

Resilience Design Lab (rLab)

#### 2019

# Asian Carp Project – Infographics & Megamap<sup>TM</sup>

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## The Asian Carp Species

All four species known collectively as Asian carps originated in major river systems in China and Russia. During the early 1970s, aquaculture managers in the southern United States imported them for biological control in their ponds. Subsequent flooding events allowed the species to escape and enter the Mississippi River system. Finding themselves in an ideal habitat free of any natural predators, Asian carps have been able to spread, reaching as far northward as the Illinois River watershed and Ohio in just 20 years.







## **GRASS CARP**

rass Carp eat aquatic plants, often can lead to poorer water quality Individuals can grow to 45 kg and live up to

**BIGHEAD CARP** and live up to 16 years.

SILVER CARP Silver Carp is best known for leaping as high as three metres above the water surface. They eat microscopic plants. Individuals can grow to more than 40 kg



and live up to 20 years.

Adult Black Carp feed on small molluscs while juveniles feed on microscopic plants and animals. Black Carp is the largest of the four species and can grow to 70 kg and live up to 15 years.

Here are some ways a Grass Carp could enter our Great Lakes

in from the US

importing live fish for consumption

nintentional release by humans, such as

#### Identifying a Grass Carp

## **EXAMINE THE MOUTH**

Grass Carp have no barbels (whiskers) around mouth

Eye level with mouth

LOOK AT THE FIN ON ITS BACK **2** LOOK AT THE F (DORSAL FIN)



**3 DON'T CONFUSE IT WITH:** 

Common Carp

elongated dorsal fin

barbels (whiskers) around mouth

Fallfish broad head

eye above mouth



 $\square$ 



References Ecological Risk Assessment of Grass Carp for the Great Lakes Basin Socio-Economic Impact of the Presence of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes Basin

Suspect a fish is a Grass Carp? Report at eddmaps.org/ontario or call the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711

SCIENCE: Research informs every aspect of the program.



# High Alert Areas

Since 1985, Grass Carp have been captured in the waters or tributaries of Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie. Most tested were found to be sterile, and were likely escapees from areas where sterile populations were being used for aquatic plant control. The maps below show High Alert Areas in relation to major urban cities, as well as Indigenous communities.



#### Spread of Grass Carp

Grass Carp have spread across the Unites States since 1968 but has not yet established in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes basin. The most likely entry point is via connected waterbodies in Ohio where Grass Carp are present, into Lake Erie. Spread will be more rapid for lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie, and potentially Lake Superior; longer for Lake Ontario.



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