

Invasive Species Alert

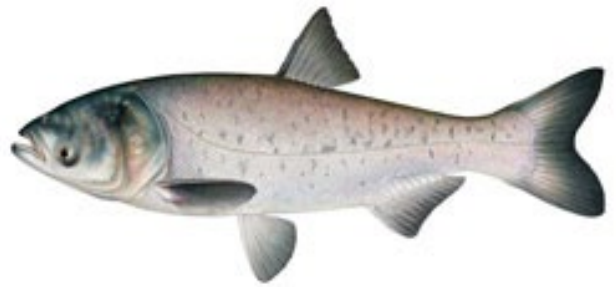
Bighead Carp

(*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Can be 5 feet long and weigh up to 90 lbs.
- Large head with a toothless mouth.
- Eyes sit below the mouth.
- Adults are dark gray with dark blotches.
- Keel between anal and pelvic fins.



Habitat: Bighead carp can establish populations in water bodies with a wide range of temperatures and at relatively low salinity levels. Spawning generally occurs following a flood event in large, turbulent rivers.

Diet: These fish filter-feed on a wide spectrum of food. Because bighead carp lack a true stomach, they must feed almost continuously. They can consume 40% of their body weight in food each day.

Native Range: Southern and central China.

U.S. Distribution: Bighead carp have been recorded in at least 18 states surrounding the Ohio and Mississippi river basins.



Photo: Amy Benson - USGS

Local Concern: Due to their large size and diet, an established population of bighead carp would potentially deplete the zooplankton populations and reduce populations of native planktivorous fish species through competition.

For more information and videos, please visit Michigan.gov/InvasiveCarp.

Report this species to Justin Bopp, MDNR, at BoppJ@Michigan.gov, 517-420-9110 or at MISIN.MSU.edu or download the MISIN app to your smartphone.