

- We are very concerned about the impacts aquatic invasive species are having on Great Lakes ecosystems. We're working to keep new invaders like Asian carps from entering the Great Lakes.
- We have made the possession of any live invasive fish illegal (grass carp, silver carp, bighead carp, black carp, ruffe, rudd, round goby, tubenose goby, and members of the snakehead family).
- We have been working in partnership since 1992 with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to deliver invasive species programs including:
  - o Education, outreach, and training
  - o Province-wide monitoring
  - o Early detection
- Conservation officers enforce regulations involving invasive species and baitfish.
- We conduct province-wide monitoring for invasive species and targeted surveillance for Asian carps in the Great Lakes every year.

### What We're Doing:



Silver carp pose a hazard to boaters. The vibration caused by a boat propeller may make silver carp jump out of the water as high as 1.5 metres (5 feet), potentially causing physical injury to people on the water.

### Asian Carp Create a Safety Hazard

If you believe you have seen or caught an Asian carp, or you have found one in your bait bucket, we want to hear from you. **DO NOT** release it. Humanely kill the fish and report your sighting. Please visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) to fill out an online Invasive Species reporting form, or call us toll free 1-800-563-7711. We'll want to know the details of your sighting, and we'll ask to see a specimen or photograph in order to confirm. You can play a role in helping us preserve Ontario's biodiversity.

### Report Asian Carps How You Can Help:

### Other Resources:

- [ontario.ca/invasivespecies](http://ontario.ca/invasivespecies)
- [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)
- [www.glfcc.org](http://www.glfcc.org)
- <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/ceara/index-eng.htm#ac>
- [www.asiancarp.ca](http://www.asiancarp.ca)

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# Asian Carps

Know the facts and learn how you can help



Recognize Asian carp and protect our waters from them

[ontario.ca/invasivespecies](http://ontario.ca/invasivespecies)

Cette publication est également disponible en français.



- Grass Carp:**
- Weigh up to 36 kilograms (80 pounds) and exceed a metre (5 ft) in length
  - Large scales at appear crosshatched
  - Eyes sit even with the mouth



- Silver Carp:**
- Smaller than bighead carp
  - Weigh up to 27 kilograms (60 pounds) and exceed 0.9 metres (3 feet) in length
  - Light silver in color with a white belly
  - Eyes sit below the mouth



- Bighead Carp:**
- Weigh up to 40 kilograms (90 pounds) and measure more than a metre (5 feet) in length
  - Consume up to 20% of their body weight daily
  - Have a very large head and toothless mouth
  - Adult fish are dark gray with dark mottling
  - Eyes sit below mouth

Bighead and silver carp represent the most severe threat to Ontario waters.

### Learn to Identify Asian Carps How You Can Help:

### Asian Carps are Moving Towards the Great Lakes

Asian carps were brought to North America in the 1960s and 70s primarily to control algae in aquaculture ponds in the southern United States. They escaped into nearby rivers during flooding and are migrating towards Lake Michigan. Specialized electric barriers are currently preventing the carp from moving into the Great Lakes.

### Four species of Asian carp threaten to invade Ontario waters:

- bighead
- grass
- silver
- black

### Asian Carps Threaten our Native Fish

If these carps become established in Ontario waters, they will eat the food supply that our native fish depend on and crowd them out of their habitat. Asian carps may upset the ecological balance of our lakes and rivers at the expense of native species and overall biodiversity. Asian carps could also affect commercial and recreational fishing. If they gain access to our Great Lakes, they will have very significant economic impacts as these industries bring hundreds of millions of dollars to Ontario's economy every year.

### Asian carps:

- Grow quickly (can exceed 25 centimetres or 10 inches in their first year)
- Typically weigh two to four kilograms, but can weigh up to 40 kilograms (90 pounds)
- Reproduce rapidly
- Have large appetites (can consume up to 20% of their body weight in food every day)
- Some species consume large amounts of plankton, invertebrates, and vegetation which can impact native species and biodiversity; others eat native snails and vegetation.

