

# Invasive Species Alert

## Silver Carp

(*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)  
\*Not detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- May exceed 3 feet in length, can weigh up to 60 lbs.
- Light silver body with a white belly.
- Eyes sit below the toothless mouth.
- Keel extends from the anal fin anteriorly (forward) past the pelvic fin base.



**Habitat:** These fish primarily inhabit large rivers. They tolerate higher salinity levels and low oxygen levels.

**Diet:** Silver carp filter-feed on phytoplankton and zooplankton.

**Native Range:** Major Pacific drainages in eastern Asia.

**U.S. Distribution:** Silver carp have been reported in 12 states surrounding the Mississippi and Ohio River basins.



Nate Tessler, EnviroScience, Inc., Bugwood.org

**Local Concern:** An established population of silver carp would compete heavily with native fish and mussel species for food. Silver carp also pose a threat to human health, as they are known for leaping out of the water when disturbed by vibrations like those made by a boat motor.

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Escape from commercial culture, unauthorized release, dispersal

For more information and videos, visit [Michigan.gov/InvasiveCarp](http://Michigan.gov/InvasiveCarp).

Report this species to Justin Bopp, MDNR, at [BoppJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:BoppJ@Michigan.gov), 517-420-9110 or at [MISIN.MSU.edu](http://MISIN.MSU.edu) or download the MISIN app to your smartphone.