

INVASIVE BIGHEAD CARP OR A LOOK-ALIKE?

Bighead Carp is an invasive fish that has not been detected in the Great Lakes or elsewhere in Canada. If you think you have caught a **Bighead Carp**, follow these steps:

1. Report it to the Invading Species Hotline: **1-800-563-7711**, or email info@invadingspecies.com, or report via EDDMapS.org;
2. Work through this ID sheet;
3. If your fish matches ALL of the features of **Bighead Carp**, go to step 4. Otherwise, if the fish cannot be lawfully kept, release it immediately to the waters where it was caught, in a manner that causes the least harm to the fish. OR, if the fish can be lawfully kept, you can either practice catch and release or keep it;
4. Take photographs of the fish from multiple angles with adequate lighting and note your geographic location (e.g. latitude and longitude);
5. If you were unable to reach someone directly in step #1, avoid unintentionally killing native fishes by being certain

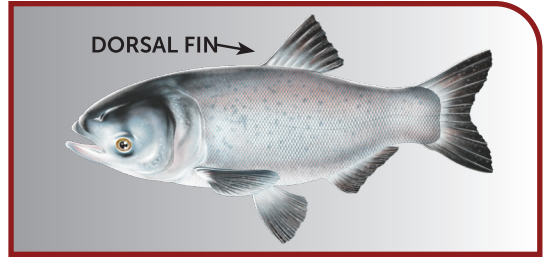
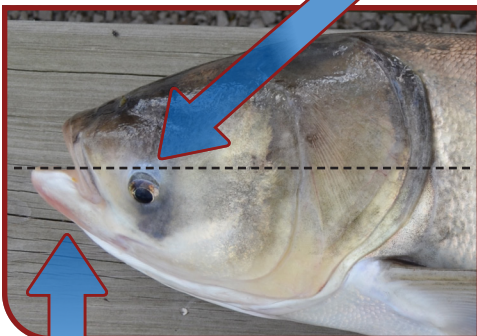


Photo Credit: Invasive Species Centre

of your identification before killing a suspected **Bighead Carp**. Ensure you are abiding by all of the laws highlighted in the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary; and

6. **IMPORTANT:** Do NOT release the **Bighead Carp** alive. Kill the fish without damaging the head or eyes. Gut the fish and keep it in a cooler, with its head above the ice. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will collect it! They learn a lot about the fish by conducting analyses on the head and eyes, such as whether or not the fish is fertile or sterile and where it came from.

A **Bighead Carp's** eyes sit below the mouth



Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

Bighead Carp have a **JAWED** mouth and do **NOT** have a **SUCKER** mouth



Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

Bighead Carp have **SMALL SCALES** with dark blotches and a curve pattern along the midline

Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee



INVASIVE Bighead Carp with **SHORT** dorsal fin and **SMALL, SHINY SCALES** with dark blotches and a curve pattern along the midline

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INVASIVE Bighead Carp with **JAWED** mouth and **NO BARBELS** (whiskers). Eyes sit below the mouth

Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee



INVASIVE Juvenile Bighead Carp with **DEEP** body. Eyes sit below the mouth. Dorsal fin begins **BEHIND** pelvic fin

Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Common Carp with **LONG** dorsal fin and **LARGE SCALES**

Brian Coad



Common Carp with **SUCKER** mouth and **BARBELS** (whiskers). Eyes sit relatively high on the head

'223833912' Joshua Rains, CC BY-NC at uploaded by Joshua Rains <https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/223833912>



Golden Shiner with **DEEP** body. Eyes sit relatively high on the head. Dorsal fin begins **BEHIND** pelvic fins

Oldenburg MNR



Bighead Buffalo with **LONG** dorsal fin and **MODERATE SCALES** in straight pattern along the midline

NatureNorth.com



Smallmouth Buffalo With **SUCKER** mouth and **NO BARBELS** (whiskers). Eyes sit relatively high on the head

'208121031' Chalon Boesel, CC BY-NC 4.0 at <https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/208121031>



Alewife with **DEEP** body. Eyes sit relatively high on the head. Dorsal fin begins **AHEAD** of pelvic fins

