

What you
need to know!

ASIAN CARP

- › “Asian carps” are a group of fish species that are native to Asia and Russia.
- › Grass Carp, Black Carp, Bighead Carp and Silver Carp are all varieties of Asian carp that are invasive to the Great Lakes.
- › Grass Carp are the most immediate threat to the Great Lakes but, they are not yet established here in the Toronto Region.
- › Toronto Region Conservation Authority surveys found five Grass Carp near Toronto in 2015, but none have been found in the area since, despite intensive searching.
- › Common Carp is also an invasive species in Lake Ontario, but it is not considered an Asian carp species and does not need to be disposed of or reported.

The Threat of Grass Carp



Grass Carp will seriously damage our aquatic environment if they are permitted to establish in Lake Ontario. The major impacts they would have on local wetlands and water quality would affect everything living in the area, including us!

Fewer plants

They very quickly consume the aquatic plants that other species rely on. Aquatic plants provide habitat and food for fish and insects that are eaten by other fish.

Less Oxygen

Grass Carp also release a lot of nutrients back into the water, since they only digest about half of the food they eat. This encourages algal blooms, which lower oxygen levels and harm native fishes as well as other animals and plants.

Cloudy Water

By removing plants and disturbing sediments on the lake bottom, Grass Carp make the water more turbid (i.e. cloudier). Clean, cool water is essential for egg development in many of our native fish species.

What You Can Do

Learn how to identify Grass Carp!

Familiarize yourself with some of the features of Grass Carp and the other Asian Carp species, and learn how to tell them apart from the native fishes they resemble.

Report them!

If you think you've caught, or seen, any type of Asian Carp:

1. Take a picture of the fish as soon as you can.
2. If possible, put the dead fish on ice, do not freeze, and wrap the head in a paper towel (keep head out of ice).
3. Contact the Invading Species Hotline at **1-800-563-7711** OR www.eddmaps.org/ontario.

