasiveness of introduced species, yet many studies focus solely on the importance of mobile individuals within a population (e.g., Fobert et al. [2019](#page-13-23)). For example, sedentary individuals can contribute to establishment and resilience of metapopulations that serve to sustain introduced species' populations. In this situation, sedentary fish occupy favorable habitat patches with sufficient resources, while mobile fish invade new habitats, potentially creating new subpopulations. If new, favorable habitats are not encountered by mobile fish and they die, subpopulations of sedentary fish persist to maintain the metapopulation. Although previously dispersing individuals may have failed to establish, the continued pressure by new mobile recruits sustained by sedentary individuals provides continued opportunities for successful spread. Without sedentary individuals in a population, highly mobile introduced species metapopulations may not be able to maintain viable subpopulations that can backstop failed dispersal. Therefore, it is important to improve our understanding of both sedentary and

mobile individuals and their prevalence in invasive populations.

Sedentary and mobile individuals remained consistent in their movement type throughout this study. However, all fish in this study were likely mature  $(>45$  cm total length, Coulter [2015\)](#page-13-24), and adult movements may not refect movement behaviors throughout a fsh's entire life history (Morrissey and Ferguson [2011\)](#page-14-23). Mobile or sedentary fish may have diferent advantages or disadvantages at diferent ontogenetic stages. For example, juvenile Mottled Sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*) that were more mobile grew faster than sedentary juveniles, but the opposite was true for adults (Petty and Grossman [2004](#page-14-0)). Previous studies have also documented periods of mobile and sedentary movements within the same individual (Alldredge et al. [2011](#page-12-6)). However, even when examining seasonal movements, mobile and sedentary fsh in our study were consistently diferent from each other despite seasonal variation between movement types. Future work should evaluate the consistency of behavioral type at fner time scales and across varying ontogenetic stages.

In our study, movement distances of both sedentary and mobile fsh were signifcantly related to total length, but the relationships were in contrasting directions (sedentary—negative; mobile—positive). Within a species, larger fsh are physically more capable of moving longer distances; therefore, the trend of increasing movement with increasing total length we observed in mobile Silver Carp may be partially explained by swimming capability. In a diferent invaded river (Illinois River, USA), current management actions to reduce Silver Carp numbers use size selective capture gears (e.g., gill nets) and have reduced Silver Carp total lengths (Coulter et al. [2018](#page-13-16)). In this case, managers may be reducing the risk of spread posed by mobile individuals by selectively removing the largest fsh in the population. Sedentary and mobile behavioral types are often also linked with other personality traits such as aggressiveness (mobile individuals) and sociability (sedentary individuals; Rasmussen and Belk [2012;](#page-14-2) Rehage et al. [2016\)](#page-14-5). In the case of Silver Carp, perhaps sedentary individuals are also less aggressive, resulting in displacement of small sedentary individuals from preferred habitat and moving more than larger sedentary fsh. Diferences in other personality traits between sedentary and mobile individuals could contribute to the negative relationship of movement distance to total length. In the future, determining if any other traits are linked with dispersal could reveal additional factors that positively infuence invasion success.

Dispersal syndrome refers to cases in which multiple traits, such as higher fecundity and survival, are related to dispersal tendencies (Clobert et al. [2009](#page-13-25); Stevens et al. [2014](#page-14-24)). These traits may all interact to positively infuence invasion success (Juette et al. [2014;](#page-13-12) Rehage et al. [2016](#page-14-5)). Additionally, aggressiveness is also often associated with dispersal and presence at an invasion front (e.g., Groen et al. [2012](#page-13-26)). Such aggressive individuals may be better able to obtain and defend resources, thus enhancing the impacts of the invasive species. Examinations of prevalence of specifc genes or gene combinations are necessary to further compare sedentary and mobile individuals (Rasmussen and Belk [2017](#page-14-25)) and evaluate how traits linked with mobility may infuence invasion success. Bigheaded carps (*Hypophthalmichthys* spp.) specifcally have an additional complicating factor because individuals that appear to be Silver Carp may be hybrids of Bighead Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and Silver Carp (Lamer et al. [2015](#page-14-26)). Hybrids may disperse diferently, and hybrid groups could have greater or reduced prevalence of potentially risky mobile individuals (Coulter et al. [2020](#page-13-27)).

Management programs for invasive species often fail to account for individual variation in behavior (Juette et al. [2014](#page-13-12)). Removal programs that target specifc behavioral types could result in a shift in behavioral types within the population, ultimately leading to alterations in population dynamics and ecosystem efects (Juette et al. [2014\)](#page-13-12). A better understanding of individual heterogeneity will allow individual variation in movement and habitat use to be incorporated into models (Tyler and Rose [1994](#page-15-2)). Ideally these investigations will be coupled with genetic analyses to determine how observed movements match with dispersal (Morrissey and Ferguson [2011\)](#page-14-23).

**Acknowledgements** We thank D. Keller, T. Stefanavage, and C. Jansen for assisting with this research and several anonymous reviewers for comments which led to the improvement of this manuscript. We also thank the many Goforth lab students and technicians at Purdue University who have worked to collect the data used in this study, including P. Stipe, T. Thoren, J. Beugly, C. Cripe, W. Goldsmith, A. Escobedo, M. Gunn, E. Bailey, C. Rennaker, and A. Lenaerts.

**Author contributions** All authors contributed to the conception and design of the study, and revision of this manuscript. Additionally, all authors approve of the submitted manuscript. Data collection and initial writing of the manuscript were performed by Alison A. Coulter and Austin R. Prechtel. Alison A. Coulter performed data analyses and created fgures/tables.

**Funding** Funding for this study was provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (EDS E2-1-D639) and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative awarded to Reuben R. Goforth. Funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture also supported R. Goforth and the Goforth lab during this study.

**Data availability** Movement data analyzed during the current study are available in Supplementary File 2. Environmental data is publicly available, and sources are mentioned in the text.

#### **Declarations**

**Confict of interest** The authors declare no confict of interest.

**Ethical approval** Capture, handling, and surgical procedures described in this study was approved by the Purdue University Animal Care and Use Committee under protocol 09-040.

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