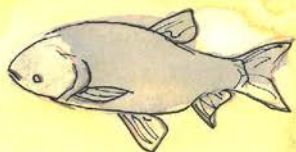
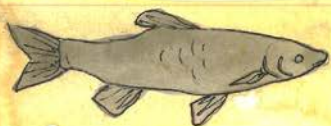


CUT THE CARP



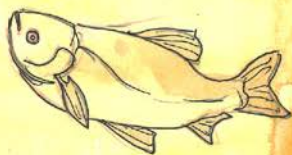
JACK ESTEP



CUT THE CARP.



JACK ESTEP





FECUND AND VORACIOUS, THESE FISH THREATEN TO TRAVEL INTO WATERS BEYOND WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED, AND THAT INCLUDES INVADING THE GREAT LAKES.



BIGHEAD, SILVER, GRASS AND BLACK CARP ARE FOUR NON-NATIVE FISH THAT HAVE POSED A HUGE PROBLEM FOR THE US FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DECADES. THEY HAVE RUN RAMPANT IN OUR WATERWAYS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MID-WEST, OUTCOMPETING NATIVE FISH SINCE THEIR INTRODUCTION TO THE US IN THE 1970S.

BECAUSE THESE FOUR CARP WERE IMPORTED AT A SIMILAR TIME FROM ASIA AND SHARE A LEVEL OF PROMINENCE WITH ONE ANOTHER, THEY ARE COLLECTIVELY DUBBED ASIAN CARP. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME NOTABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EACH SPECIES.

BIGHEAD CARP



FILTER FEEDS ON PLANKTON. LACK A TRUE STOMACH. TO COMPENSATE THEY MUST EAT ALMOST CONSTANTLY.

LIKE BIGHEAD, THEY FILTERFEED AND LACK TRUE STOMACHS. KNOWN FOR INFAMOUSLY LEAPING FROM THE WATER WHEN STARTLED BY BOATERS.

SILVER CARP



BLACK CARP



LARGEST OF THE FOUR FISH. PRIMARY DIET OF MOLLUSKS AND SNAILS.

GRASS CARP



FEASTS ON WETLAND PLANTS AND GRASSES. RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING VITAL COVER FOR FISH EGGS AND FRY.

NOTE: THERE ARE SOME CONCERNS OVER THE USE OF THE TERM "ASIAN CARP" AS IT HAS BEEN SEEN TO CARRY NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS AGAINST ASIAN CULTURES. FOR THE REST OF THE COMIC, THESE FOUR CARP WILL BE REFERRED TO AS THE "INVASIVE CARP."



WHEN IT COMES TO NON-NATIVE ANIMALS, NOT ALL OF THEM ARE CONSIDERED INVASIVE.



THINK OF THE HONEYBEE



WHILE CONSIDERED A NUISANCE BY SOME, THEY OFFER A LOT OF BENEFITS. THEY WERE IMPORTED TO THE U.S. IN THE 17TH CENTURY FOR USE IN AGRICULTURE, AND NOW MOST PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THEY'RE NOT NATIVE.

"SOME NON-NATIVE [FISH] BENEFICIAL TO MICHIGAN THROUGH SPORTFISHING ENJOYMENT INCLUDE COHO AND CHINOOK SALMON AND BROWN AND RAINBOW TROUT."

THERE ARE MANY USEFUL NON-NATIVE FISH TOO, LIKE SALMON AND TROUT IN MICHIGAN WATERS.



NICK POPOFF, FORMER MANAGER OF THE MDNR AQUATIC SPECIES AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS UNIT.

HOWEVER, NON-NATIVES THAT CAUSE HARM AND POSE A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS INHABITANTS ARE WHAT CONSTITUTES AN INVASIVE SPECIES.

THE INVASIVE CARP FIT THE BILL.



THESE CARP WERE INTRODUCED IN THE
US DURING THE 1970s AS A MEANS
TO CLEAR UP PLANTS, ALGAE AND SNAILS
FROM FISH FARMS.



THESE RIVERS OFFERED
A TON OF FOOD AND
LITTLE PREDATION,
GIVING MUCH ROOM
FOR THE FISH TO
FLOURISH.

OVER MANY YEARS,
FLOODS PROVIDED AN
ESCAPE INTO THE
ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI
RIVERS.

THEY OVERTOOK
MANY NATIVE FISH
POPULATIONS AND OTHER
AQUATIC SPECIES BY STORM,
AND STILL DO TODAY.

THESE FISH
EAT A TON AND ARE NO SMALL FRY.
THOUGH AVERAGING 30-50 LBS, SOME
CAN REACH WELL OVER 100 LBS.

THE U.S. HAS SPENT
HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS
TRYING TO THWART
POPULATION SPREAD
BY MANY MEANS SUCH
AS ELECTRIC BARRIERS
AND BERMS.



