

## Asian Carps

Asian carps were transported to the United States in the 1960-70s for biological control of algae, plants and snails in aquaculture ponds. Flooding allowed the fishes to escape into the Mississippi River basin rivers in the 1970's-1990s and they have been advancing towards the Great Lakes ever since.

There are four species of Asian carps to be on the look-out for. Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Black Carp and Grass Carp.

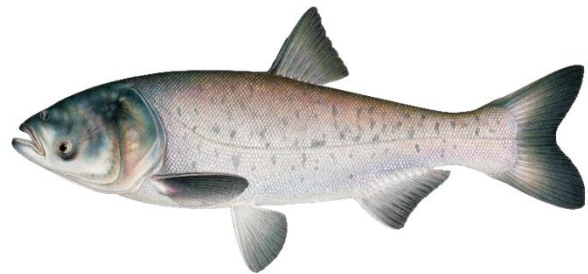
### Silver Carp:

- Weigh up to 40 kilograms
- Large head and toothless mouth
- Light silver in colour with a white belly
- Eyes sit below the mouth



### Bighead Carp:

- Weigh up to 40 kilograms and grow to 1.5 metres in length
- Very large head and toothless mouth
- Adult fish are dark grey with dark mottling
- Eyes sit below the mouth



### Black Carp:

- Closely resembles the Grass Carp
- Weigh up to 70 kilograms and can exceed 1.5 metres in length
- Large scales with dark edges appear crosshatched
- Eyes sit even with the mouth



### Grass Carp:

- Large scales that appear crosshatched
- Eyes sit even with the mouth
- Weigh up to 45 kilograms and grow to 1.5 metres in length



Fish illustrations © Joe Tomelleri

## Why is FOCA concerned?

If any of the four species of Asian carps enter the Great Lakes and establish a population, they will have detrimental effects on commercial and sport fishing industries, recreational boating, and tourism across Ontario.

### Physical Threat

The vibration of boat propellers can make Silver Carp jump up to 3 metres out of the water.

### Ecological Threat

Asian carps eat up to 40% of their body weight a day which threatens the food supply for native fish populations.

### Socio-economic Threat

A decline in native fish species could damage Ontario's commercial and sport fishing industries.



## What is being done in Ontario?

- Ontario has regulated four species of Asian carps (Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Grass Carp, Black Carp). Under the *Invasive Species Act* activities that are banned include: import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade
- Canada also has Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations that pertain to Asian carps. Under the regulations, pursuant the federal *Fisheries Act*, importation is banned unless the fish is dead and eviscerated; transport, possession and release are banned.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada conducts early warning surveillance from May to October throughout the Great Lakes and their tributaries
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry monitor the waters through eDNA sampling
- Partnerships with non-government organizations (like FOCA) help to educate water users and the general public and prevent the spread of Asian carps

## What can you do?

- Never buy or keep live Asian carps.
- Do not introduce live fish into Ontario lakes or rivers.
- If you have any information about the illegal importing, distribution or sale of live Asian carps, report it immediately to the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667.
- If you believe you've seen an Asian carp or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the toll free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit EDDMapS Ontario to report a sighting.
- Visit [Asiancarp.ca](http://Asiancarp.ca) for resources and information
- **Learn how to identify Asian carps and how to prevent the introduction or spread of these unwanted species.**

## **Other Resources and Information:**

**Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada:** <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especies/profiles-profil/asiacarp-carpeasiatique-eng.html>

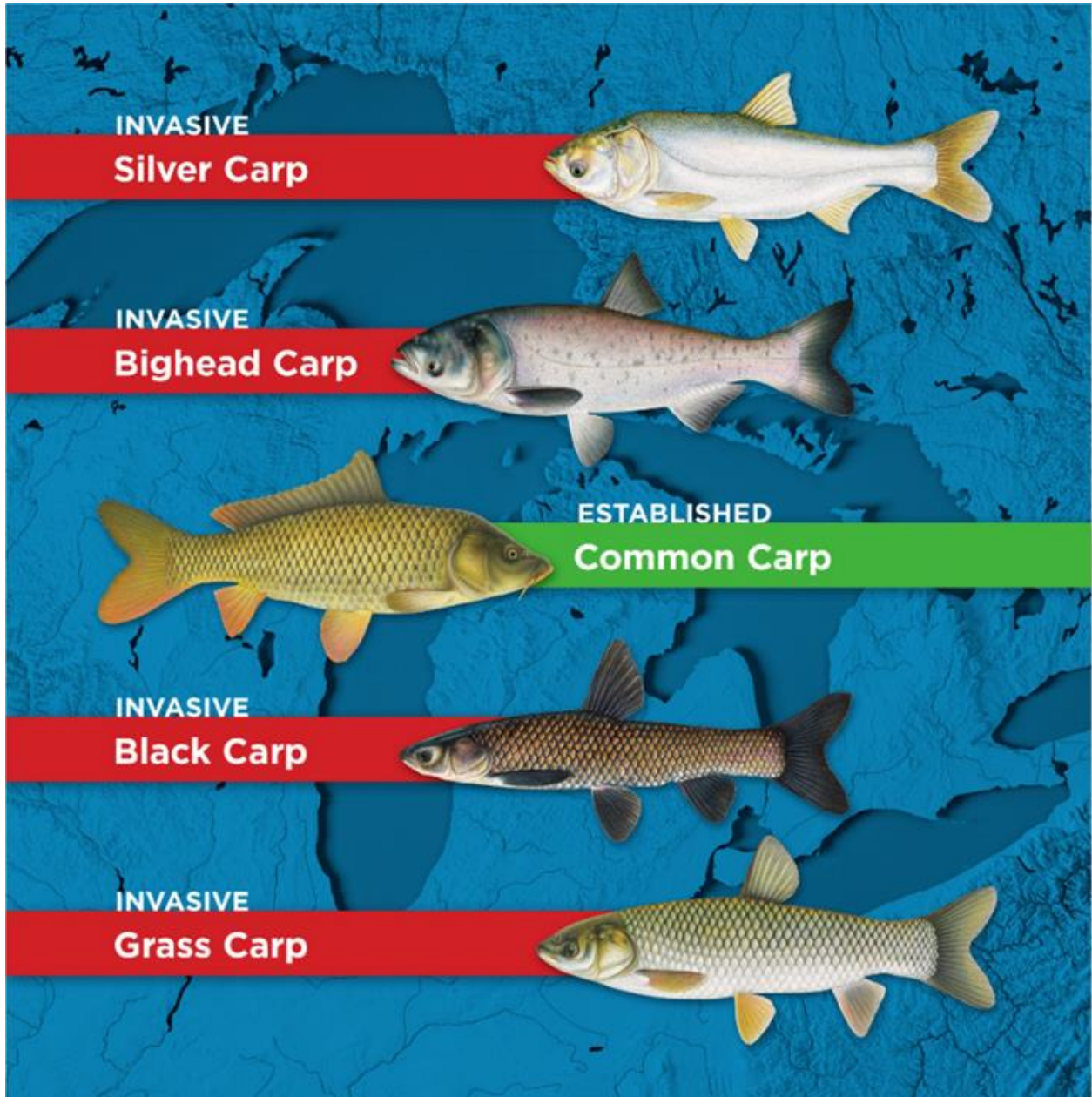
**Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program:** <http://www.invadingspecies.com/asian-carps/>

**Asian Carp Canada:** <https://asiacarp.ca/>

**Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/asian-carps>

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations:** <https://foca.on.ca/asian-carp/>

# 1. Learn how to ID Asian Carps



## 2. Report sightings: EDDMapS Ontario

<https://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario/>