

# ASIAN CARP

## Keep them out of the Great Lakes!

Jumping silver carp. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC



Silver carp. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC

## What are Asian Carp?

- "Asian carp" refers to several species of fish originating from Asia.
- Three species of Asian carp (bighead, silver, and black) were imported into the southern U.S. to keep aquaculture ponds clean and for wastewater treatment.
- They escaped into the Mississippi River system in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s after large flooding events, expanding their range northward ever since.

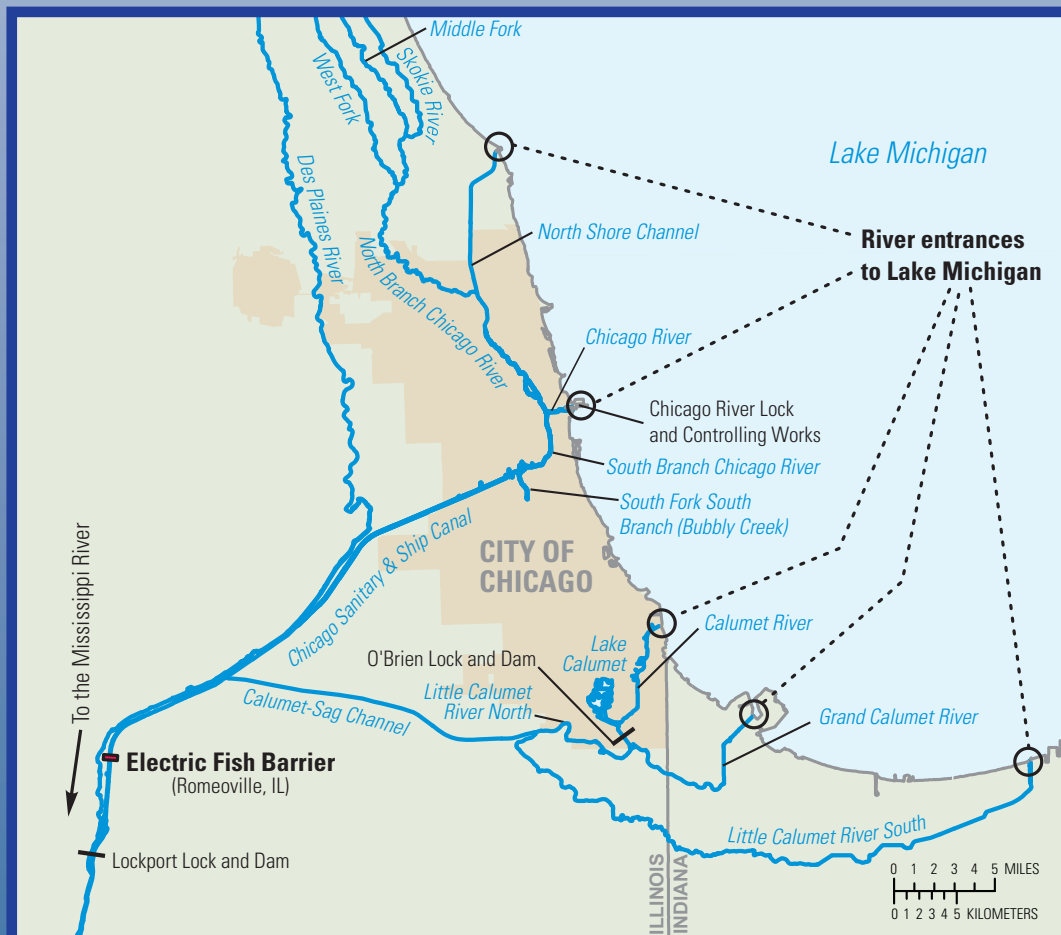
## WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

- Asian carp have significantly altered the Mississippi and Illinois River systems.
- Asian carp are voracious eaters. They compete with native fish species for food.
- Easily startled by boats, jumping silver carp have caused serious injuries and damaged property.
- Artificial canals and natural cross connections during flood events provide potential migration pathways into the Great Lakes.
- Human actions, such as the movement of live bait, also have the potential to introduce Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

- Current efforts are focused on preventing the spread of Asian carp, particularly into the Great Lakes.
- Federal, state, and local entities are coordinating their actions through the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework.
- Electrical barriers exist on the Chicago Waterway System to prevent Asian carp migration.
- Studies are underway to investigate separating the Mississippi and the Great Lakes basins.
- Scientists are developing and implementing biological, physical, and chemical controls to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.
- For more information on specific strategies, visit: [www.asiancarp.gov](http://www.asiancarp.gov)

Potential Asian carp pathways to Lake Michigan. Source: USGS



If Asian carp enter the Great Lakes, there is a high likelihood they will become established and spread.



Silver carp. Photo: T. Lawrence, GLFC



For more information and what you can do:

# [www.asiancarp.us](http://www.asiancarp.us)

