Invasive Species Alert

Black Carp

(*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Large bodied-can reach 6 feet in length and 150 lbs.
- Elongated, laterally compressed body
- Blackish-brown scales grading to bluish gray to almost white belly
- Pointed head with a flattened anterior portion
- Young individuals look very similar to grass carp (another invasive species) but have pharyngeal teeth

Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri, Ontario's Invading Species Program

Habitat: Large rivers and lakes but require large rivers for reproduction (water current keeps their eggs from sinking to the bottom).

Diet: Their diet consists primarily of mussels and snails, but also includes freshwater shrimp, crayfish, and insects.

U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

Native Range: China, part of eastern Russia, possibly northern Vietnam

U.S. Distribution: Reported in Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri

Local Concern: A big concern regarding black carp introduction relates to their high fecundity rate, which could lead to an established population reaching a large size in a relatively short period of time.

Potential Means of Introduction: Aquaculture, misidentification as grass carp

Other Names: Chinese black carp, black amur, Chinese roach, snail carp, black Chinese roach

Report this species to Seth Herbst, MDNR, at herbsts1@michigan.gov or 517-284-5841 or at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN app to your smartphone