### How You Can Help:

### Don't Dump your Bait!

### The province regulates the possession and use of fish in Ontario:

- It is illegal to possess live invasive fish including bighead, silver, grass, or black carp for any purpose.
- Make sure to check your bait. Anglers are responsible for possessing only legal baitfish species.
- It is illegal to dump the contents of any bait container into the water or within 30 metres of any waters. Always dispose of unwanted baitfish into the trash and dump the water on dry land.
- Never import live fish into Ontario for use as bait.
- If you have any information about the unlawful importation or distribution of live Asian carp, report it immediately to the natural resources violation reporting line 1-877-847-7667 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



# Don't Confuse Young Asian Carps with these Common Ontario Species!

## Juvenile Asian Carps



### Juvenile Bighead Carp

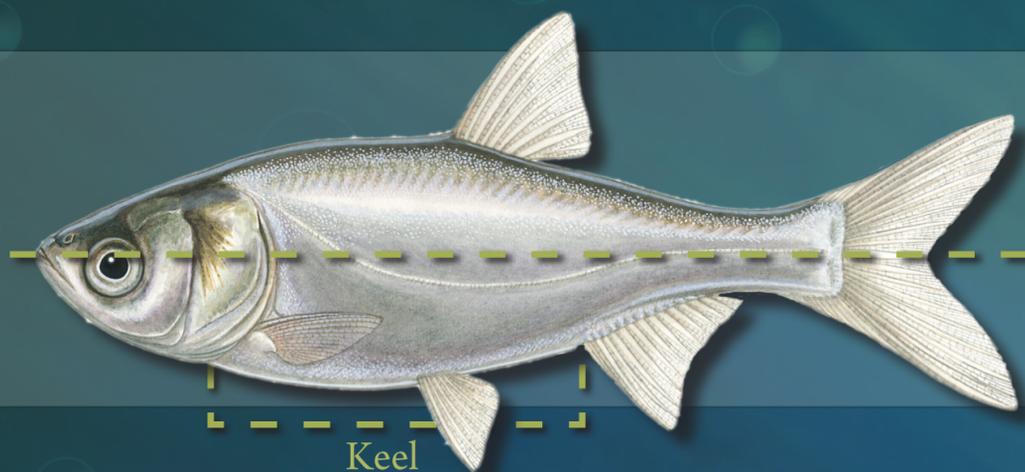
**Colour/Marking:** silvery, with dark mottling (especially on back), up-turned mouth

**Length:** 5-10 centimetres (2-4 inches)

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) prominent, extending from anal fin to pelvic fins (mid-body), no scales

**Scales:** very small (fine)

**Eyes:** below line extending from tail to snout (see dotted line above)



### Juvenile Silver Carp

**Colour / Markings:** silvery, without dark mottling or coloration on back, up-turned mouth

**Length:** 5-10 centimetres (2-4 inches)

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) prominent, extending from anal fin to gills, no scales

**Scales:** very small (fine)

**Eyes:** below line extending from tail to snout (see dotted line above)



### Juvenile Grass Carp

**Colour / Markings:** Pale gray to gold coloration, scales show a prominent dark edge, giving a cross-hatched appearance, terminal to slightly down-turned mouth

**Length:** 5-10 centimetres (2 - 4 inches)

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) Absent

**Scales:** intermediate to large

**Eyes:** on line extending from tail to snout.

### Check your bait!

If you see Asian Carp in your bait bucket, report it at [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) or 1-800-563-7711. Don't dump your bait. Dispose of unwanted bait on dry land 30 metres from any water or in the trash.

*Juvenile Asian Carp illustrations by Emily Damstra.*

## Common Minnows



### Fallfish

**Colour / Markings:** back is dark olive-green, or black, brown, or black, sides are silvery, and belly is silvery white.

**Length:** 20 centimetres (7.9 inches) is common bait size

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) absent

**Scales:** intermediate to large with a dark crescent in front of each scale

**Eyes:** on line extending from tail to snout



### Emerald Shiner

**Colour / Markings:** silver with green iridescence.

**Length:** 7.5 - 10 centimetres (3-4 inches) is common bait size

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) absent

**Scales:** intermediate to large

**Eyes:** on line extending from tail to snout



### Spottail Shiner

**Colour / Markings:** silvery sides with greenish blue back, prominent dark spot on tail.

**Length:** 7.5-10 centimetres (3-4 inches) is common bait size

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) absent

**Scales:** intermediate to large

**Eyes:** on line extending from tail to snout



### Golden Shiner

**Colour / Markings:** gold or brassy, deep-bodied with a lateral line running along the sides and dipping down in the middle of the body, silvery/black lateral stripe in juveniles.

**Length:** 7.5 - 18 cm (3-7 inches) is common bait size

**Keel:** (ridge on the underbelly) present, extending from anal fin to pelvic fins (mid-body), no scales, less distinct than alewife and Asian carp

**Scales:** intermediate to large

**Eyes:** on line extending from tail to snout

*Common Minnow illustrations by Joe Tomelleri.*