ASIAN CARP

Can we get rid of them?

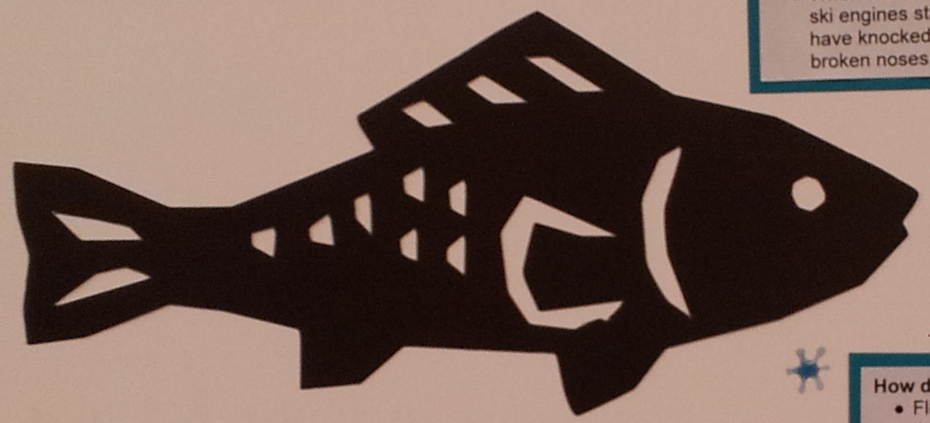
- Drastic policies to protect the Great Lakes, such as completely rerouting the trade through Chicago's waterways, have made it as far as the Supreme Court even though tracking the fish's actual location is rather imprecise. eDNA—e for "environmental"—detects the presence of DNA from Asian carp but it can't tell the difference between 1 and 100 fish or even between a live fish or a few scales. Instead researchers have resorted to brute force methods for counting fish in a river: electrocution and poison.

How can we make a difference?

Right now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is under orders from Congress to develop a study on effective methods of preventing the spread of Asian carp and other

Why are they a problem?

- Asian carp are large fish (up to 100 pounds) that breed very rapidly.
- These filter feeders can eat up to 40% of their body weigh daily and are likely to out-compete native species.
- When startled--and they find the noise of boat and jet ski engines startling--they leap from the water. They have knocked boaters and jet skiers unconscious and broken noses and windshields.



What can the public do?

- If you are the in general public you can eat the carp because they are edible. You can let the officials know where the carp are so they can help prevent them from traveling to another place.

Who are they hurting?

- Asian carp are very efficient feeders when it comes to filtering plankton out of the water. Their diet overlaps with several native fish including gizzard shad, bigmouth buffalo and paddlefish. Low numbers of gizzard shad have caused some to speculate that Asian carp are out-competing shad for food.

How did they get here?

- Flooding in the 1990s caused many ponds to overflow their banks, allowing the carp to escape into the Mississippi River basin. They have been moving north ever since.

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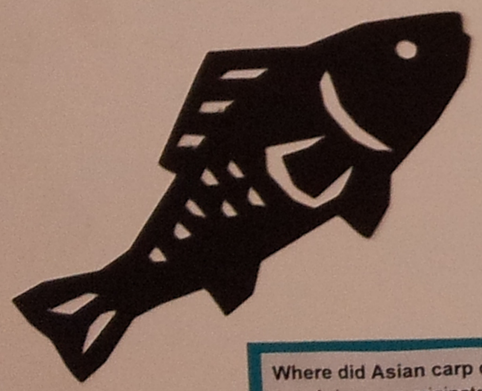

Where did Asian carp come from?

- Asian carp originated in Eurasia.
- They were imported by pond aquaculturists in the 1960s and 1970s to control algae in the ponds.

How can we control them?

- Asian carp as now established in the Mississippi River basin. Great effort is going into trying to keep them from invading the Great Lakes, including the dispersal barrier.