

# ASIAN CARP

## AN INVASIVE SPECIES



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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.

### Why are Asian carp in Indiana and where can they be found?

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.

### Why are Asian carp a problem?

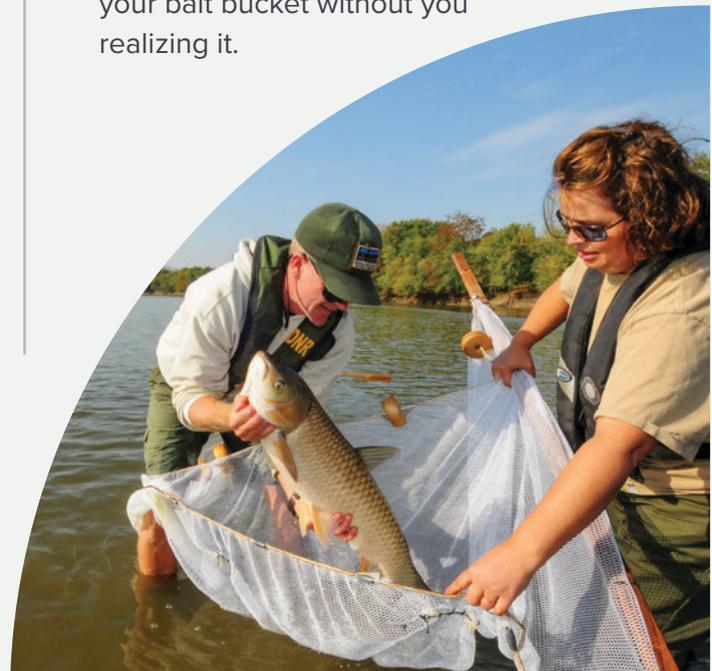
- **Threaten human health:** Asian carp, specifically Silver carp which can weigh upwards of 60 pounds, often jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors, causing damage to boats and potential harm to passengers.
- **Negatively impact native species, including those that are imperiled:** An adult 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.

### What is DNR doing about Asian carp?

- Created a full time Asian Carp Specialist position to focus on the problem.
- Secured \$1.3 million in federal funding for research and removal of Asian carp.
- Works with other states to implement regional, cross border approaches to Asian carp management.

### How can I 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.



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