

# INVASIVE GRASS CARP OR A LOOK-ALIKE?

**Grass Carp** is an invasive fish that has been found in the Great Lakes in small numbers, but are not established in Canada. If you think you have caught a Grass Carp, follow these steps:

1. Report it to the Invading Species Hotline: **1-800-563-7711**, or email [info@invadingspecies.com](mailto:info@invadingspecies.com), or report via [EDDMapS.org/Ontario](http://EDDMapS.org/Ontario);
2. Work through this ID sheet;
3. If your fish matches ALL of the features of Grass Carp, go to step 4. Otherwise, if the fish cannot be lawfully kept, release it immediately to the waters where it was caught, in a manner that causes the least harm to the fish. OR, if the fish can be lawfully kept, you can either practice catch and release or keep it;
4. Take photographs of the fish from multiple angles with adequate lighting and note your geographic location (e.g. latitude and longitude);
5. If you were unable to reach someone directly in step #1, avoid unintentionally killing native fishes by being certain

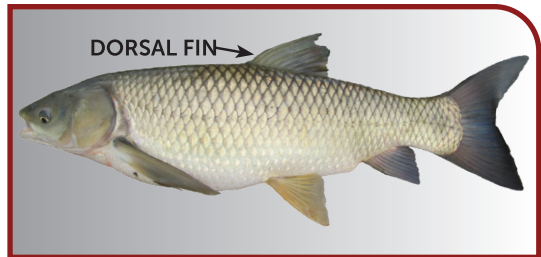
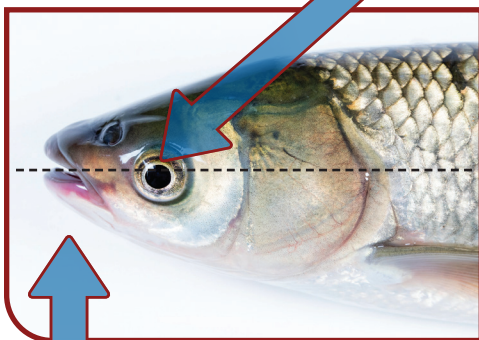


Photo Credit: Jeff Hill, University of Florida  
IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory

of your identification before killing a suspected Grass Carp. Ensure you are abiding by all of the laws highlighted in the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary; and

6. **IMPORTANT:** Do NOT release the Grass Carp alive. Kill the fish without damaging the head or eyes. Gut the fish and keep it in a cooler, with its head above the ice. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will collect it! They learn a lot about the fish by conducting analyses on the head and eyes, such as whether or not the fish is fertile or sterile and where it came from.

A **Grass Carp's** eyes sit in line with its mouth



Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

**Grass Carp** have a **JAWED** mouth and do **NOT** have a **SUCKER** mouth



Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

**Grass Carp** have **LARGE SCALES** with dark borders, giving a cross-hatched appearance

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**INVASIVE Grass Carp** with SHORT dorsal fin and LARGE SCALES

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**INVASIVE Grass Carp** with JAWED mouth and NO BARBELS (whiskers). Eyes are low and sit in line with mouth

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**INVASIVE Grass Carp** with SLENDER head and body

Fisheries and Oceans Canada



**Common Carp** with LONG dorsal fin and LARGE SCALES

Brian Coad



**Common Carp** with SUCKER mouth and BARBELS (whiskers). Eyes sit relatively high on the head

Piet Spaans, Wikimedia Commons



**Common Carp** with DEEP body

Jay Guarneri, Wikimedia Commons



**Fallfish** with SHORT dorsal fin and MODERATE SCALES. Eyes sit relatively high on head

NatureNorth.com



**Sucker species** (e.g. White Sucker, pictured) with SUCKER mouth and NO BARBELS (whiskers). Eyes sit high on the head

Ohio DNR



**Smallmouth Buffalo** with DEEP body



Invasive Species Centre

