

Other Resources:

www.michigan.gov/asiancarp
www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ais
www.glfc.org
www.asiancarp.org
www.iisgcp.org/asiancarp

Asian Carp

Know the facts and learn how you can help



Recognize carp and protect our waters from them

www.michigan.gov/asiancarp



Asian Carp are Moving Toward Michigan

Asian carp were brought to North America in the 1970s primarily to eat algae in aquaculture ponds. They escaped from the ponds into the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and are migrating toward Lake Michigan.

There are four species of Asian carp that threaten Michigan waters:

- Bighead
- Grass
- Silver
- Black

Asian Carp Threaten Our Native Fish

If these carp become established in Michigan waters, they will eat the food supply that our native fish depend on and crowd them out of their habitat. This will greatly reduce your chance to catch your favorite game fish.

Asian carp:

- Are fast growing
- Can weigh up to 100 lbs.
- Reproduce rapidly
- Have large appetites
- Eat plankton, which our native fish depend upon for food

How You Can Help:

Don't Dump Your Bait!

By law it's illegal to dump live bait into any water body. Michigan DNR has an obligation to preserve and protect our resources.

"It is illegal to transport or possess live specimens of bighead, silver, grass or black carp." (Fisheries Order 209)

- Check your bait; baitfish can contain Asian carp
- Be aware and know what's in your bucket
- Identification of minnows and small carp can be confusing
- See reverse side of this brochure for bait identification
- DO NOT release baitfish into any body of water
- Dispose of any unwanted bait into the trash, not into the water



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How You Can Help: Learn to Identify Asian Carp

The bighead and silver carp present the most severe threat to Michigan waters.

Bighead Carp:

- Can weigh up to 90 lbs and be nearly 5 ft in length
- Can consume up to 40% of their body weight daily
- Have a very large head and toothless mouth
- Adult fish are dark gray with dark blotches
- Eyes sit below the mouth



Silver Carp:

- Are smaller than the bighead
- Can weigh up to 60 lbs and exceed 3 ft in length
- Are light silver in color with a white belly
- Eyes sit below the mouth



Grass Carp:

- Can be more than 5 ft long and weigh more than 80 lbs.
- Have large scales that appear crosshatched
- Eyes sit even with the mouth



Adult Asian Carp illustrations by Joe Tomelleri.

The plan addresses:

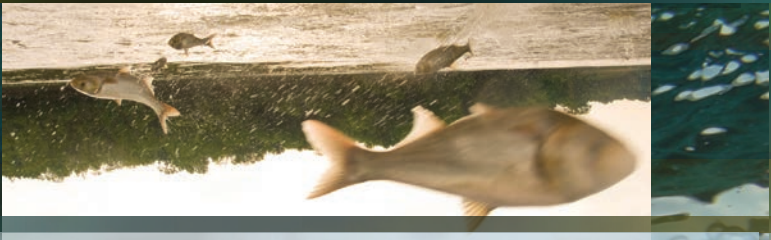
- Prevention
- Communication
- Detection
- Assessment
- Management

Michigan is networking with other agencies to address the Asian carp threat. Read the plan, stay informed and learn more at www.michigan.gov/asiancarp.

Asian carp photo provided by Jason Lindsey

What We're Doing:

The Michigan DNR has developed a comprehensive plan to prevent the introduction of Asian carp to Michigan waters.



Asian Carp Create a Safety Hazard

Silver carp pose a hazard to boaters. The vibration caused by a boat propeller may make silver carp jump out of the water as high as five feet, potentially causing physical injury to people on the water.

If you believe you have seen or caught an Asian carp, or you have found one in your bait bucket, the DNR wants to hear from you. DO NOT release it! Please visit www.michigan.gov/asiancarp to fill out an online Asian carp reporting form, or call us at 517-373-1280. We'll want to know the details, such as where you caught it and when. You can play a role in helping us keep our waters great!

How You Can Help: Report Asian Carp

Don't Confuse Young Asian Carp with these Common Michigan Species!

