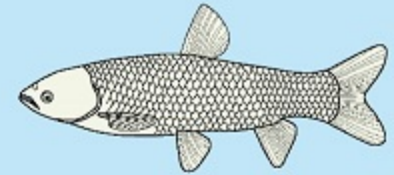


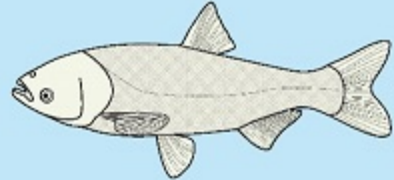
The Asian Carp Species

All four species known collectively as Asian carps originated in major river systems in China and Russia. During the early 1970s, aquaculture managers in the southern United States imported them for biological control in their ponds. Subsequent flooding events allowed the species to escape and enter the Mississippi River system. Finding themselves in an ideal habitat free of any natural predators, Asian carps have been able to spread, reaching as far northward as the Illinois River watershed and Ohio in just 20 years.



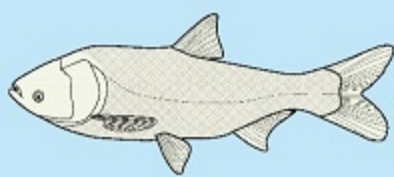
GRASS CARP

Grass Carp eat aquatic plants, often uprooting large, productive wetlands which can lead to poorer water quality. Individuals can grow to 45 kg and live up to 11 years.



BIGHEAD CARP

Bighead Carp eat microscopic animals. Individuals can grow to more than 40 kg and live up to 16 years.



SILVER CARP

Silver Carp is best known for leaping as high as three metres above the water surface. They eat microscopic plants. Individuals can grow to more than 40 kg and live up to 20 years.



BLACK CARP

Adult Black Carp feed on small molluscs while juveniles feed on microscopic plants and animals. Black Carp is the largest of the four species and can grow to 70 kg and live up to 15 years.

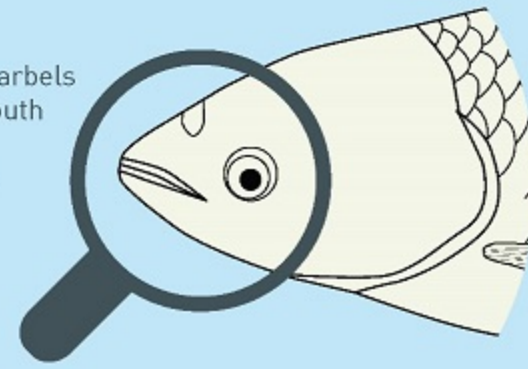
Here are some ways a Grass Carp could enter our Great Lakes



Identifying a Grass Carp

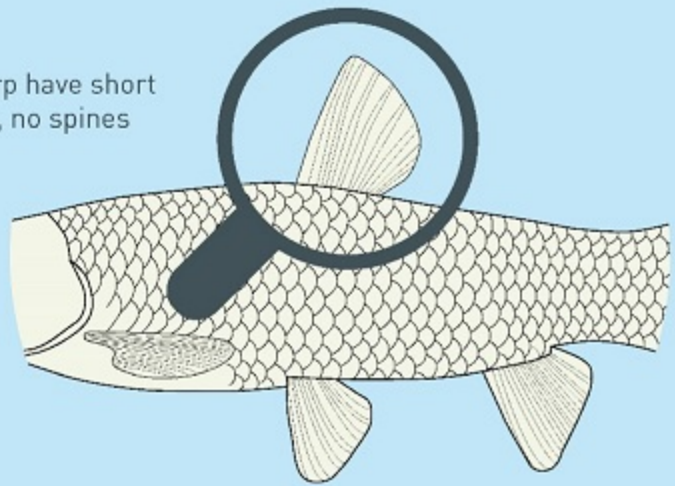
1 EXAMINE THE MOUTH

Grass Carp have no barbels (whiskers) around mouth
Eye level with mouth



2 LOOK AT THE FIN ON ITS BACK (DORSAL FIN)

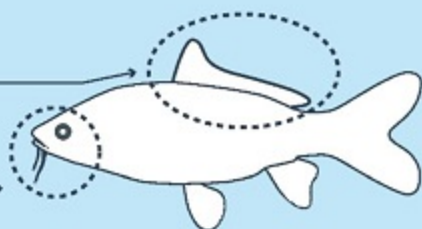
Grass Carp have short dorsal fin, no spines



