

# The Dangerous FLYING ASIAN CARP

What's being done  
to keep them out of  
Lake Michigan and  
the Illinois River

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Asian carp have become a huge problem in the Mississippi River. Not only are they multiplying faster than expected, but they are creating a danger to boaters. These carp, also known as the "flying fish," are very aggressive and seem to become angry at the sight or sound of a boat motor. They are actually jumping at, over and inside of moving boats. Boaters are being injured and boats are getting damaged and for some strange reason, they seem to be very attracted to pontoons.

## The Big Problem

Scientists feel that the Asian carp could cause long-term problems. They have been migrating farther and farther upstream. The fear is that soon they will reach the Great Lakes. They are highly adaptable to the climate in the Great Lakes because of the area they are normally from in the Eastern Hemisphere. The fear is that they would be dominant in the Great Lakes and would compete with the commercial and sport fish there, due



Photo by Bill Kelley



to their size and ability to consume large amounts of food.

One night, while I was out on our friend's pontoon boat, some of these carp were jumping inside of the boat and ramming into the side of it, almost constantly. It got even worse right around sunset. One of them actually hit my husband in the head and hit one of our friends in the back. Luckily these particular ones were only about 15 to 20 pounds. However, some of these fish are weighing as much as 50 to 100 pounds and a fish that size could do a lot of damage. It could even be deadly! It could also cause several hundred dollars in boat repair.



*It Takes A Lot Of Guts To Do That. (left) Larry Mahr shows off a huge carp that disemboweled itself on impact as it hit the front of the pontoon boat.*

Since they can swim at 20 mph, when they leap toward a boat going 30 mph, this fish is hitting full force. The ones that jumped into our boat that night were bleeding profusely. When we got back to the marina, our friend's white cushions on his pontoon boat were full of blood. It was amazing that they could live through that.

## Carp Variety

There are actually five different types of Asian carp that have invaded the Mississippi River, including common, grass, bighead, silver and black carp.

The common carp were brought to the United States from Europe in

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