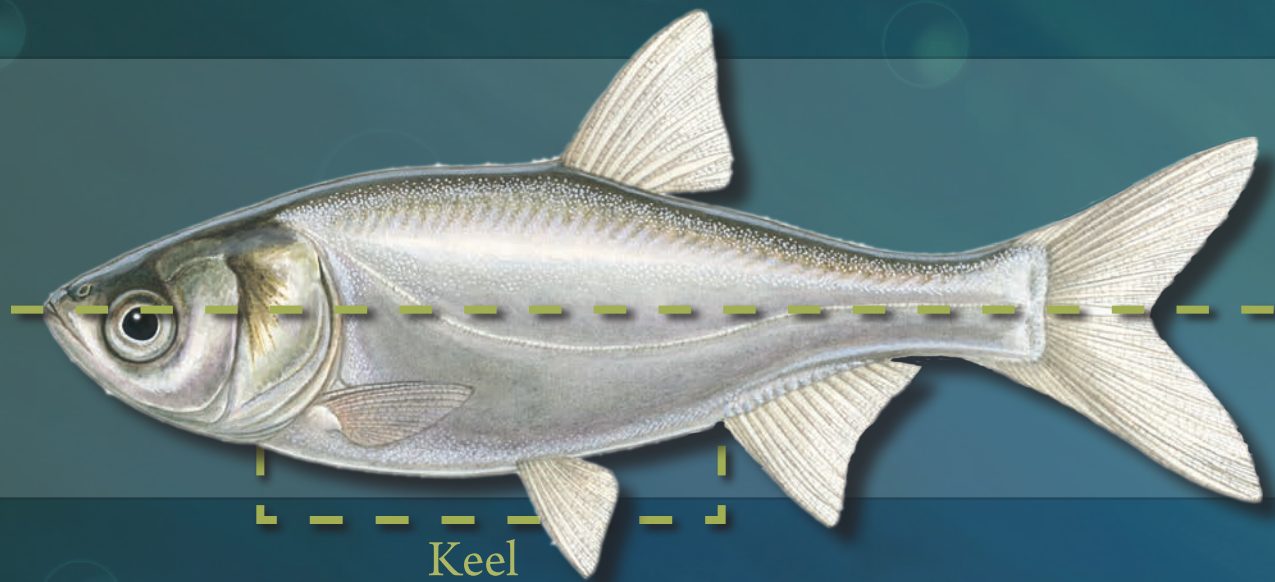
Juvenile Asian Carp

Common Minnows



Juvenile Bighead Carp

Color / Markings: Silvery, with mottled dark blotches (especially on back), upturned mouth
Length: 2 - 4 inches is common bait size
Keel: (Ridge on the underbelly) Prominent, extending from anal fin to pelvic fins (mid-body), no scales
Scales: Very small (fine)
Eyes: Small, positioned below line extending from tail to snout (See dotted line above)



Juvenile Silver Carp

Color / Markings: Silvery, without dark blotches or coloration on back, upturned mouth
Length: 2 - 4 inches is common bait size
Keel: (Ridge on the underbelly) Prominent, extending from anal fin to gills, no scales
Scales: Very small (fine)
Eyes: Positioned below line extending from tail to snout (See dotted line above)



