

BIGHEAD AND SILVER CARP WATCH

Bighead and silver carp are invasive fish spreading within the Mississippi River and Great Lakes regions causing harm to native fish and wildlife.



BIGHEAD CARP
(Hypophthalmichthys nobilis)



SILVER CARP
(Hypophthalmichthys molitrix)

Bighead & Silver Carp Characteristics

- ▼ Low-set eye; large upturned mouth without barbels
- ▼ Scaleless head; body scales very small
- ▼ Adults may be more than 60 lbs. in weight and 4 ft. in length
- ▼ May jump out of water when disturbed by boat motors
- ▼ Juveniles difficult to distinguish from local baitfish species such as gizzard shad (see photos)

What You Can Do

- ▼ **Learn** to identify bighead and silver carp.
- ▼ **Never release** live fish from one body of water into another.
- ▼ **Report** new sightings – note exact location; freeze specimen in a sealed plastic bag; and call the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program (847-872-8677), the Illinois DNR (309-968-7531), or the Indiana DNR (317-234-3883).



BIGHEAD CARP
Juvenile



GIZZARD SHAD [NATIVE]
Juvenile



SILVER CARP
Juvenile