Step 1: Invasive Carp Identification

In the United States, four species of non-native carp – bighead, silver, black and grass carp – are collectively called 'invasive carp'. These fast-growing and prolific feeders outcompete native fish, posing a threat to the Great Lakes.

Think you may have found an invasive carp that needs to be reported? Follow these helpful identification tips before contacting state personnel.

Identification Tips

Make sure you have the right carp! The common carp is also found in North American waters but is not currently threatening the Great Lakes. They have a small mouth relative to body size, are brown in color with large scales, and have a barbel (whisker). If in doubt, contact your state personnel!
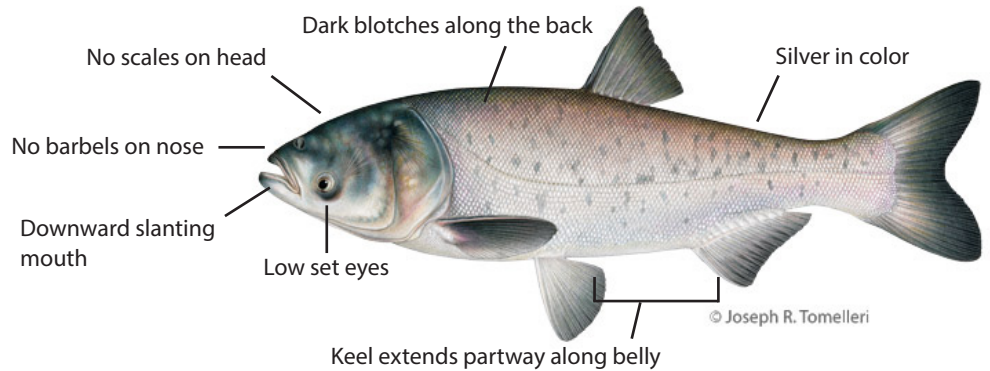
Other fish species sometimes mistaken for invasive carp include blue suckers, bigmouth buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, and golden shiners.

Learn more about the locations of confirmed invasive carp sightings.

1. Visit nas.er.usgs.gov. Click on the "Search for NAS records via our custom spatial query map," found below the blue box.

2. On the left side of the map page, in the "Add a New Search Field," select "Common Name" from the drop-down menu.

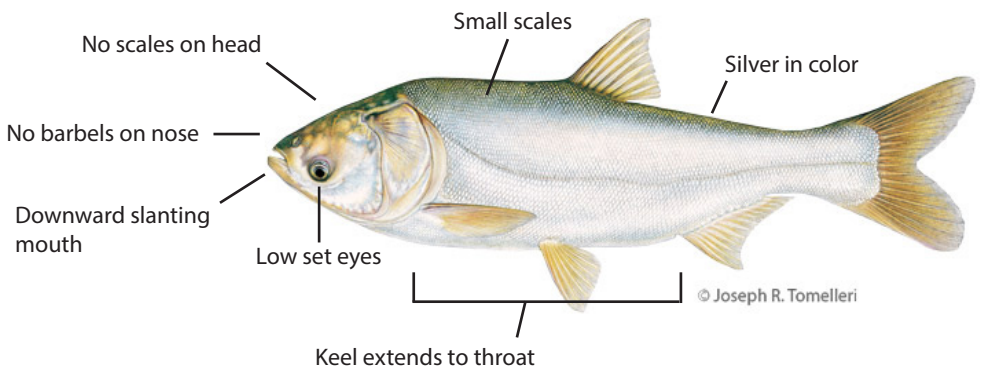3. Type in the common name of the carp species, e.g., "Black Carp." Click "Search."

Bighead Carp

Bighead carp can be found throughout the Mississippi River basin and have been captured as far north as Lake Pepin in Minnesota.

No scales on head
Dark blotches along the back
Silver in color
No barbels on nose
Downward slanting mouth
Low set eyes
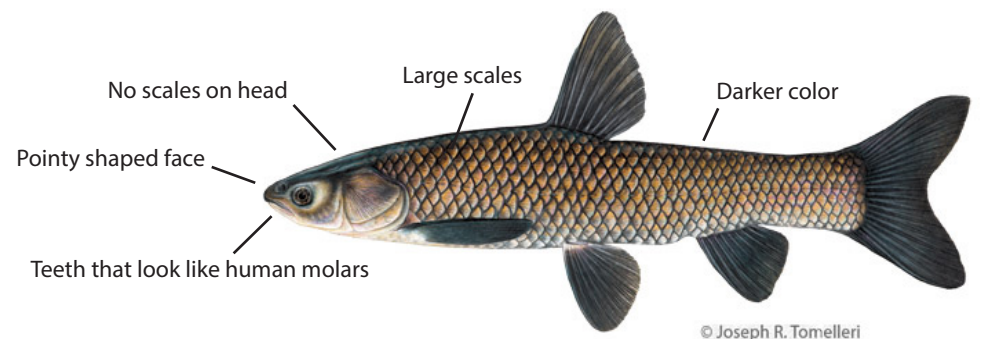Keel extends partway along belly
© Joseph R. Tomelleri

