



# Invasive Fish

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Asian Carp  
(Bighead,  
Black, Grass,  
Silver)



Silver Carp

Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC



Silver Carp

Photo: Nate Tessler, EnviroScience,  
Inc., Bugwood.org



Nate Tessler, EnviroScience, Inc., Bugwood.org

## Asian Carp

**Class: Actinopterygii**

**Order: Cypriniformes**

**Species:**

**Bighead - *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* (Richardson)**

**Black - *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Richardson)**

**Grass - *Ctenopharyngodon idella***

**(Valenciennes in Cuvier and Valenciennes)**

**Silver - *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix***

**(Valenciennes in Cuvier and Valenciennes)**

Asian carp include bighead, black, grass, and silver carp. They were all imported from Asia in the 1960's-1980's to control aquatic weeds and pest species and as a food fish. They have spread via pond escapement, deliberate release, and release of bait. They grow very quickly and feed voraciously on plankton and native invertebrates. They can eliminate vegetation, eradicate habitat for native fishes, forage for waterfowl, and increase nutrient load. They may also decimate native mussel and snail populations. They compete with larval fish and paddle fish for food resources. They are widespread throughout the Mississippi River drainage and Silver carp are well known for their jumping ability and have injured boaters when doing so. You can help stop this invader when you prevent the accidental or illegal introduction of these species and by reporting any sighting to FWP by calling 406-444-2449 or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/AIS/aisSighting>. For more information and to visit the source link to:

Bighead <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=551>

Black <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=573>

Grass <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=514>

Silver <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=549>



**Bighead Carp**

Photo: Courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Sea Grant, Bugwood.org