2019

Asian Carp Project – Infographics & Megamap™
Harfoush, Nabil and Abdallah, Merwad and Gao, Lucy

Suggested citation:
Asian carp pose a significant threat to the ecosystem and economy of the Great Lakes. The Government of Canada, recognizing this risk, developed the Asian Carp Program in 2012 under Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Out of the four Asian carp species, Grass Carp has been identified as the most imminent threat to Canadian waters of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Grass Carp

- **Grass Carp**
  - Dorsal fin
  - Eye level with mouth
  - (whiskers) around mouth
  - Individuals can grow to more than 40 kg and live up to 16 years.

- **BIGHEAD CARP**
  - Individual can grow to more than 40 kg and live up to 11 years.

- **BROOK CARP**
  - Individuals can grow to 45 kg and live up to 13 years.

- **BLACK CARP**
  - Individuals can grow to more than 40 kg and live up to 3 years.

**Spread of Grass Carp**

- Grass Carp have spread across the United States since 1968 but has not yet established in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes basin.
- Spread to the Canadian waters is projected for the Great Lakes in the early 2020s where Grass Carp are present, St. Lake Erie. Spread will be more rapid in Lake Michigan, Michigan, St. Lake E, and potentially Lake Superior, longer for Lake Ontario.

**Grass Carp Alert**

**The Threat Lurking in Our Waters**

**Economic Impacts**

- Increase water expenditures
- Decreased quality of life
- Decreased waterfront development
- Decreased recreational fishing
- Decreased commercial fishing
- Decreased subsistence fishing
- Decreased tourism

**Quality of Life Impacts**

- Decreased fishing
- Decreased recreation
- Decreased tourism
- Decreased subsistence

**Prevention**

- Spread prevention is based on ecosystem management
- Systemic approach to grass carp
- Focused on early warning and preservation

**Early Warning**

-Asian carp are identified through surveillance and monitoring
-If identified, the following measures taken place

**Response**

- Remove a threat and coordinated clean-up
- Targeted approach to grass carp

**Management**

- Grass carp are managed with ecosystem management
- Army of experts
- The program is guided with ecosystem management

**Identifying a Grass Carp**

1. **EXAMINE THE MOUTH**
   - Grass Carp have a broad, flat head and mouth.

2. **LOOK AT THE FIN ON ITS BACK (DORSAL FIN)**
   - Grass Carp have short, broad, saddle-like fin.

3. **DON’T CONFUSE IT WITH:***
   - *(Elaborate on different fish species)*

**References**