Silver Carp

Silver carp can be found throughout much of the Mississippi River basin and are expanding in other basins, including eastward in the Ohio River.

No scales on head
Small scales
Silver in color
No barbels on nose
Downward slanting mouth
Low set eyes
Keel extends to throat
© Joseph R. Tomelleri

Black Carp

Although black carp are currently not as widespread as other invasive carps, their range is rapidly expanding from the lower Mississippi River to the upper Mississippi River basins, Ohio River, and other basins. Black carp have been found in the Illinois River n

No scales on head
Large scales
Darker color
Pointy shaped face
Teeth that look like human molars
© Joseph R. Tomelleri

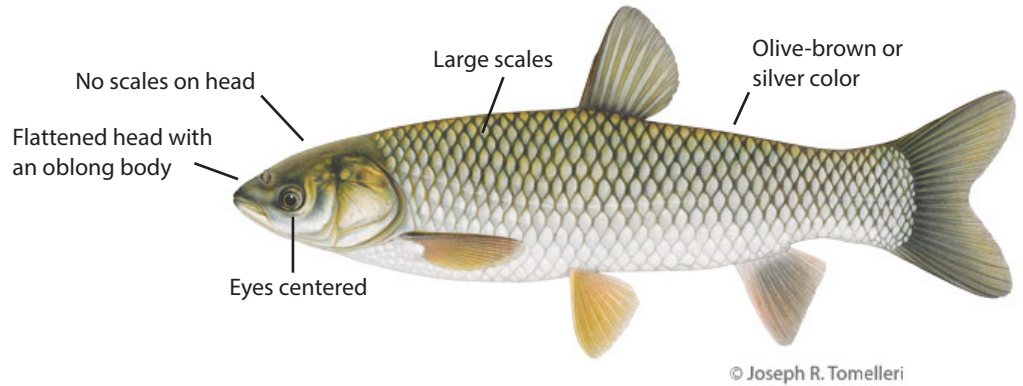## Step 2: Contact Agency Personnel in Your State

Take a picture of the fish. The best angle is of the fish laid out flat. Try to include the whole fish, nose to tail, in the shot.

Know the location of where you caught the fish. What river or lake were you fishing in? What is the nearest town? What county are you in?

Immediately contact the appropriate agency personnel for the state you are in. If an email address is provided, email a photograph of the fish in question as well as call.

Grass Carp

Grass carp are widely distributed throughout much of the United States. They have been detected in all of the Great Lakes except Lake Superior and are regularly detected in Lake Erie.

No scales on head

Flattened head with an oblong body

Eyes centered

Large scales

Olive-brown or silver color

© Joseph R. Tomelleri

State Agency Contacts for Reporting Invasive Carp

Illinois

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Division of Fisheries

(217) 782-6424

Indiana

Doug Keller

dkeller@dnr.in.gov

(765) 342-5527

Michigan

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries Division

(517) 284-5830

Report online at:
www.michigan.gov/invasivecarp

Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us

(651) 587-2781

New York

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Lindsay Yoder

(716) 851-7114

Lindsay.Yoder@dec.ny.gov

Ohio

John Navarro

(614) 265-6346

John.Navarro@dnr.state.oh.us

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Invasive Carp Coordinator

Mike Depew

(814) 445-3454

Report online at:
pfbc.pa.gov/forms/reportAIS.htm

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Aquatic Invasive Species Policy and Program Lead

Amy Kretlow

(920) 838-2597

Amy.Kretlow@Wisconsin.gov

Step 3: Preserving & Transporting the Fish

If state personnel would like to examine the fish, put it on ice or place in a plastic bag.

Do NOT keep a live invasive carp in your possession.

Do NOT travel across state lines with an invasive carp in your possession.

Do NOT move an invasive carp to another body of water even if it is dead.

Visit our website for more information including carp identification guides.

www.invasivecarp.us

September 2022