

Mylopharyngodon piceus

Black Carp

Other common names: black amur



Cyprinidae, the carp family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Head is pointed with an arc-shaped mouth; can grow to 51½ inches long and up to 150 pounds
- Blackish-brown body with blackish grey fins
- Large scales with dark edges
- Very similar in identification to grass carp but with the presence of pharyngeal teeth (teeth in throat region)

Background

- Native to eastern Asia; introduced as a contaminate of imported grass carp
- inhabits rivers, streams, and lakes
- Broadcast spawners and require large rivers to reproduce
- Feed voraciously on mollusk species

Photo Credit:

5430817 - Rob Cosgriff, Illinois Natural History Survey, Bugwood.org

5431205 - U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

5431207 - U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

5430967 - U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org