

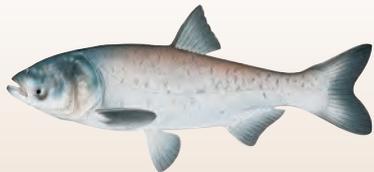
Asian Carp Identification

A Field Guide to Fish Invaders of the Great Lakes Region: Non-Native Fish and Native Look-a-Likes

 = Invasive Fish

Bighead Carp

- Large scaleless head with upturned mouth, no barbels
- **Eyes** forward, below midline and project downward
- Scaleless keel extends only from anal fin to pelvic fin
- Single dorsal spine is moderately stiff but not serrated, followed by 8 soft rays
- Very tiny scales (trout-like), 91–120 in lateral line
- Long and comb-like gill rakers



Aristichthys nobilis

Length: Up to 44 in. (112 cm)

Coloring: Body is dark gray dorsally to silver white on sides. Many dark irregularly shaped blotches are scattered over body



Black Carp

- Broad, blunt head with slight downturned mouth, no barbels
- No keel
- Pointed dorsal fin with 7–8 soft rays
- Dark-edged scales, give a cross-hatched effect, 39–46 in lateral line



Mylopharyngodon piceus

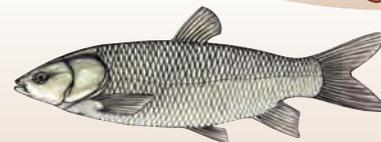
Length: Up to 48 in. (122 cm)

Coloring: Blackish-brown to dark olive body; blackish-gray fins; white belly



Grass Carp

- Broad, blunt head with slight downturned mouth, no barbels
- No keel
- Pointed dorsal fin with 8–10 soft rays
- Scales are silver to gray with a prominent dark edge, giving a cross-hatched effect, 34–45 in lateral line



Ctenopharyngodon idella

Length: Up to 49 in. (125 cm)

Coloring: Body has dark olive shading with brownish-yellow sides; white belly



Silver Carp

- Scaleless head with large upturned mouth, no barbels
- **Eyes** forward, below midline and project downward
- Scaleless keel extends all the way from anal fin to base of gills
- Dorsal spine moderately stiff but not serrated, followed by 8 soft rays
- Very tiny scales (trout-like), 91–124 in lateral line
- Gill rakers appear spongy



Hypophthalmichthys molitrix

Length: Up to 41 in. (104 cm)

Coloring: Body is olive green dorsally; silver but sometimes bronze to red sides



Common Carp

- Two barbels on each side of the upper jaw
- No keel
- Single **serrated spine** on long dorsal fin with more than 16 soft rays
- Large scales, 32–41 in lateral line



Cyprinus carpio

Length: Up to 48 in. (122 cm)

Coloring: Bronze to golden-yellow body; yellowish-white belly

