

## SLELO PRISM Partners Share These Goals:

### PREVENTION

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

### EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

### COOPERATION

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment and information.

### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring and research.

### CONTROL

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

ERADICATION - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

CONTAINMENT - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

SUPPRESSION - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

### RESTORATION

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

### EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION or to  
REPORT A SIGHTING CONTACT:**

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario  
Partnership for Regional Invasive  
Species Management

**SLELO PRISM**

**Main Office**

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c/o The Nature Conservancy

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**315-592-9663**

Or Visit Us Online At

[www.sleloinvasives.org](http://www.sleloinvasives.org)

Cover photo:

[http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Carp\\_ID/html/spawning\\_requirements.html](http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Carp_ID/html/spawning_requirements.html).

Silver carp jumping out of water: Nerissa Michaels, Illinois Natural History Survey, <http://illinoistimes.com/article-7433-attack-of-the-flying-fish.html>. Giant fish heading this way warning: Enrique Rodriguez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Asian carp identification photos: The Tip of the MITT Watershed Council, <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/how-to-identify-asian-carp.html>.

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St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

## What You Should Know About Asian Carp

*(Hypophthalmichthys spp.,  
Mylopharyngodon spp.,  
Ctenopharyngodon spp.)*



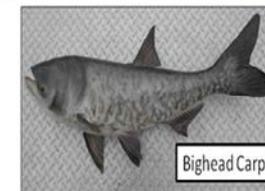
Silver Carp



Grass Carp



Black Carp



Bighead Carp

SLELO PRISM

*"Teaming up to stop the  
spread of  
invasive species"*

## What are Asian Carp ?

Native to Asia, there are four species of Asian carp that are considered invasive and a threat to the Great Lakes: the bighead, silver, grass, and black carp. *However, in some cases, sterile grass carp are permitted to control algae.* Asian carp were originally imported into the southern United States in the 1970s as an inexpensive food source and as a biological control for algae in aquaculture facilities. Natural flooding allowed their escape and now they are found in 12 states throughout the U.S., including the Mississippi River Basin and the Illinois River system. Although the impacts of Asian carp may not be direct, the presence of these species can effect many levels of the food chain and impact both native species and local economies. Being voracious eaters, Asian carp consume plankton (algae and other microscopic organisms) **stripping the food web** of a primary food source vital for many native fish. Silver carp can also injure boaters because they jump out of the water when startled.



## Impacts of Asian Carp Continued...

Furthermore, adult Asian carp have no natural predators in North America and females lay approximately **half a million eggs** each time they spawn

**INVASERS**  
**GIANT FISH HEADING THIS WAY**

Originally from China, Asian carp were introduced to the U.S. by fish farmers in southern states in the 1970s to control vegetation and algae blooms. The fish escaped to the wild and are reproducing in many rivers and streams of the Mississippi River Basin. They travel 40 to 50 miles a year and are near the Quad Cities in the Mississippi River and about 25 miles from Lake Michigan in the Illinois River.



- **WEIGHT:** 50 to 110 pounds
- **LENGTH:** Over 50 inches
- **APPEARANCE:** Small scales similar to a trout; eyes low on head.
- **TEETH:** None in jaws; comblike structures filter food.
- **WHY THEY'RE BAD:** They compete for food with native fish. They also compete with larval and juvenile fish and mussels.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ENRIQUE RODRIGUEZ/Journal Sentinel

## Steps You Can Take to Stop the Spread of Asian Carp:

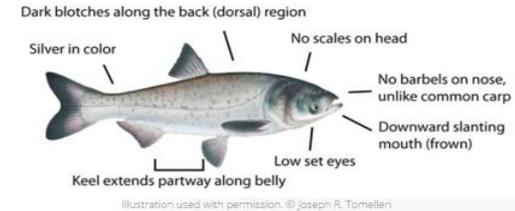
You can help stop the spread of Asian carp by refraining from the sale and purchase of this invasive species. It is crucial to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes. Once established in an ecosystem they are virtually impossible to eradicate.

For information on Control & management of Asian Carp please refer to the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the US* at the following link:  
[http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Carps\\_Management\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf)

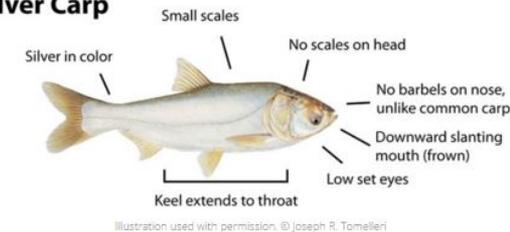
## Asian Carp Identification:

Asian carp are large, weighing 60-110 pounds. They have low-set eyes below the mouth, no scales on the head and large upturned mouths without barbells.

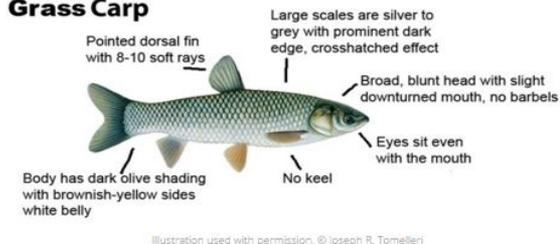
### **Bighead Carp**



### **Silver Carp**



### **Grass Carp**



### **Black Carp**

