Bighead and Silver Carp Watch

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

**Bighead Carp**

- Dark blotches along top (dorsal) region
- Keel extends only partly along belly

**Silver Carp**

- Smaller head and mouth than Bighead
- Keel on belly extends to throat

**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 a U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Amherst, NY (716-691-5456); Albuquerque, NM (505-248-6471); Pierre, SD (605-224-8693); Baton Rouge, LA (225-578-4243); Onalaska, WI (608-783-8434); New Franken, WI (920-866-1717); Marion, IL (618-997-8669); Columbia, MO (573-234-2132); or your state Sea Grant program.