



BLACK CARP

Mylopharyngodon piceus
Cyprinidae, the carp family
Other common names: black amur

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Inhabits rivers, streams, and lakes but requires large rivers for spawning.
- Preys on native snails and mollusks.
- Due to size and appetite, has the potential to significantly reduce the populations of algae grazing snails, thus restructuring the benthic community.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- The Black Carp can grow up to 5 feet and 150 pounds.
- Head is pointed with an arc-shaped mouth
- Blackish-brown body with blue-gray to white bellies and blackish grey fins.
- Large scales with dark edges.
- Very similar in appearance to grass carp but with the presence of pharyngeal teeth (teeth in the throat region.)

Introduction and Movement

- The Black Carp is native to Eastern Asia. It is found in river basins from Northern China to Far Eastern Russia. It may also be native to Northern Vietnam.
- It was first introduced in the early 1970's as a contaminant in grass carp stocks.
- In the early 1980's it was used as a food fish, and as a biological control against Yellow Grub (*Clinostomum margaritum*).
- It was first seen in open waters in Missouri in 1994.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody..
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Can escape from aquaculture facilities or water gardens in areas prone to flooding.
- Always Remember:

CLEAN → DRAIN → DRY

Sources

- USGS NAS - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species: nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=573
- US Fish and Wildlife: [fws.gov/fisheries/ans/erss/uncertainrisk/ERSS-Mylopharyngodon-piceus-FINAL-April2019.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/erss/uncertainrisk/ERSS-Mylopharyngodon-piceus-FINAL-April2019.pdf)

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