

# ASIAN CARP

## INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE



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Asian carp are a group of fish in the minnow family that are native to Asia. The term “Asian carp” refers to Bighead carp, Silver carp, Grass carp, and Black carp. Each of these species was intentionally introduced into the United States for different purposes; however, all are now considered invasive. Invasive species are plants, animals, and other organisms that are not native and have the potential to cause harm. Asian carp compete with native species and pose a threat to Indiana’s aquatic ecosystems.

### Why Asian carp are a problem

- **Reduce game fish populations:** Because Asian carp reproduce rapidly, their explosive populations reduce the number and health of other fish.
- **Threaten human health:** Asian carp (specifically Silver Carp) often jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors, causing damage to boats and potentially harming passengers.
- **Negatively impact native species:** An adult Bighead or Silver carp can eat up to 40% of its body weight every day. Over time, Asian carp can drastically change the food chain and potentially displace other species.
- **Threaten imperiled species:** Asian carp are a threat to already threatened and endangered species.

### Where Asian carp are found in Indiana

Asian carp were originally imported to the southern United States to help aquaculture and wastewater treatment facilities keep retention ponds clean. Flooding and accidental releases allowed these fish to escape into the Mississippi River system. Asian carp have since migrated into the Ohio, White, and Wabash rivers where they are now common.



### How you can help

- **It is illegal to possess live Asian carp.** If you catch one or if one jumps into your boat, eat it, put it in the trash, or use it as cut bait.
- **Never** release fish caught from one body of water into another body of water.
- **Drain** your live wells before leaving the lake or river. Asian carp eggs might be floating in the water.
- **Put unused live bait in the trash;** don’t dump it into the lake or river. Young Asian carp resemble other common baitfish and they might have invaded your bait bucket without you realizing it.
- **Report sightings of aquatic invasive species.** DNR is seeking information about aquatic invasive species in Indiana. Send a photo of the species and the location of the sighting to [ais@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:ais@dnr.IN.gov).

For more information, visit [asiancarp.dnr.IN.gov](http://asiancarp.dnr.IN.gov)