Laws affecting the interstate movement of live Asian carp

The federal government regulates the interstate movement of all live federally listed injurious invasive species under the Lacey Act, 18 USC 42, and 18 USC 3372. It is a violation of federal law to transport live Asian carp in interstate commerce.

In addition, Wisconsin law makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer or introduce any species of live Asian carp.

Contact: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-920-866-1750 or the Wisconsin DNR at 1-800-TIP-WDNR.

What can I do to prevent Asian carp from entering Wisconsin?

Learn the features that distinguish young Asian carp from gizzard shad and other native minnows, and adult fish from common carp, a related invasive carp species that has been established in Wisconsin for more than a century. Carry an Asian Carp Watch Card in your boat or tackle box. (To order watch cards or other aquatic invasive publications, send an e-mail to DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov).

Gizzard shad adult – often a valuable fish for wildlife food

Silver carp juvenile

Bighead carp juvenile

What should I do if I find a live Asian carp?

1. If caught, do not return the fish to the waterbody.
2. Report the find to your local DNR office. If possible, it is important to provide a means of identification:
   - 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 photo.
   - Put the fish on ice and bring it to your local DNR office.

Each year thousands of pounds of live Asian carp are illegally transported across state lines in the U.S. Please do not trade in, transport, or purchase illegally traded live Asian carp. If you are aware of any of these activities occurring with live Asian carp, please call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Wisconsin DNR Violation Hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR. With your help, we can stop the spread of these invasive fish.

Follow all state rules to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and fish disease:

- ***INSPECT*** your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- ***REMOVE*** any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway)
- ***DRAIN*** all water from boats, motors and all equipment – including livewells and buckets.
- ***NEVER MOVE*** live fish away from a waterbody.
- ***DISPOSE*** of unwanted bait in the trash. Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under certain conditions: You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd. West
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Phone: 1-612-713-5360
Special Agent in Charge/Midwest Region
Office of Law Enforcement 1-612-713 5320

People with hearing impairments may reach the Office of Law Enforcement through the Federal Relay System at 1-800-877-8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD
www.fws.gov/midwest/lawenforcement

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Weber Street
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53703-7921

General Information: 1-888-936-7463

Report a violation: 1-800-TIP-WDNR

dnr.wi.gov

MAY 2013

DNR PUB-WT-999

Asian Carp: Keep invasive species out of Wisconsin

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Asian Carp:

Keep invasive species out of Wisconsin

Silver carp (left), Bighead carp (right)
USFWS photo

The Asian carp threat

There are four species of Asian carp that are considered invasive and a threat to Wisconsin waters: the bighead, silver, grass and black carp. As of spring 2013, no breeding populations of these species have been found in Wisconsin or bordering waters. Species of live Asian carp, including bighead and silver, are being lawfully raised in fish farms in states like Arkansas and Mississippi and commercially fished in infested waters to control their numbers. When dead, these fish pose no threat to the environment.

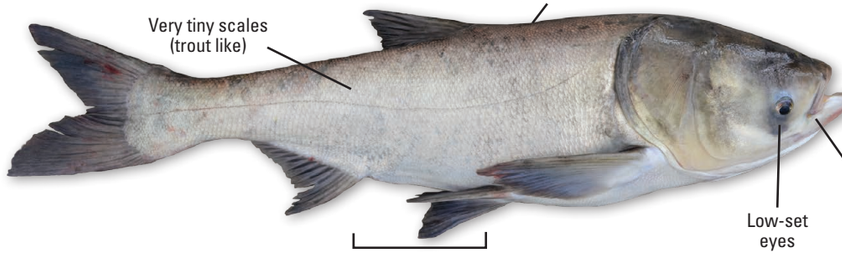
However, when alive, these carp pose significant threats to freshwater ecosystems. Currently, millions of dollars are being spent to stop Asian carp before they get to the Great Lakes and other freshwater ecosystems. Recent law enforcement activities have demonstrated that shipments of live Asian carp are being unlawfully transported across the United States, destined for fresh fish markets, in violation of federal and state laws.

Why are Asian carp considered injurious invasive species?

Asian carp grow quickly. Commonly they are found to weigh between 10 to 40 pounds, but can grow to be more than 100 pounds. Bighead and silver carp are voracious eaters capable of eating 5 to 20 percent of their body weight in plankton each day, outcompeting desirable gamefish. Black carp consume primarily mollusks, which threatens native mussel and sturgeon populations. Grass carp eliminate plant beds that provide critical habitat for young game fish and invertebrates.

Silver carp, sometimes referred to as "jumping" carp, are also a health hazard to recreational boaters. When agitated by the sounds of boat motors, silver carp can jump out of the water and become potentially dangerous projectiles. Silver and Bighead carp are at risk of being imported for food, and Grass carp for vegetation control.

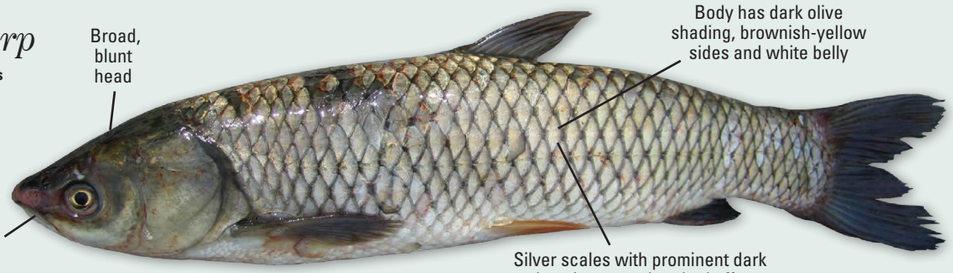
Identification of Asian carp



Bighead carp

length up to 44 inches

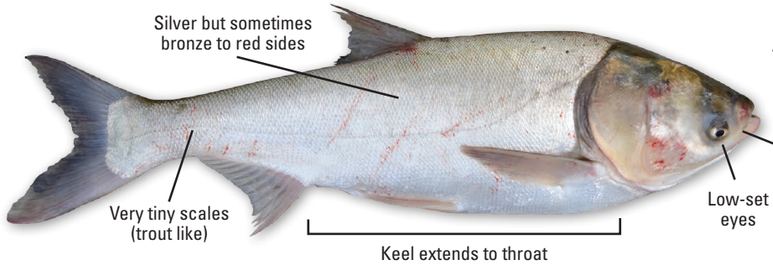
USFWS photo



Grass carp

length up to 49 inches

USFWS photo



Silver carp

length up to 41 inches

USFWS photo

Black carp

length up to 48 inches

photo by Rob Cosgriff
Illinois Natural History Survey

A conservation officer checks for Asian carp.

How to identify carp

For more tips on how to identify bighead and silver carp using grass carp and common carp as points of comparison, watch the video ***How to Identify Asian Carp:***

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B49OWrCRs38

USFWS photo

Silver carp (left) and Bighead carp (right).

Common carp – *a well-known pest in Wisconsin*

Painting: Virgil Beck

Common carp were introduced in the U.S. in the mid-1800s and were intentionally stocked in many Wisconsin waters until they later were regarded as invasive pests. They are well-established and often destructive, creating muddy water conditions and damaging habitat needed by more desirable fish.