THESE EFFORTS HAVE SLOWED
THEM DOWN, BUT BECAUSE
THEY REPRODUCE SO RAPIDLY
AND GROW FAST, MORE SOLUTIONS
ARE NEEDED.



LUCKILY, THERE IS
ONE SOLUTION FOR
AMERICA THAT COULD HELP,
AND ITS SOMETHING EVERY
PERSON CAN DO.....

THAT'S RIGHT!!

THE SOLUTION IS AS
SIMPLE AS THAT,
PICK UP YOUR UTENSILS
AND CHOW DOWN!
... OR IT SHOULD BE.
BUT ONE ISSUE REMAINS,

AMERICANS REFUSE
TO EAT A FISH CALLED
CARP

KEVIN IRONS,
ASSISTANT
CHIEF OF FISHERIES

EAT
ME!!

...AND THATS
JUST TO EAT
THEM!!

"WHILE ONE OF THE
MOST USED FISH IN AQUACULTURE
FOR FOOD AROUND THE WORLD,
CARP DUE TO THE REPUTATION
OF THE COMMON CARP IN NORTH
AMERICA HAS NOT BEEN WARMLY
RECIEVED BY U.S. CONSUMERS.

COMMON
CARP.

SO WHATS
WRONG WITH THE
NAME CARP? IT STEMS
FROM AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE COMMON CARP

THE COMMON CARP, ANOTHER FISH NATIVE TO ASIA AS WELL AS IN EUROPE, IS A FISH THAT HAS BEEN COVETED AS A SOURCE OF FOOD AROUND THE WORLD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.



BUT IN AMERICA WHEN THESE FISH WERE INTRODUCED DURING THE MID 1800s AS A SOURCE OF FOOD, INDUSTRIALIZATION HAD RAVAGED THE WATERS.

TOXINS AND WASTE CREATED BY MAN KILLED OFF MUCH OF THE AQUATIC LIFE.



THE COMMON CARP, THE HARDY FISH THEY ARE, SURVIVED. CAPABLE OF SURVIVING VASTS AMOUNTS OF POLLUTION, THEY THRIVED IN PLACES OTHER FISH COULD NOT.



NATURALLY, THIS LED TO A NASTY COMPARISON IN THE EYES OF AMERICANS.

DESPITE SHARING A NAME, ALL INVASIVE CARP HAVE NOTABLE DIFFERENCES IN TASTE AND NUTRITION FROM THE COMMON CARP, WHICH ITSELF CAN TASTE FINE IF CARED FOR PROPERLY.

INVASIVE CARP



TOP FEEDING, GIVING A Milder, FRESHER FLAVOR. WHITE, FLAKY MEAT, AND CLEANER TASTING THAN CATFISH. LOWER IN FAT AND HEAVY METALS AND HIGH IN PROTEIN AND OMEGA-3s, LIKE SALMON, YET CHEAPER.

COMMON CARP

BOTTOM FEEDING AND CAN SURVIVE IN POOR ENVIRONMENTS POTENTIALLY LEADING TO A LESS THAN DESIRED, MUDDY FLAVOR. IF RAISED IN CLEAN WATER THEY HAVE MILD, PINK MEAT WITH MODERATE AMOUNTS OF OMEGA-3s AND HIGH IN PROTEIN AND FAT.



ONE ISSUE: CARP

ARE B ONEY!



ILLINOIS



D.N.R.

THE ONLY ISSUE ARISING WITH CARP MEAT ARE THEIR "Y" SHAPED BONES. THOUGH IT CAN BE DONE, FILETING IS MUCH HARDER, SO OFTEN THEIR MEAT IS GROUND INTO BURGERS AND TACOS.

REGARDLESS, THE MEAT IS JUST AS TASTY!



TO COMBAT THE BIAS, THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS LAUNCHED AN OFFICIAL NAME CHANGE FOR THE FISH IN A FOOD MARKET SETTING, AND ITS SIMPLE:

COPI.

SHORT FOR COPIOUS; SUCH A FITTING NAME FOR THE FISH.

POPULARITY



WHILE THE NAME CHANGE HAS INCREASED POPULARITY, THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT IS SOLD COMMONLY IN STORES

NEVER TRIED COPI BEFORE!



HOWEVER, FEAR NOT!
THERE IS A COPI BRAND WEBSITE:
<https://choosecopi.com>
THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO
CHECK OUT WHERE THESE FISH
ARE CURRENTLY BEING SOLD
FOR THOSE WISHING TO SEEK IT OUT.



IF IT WERENT FOR SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE BIAS, PERHAPS THESE CARP WOULD HAVE BEEN SOUGHT AFTER SOONER.

AND GIVEN THIS PROBLEM WAS OUR DOING, WHY NOT TAKE CHARGE AND USE WHAT WE HAVE A HEFTY SURPLUS IN?

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE NOT GOING AWAY ANYTIME SOON... SO ITS TIME TO.....



LOOK WHAT I CAN DO!

CUT THE CARP!

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