3 DON'T CONFUSE IT WITH:

Common Carp

elongated dorsal fin
barbels (whiskers) around mouth



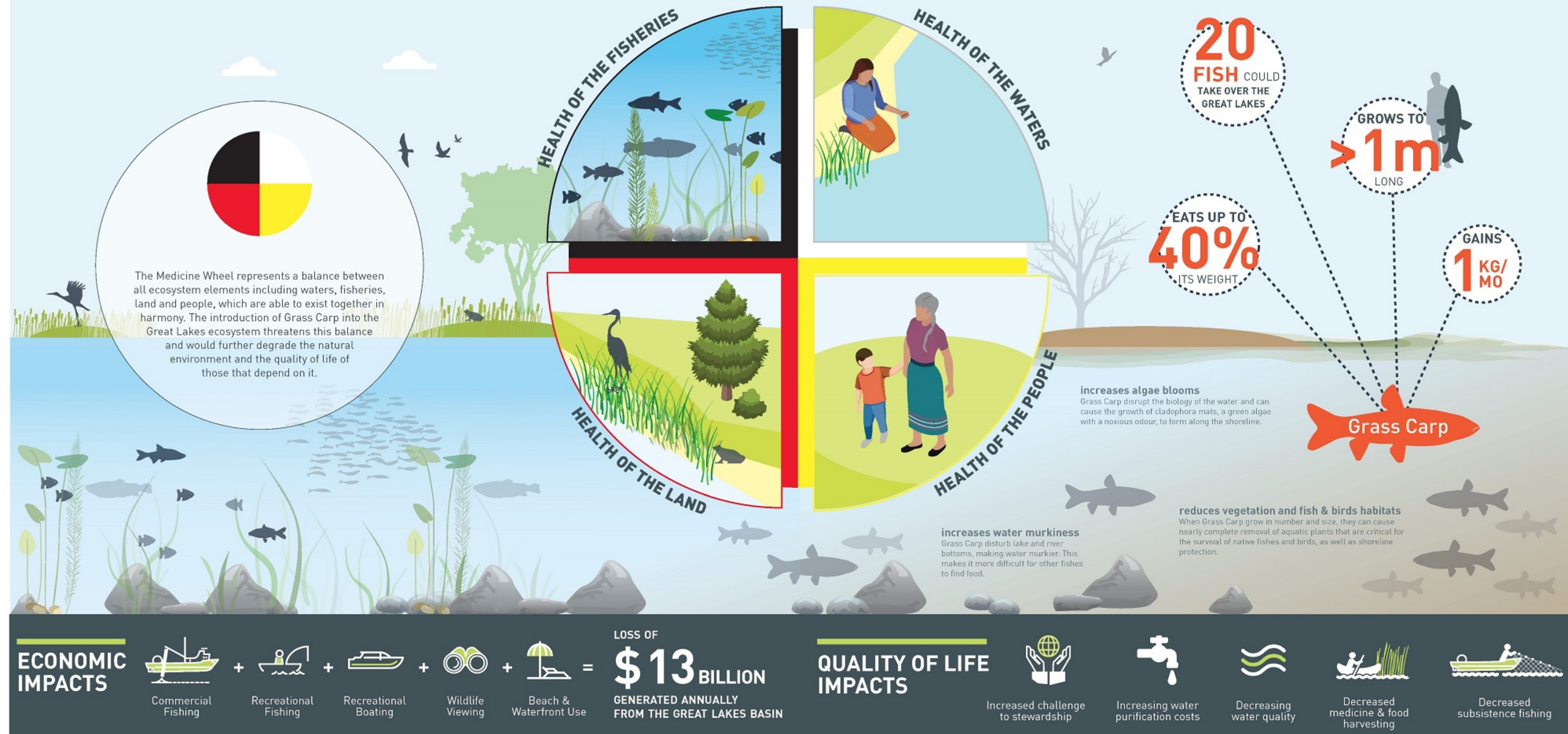
Fallfish

broad head
eye above mouth



GRASS CARP ALERT THE THREAT LURKING IN OUR WATERS

Asian carps pose a significant threat to the ecosystem and economy of the Great Lakes. The Government of Canada, recognizing this risk, developed the Asian Carp Program in 2012 under Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Out of the four Asian carp species, Grass Carp has been identified as the most imminent threat to Canadian waters of the Great Lakes ecosystem.



SCIENCE: Research informs every aspect of the program.

References
Ecological Risk Assessment of Grass Carp for the Great Lakes Basin
Socio-Economic Impact of the Presence of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes Basin

Suspect a fish is a Grass Carp? Report at eddmaps.org/ontario or call the Invasive Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711

Megamap™ by Resilience Design Lab at OCAD University

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada

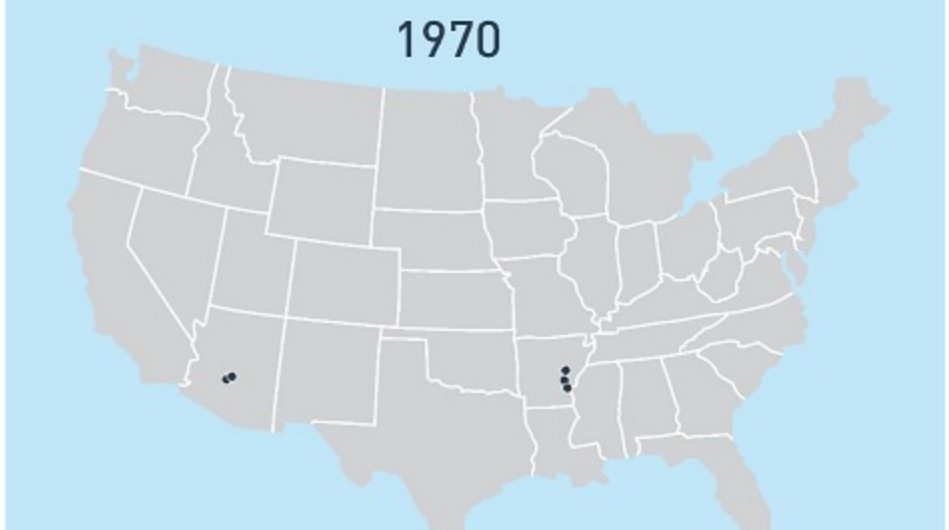
High Alert Areas

Since 1985, Grass Carp have been captured in the waters or tributaries of Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie. Most tested were found to be sterile, and were likely escapees from areas where sterile populations were being used for aquatic plant control. The maps below show High Alert Areas in relation to major urban cities, as well as Indigenous communities.



Spread of Grass Carp

Grass Carp have spread across the United States since 1968 but has not yet established in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes basin. The most likely entry point is via connected waterbodies in Ohio where Grass Carp are present, into Lake Erie. Spread will be more rapid for lakes Michigan, Huron, and Erie, and potentially Lake Superior; longer for Lake Ontario.



<https://www.usgs.gov/>

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