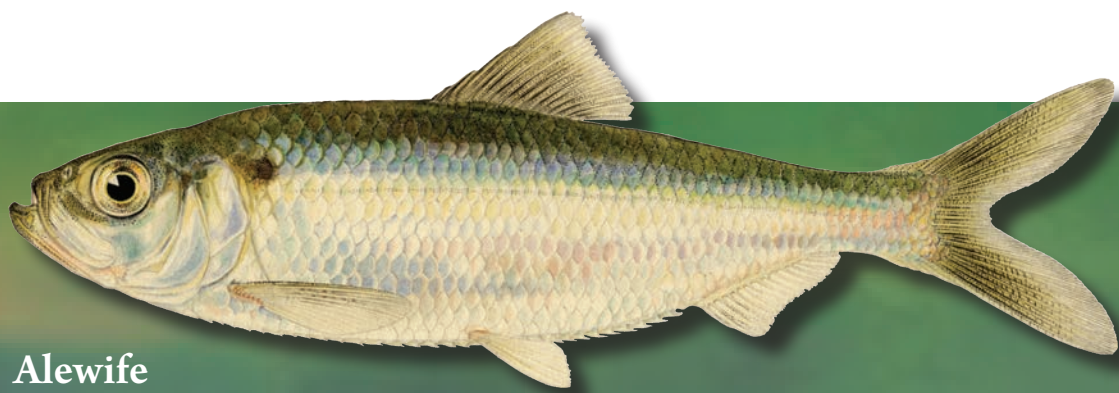
Juvenile Grass Carp

Color / Markings: Pale gray to gold coloration, scales show a prominent dark edge, giving a cross-hatched appearance, terminal to slightly downturned mouth
Length: 2 - 4 inches is common bait size
Keel: Absent
Scales: Intermediate to Large
Eyes: Positioned on line extending from tail to snout.

Check your bait!

If you see Asian carp in your bait bucket, report it at www.michigan.gov/asiancarp or call 517-373-1280. Don't dump your bait, put them in the trash.

Juvenile Asian Carp illustrations by Emily Damstra.



Alewife

Color / Markings: Silvery-green, darker blue-grey back, slightly upturned mouth
Length: 5-7 inches is common bait size
Keel: (Ridge on the underbelly) Prominent, extending from anal fin to gills, with scales that line up in a row to give it a sawtooth appearance
Scales: Intermediate to large
Eyes: Positioned on line extending from tail to snout



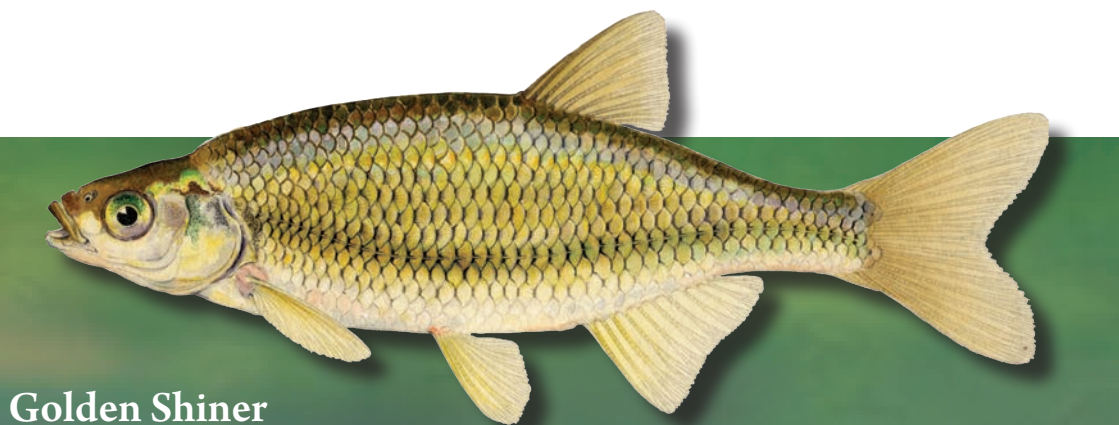
Emerald Shiner

Color / Markings: Silver with green iridescence, terminal mouth
Length: 3-4 inches is common bait size
Keel: Absent
Scales: Intermediate to large
Eyes: Positioned on line extending from tail to snout



Spottail Shiner

Color / Markings: Sides with greenish blue back, prominent dark spot on tail, terminal mouth
Length: 3-4 inches is common bait size
Keel: Absent
Scales: Intermediate to large
Eyes: Positioned on line extending from tail to snout



Golden Shiner

Color / Markings: Gold or brassy, deep-bodied with a lateral line running along the sides and dipping down in the middle of the body, silvery/black lateral stripe in juveniles, terminal to slightly upturned mouth
Length: 3-7 inches is common bait size
Keel: (Ridge on the underbelly) Present, extending from anal fin to pelvic fins (mid-body), no scales, less distinct than alewife and Asian carp
Scales: Intermediate to large
Eyes: Positioned on line extending from tail to snout

Common Minnow illustrations by Joe Tomelleri.