

Asian Carp: Bighead & Silver



Bighead



Silver

Why watch?

Bighead (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and silver carp (*H. molitrix*), commonly called Asian carp, are non-native fish invading and causing harm to our lakes and rivers. These fast-growing and highly-reproductive filter-feeders can quickly dominate a fish community, impacting native species and reducing commercial and recreational opportunities. Silver carp, which can leap nearly 10 ft. (~3 m) in the air when disturbed, can also injure people boating on infested waters.

Because young Asian carp look similar to wild-caught bait such as shad (see back photo), they have been spread when accidentally harvested and used as bait. Early detection of new Asian carp populations, however, may help contain their spread and allow for their removal. Therefore your help in “watching” for new infestations and preventing the spread of these and other non-native aquatic species is needed to protect our waters.



Identification tips:

- Silver carp may jump out of the water when disturbed.
- Both species have low-set eyes and lack scales on their heads.
- Both have small body scales and large, upturned mouths without barbels.
- Adults of both species may be more than 60 lbs. (~27 kg) in weight and 4 ft. (~1.2 m) in length.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

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You can help!

- **Report new sightings** – use identification tips inside this card; note exact location, take a photo if possible, freeze specimen in a sealed plastic bag and call **1-877-STOP ANS (1-877-786-7267)**.
- **Harvest bait** only from uninfested waters.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Know the rules** – many states prohibit release of live Asian carp.
- **Catch and eat** these tasty fish to help reduce their numbers.

For information on catching, cleaning and cooking Asian carp, visit iiseagrant.org/asiancarp. For general information visit asiancarp.org.



Bighead



Silver



Shad

invasive species



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