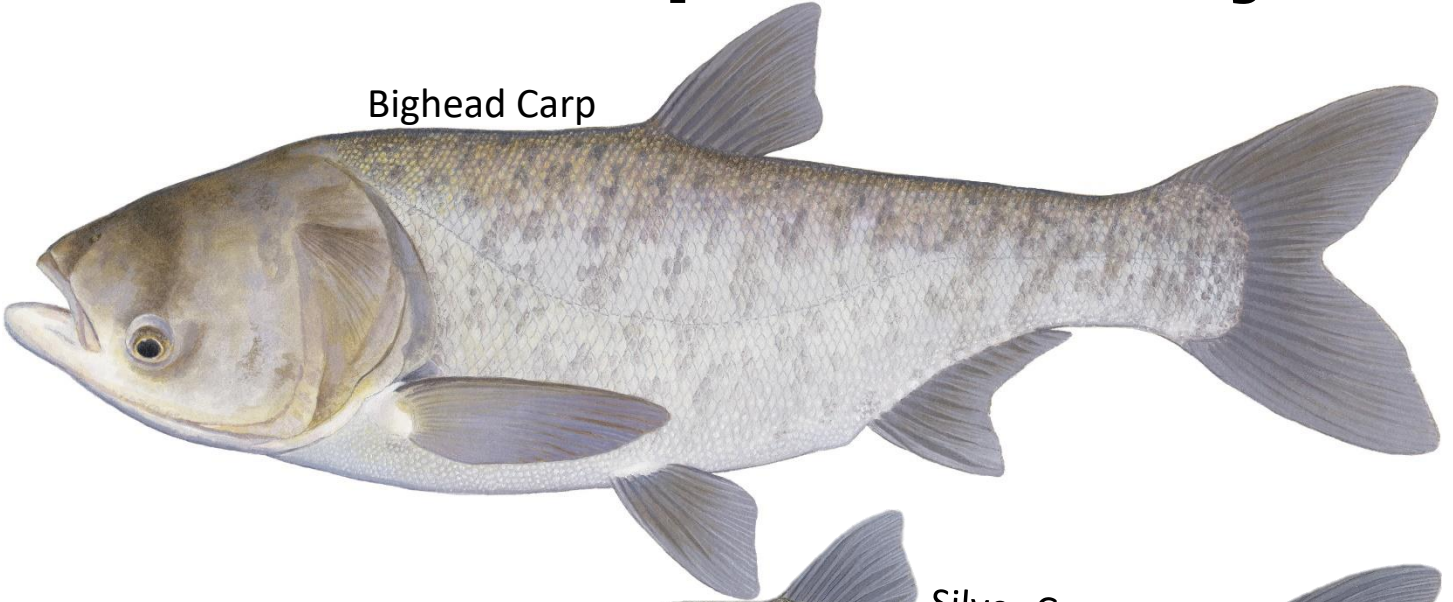


Invasive carps in Kentucky

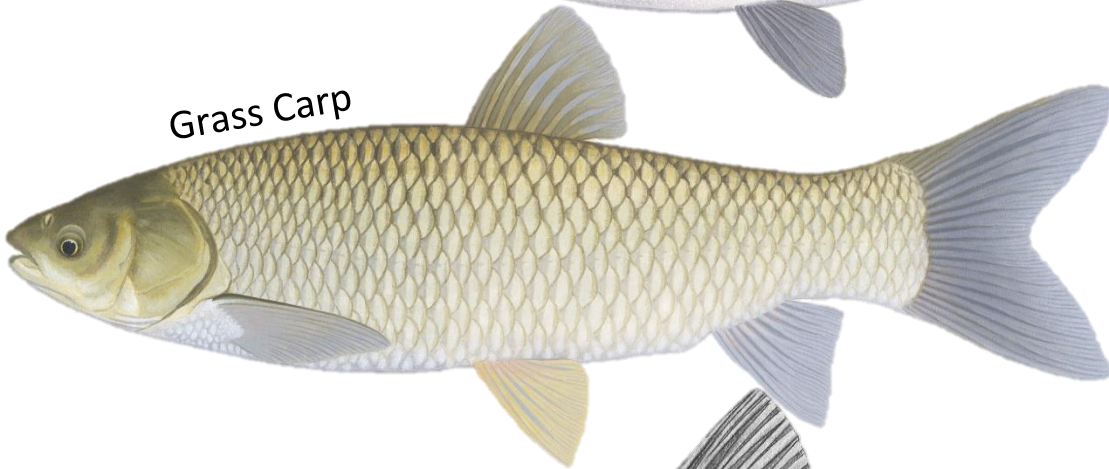
Bighead Carp



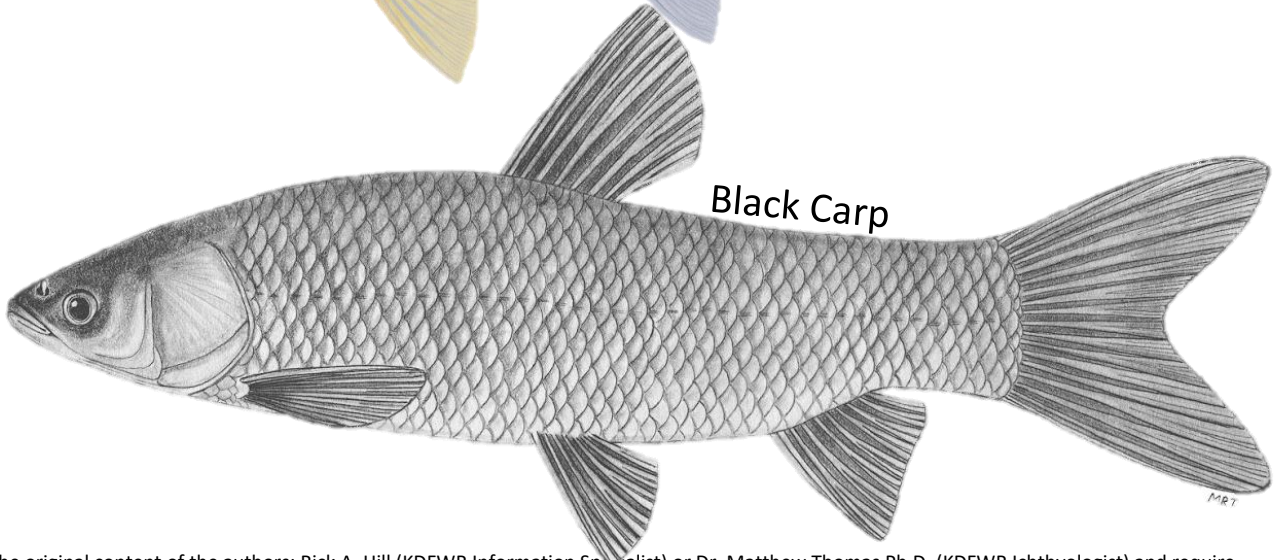
Silver Carp



Grass Carp



Black Carp

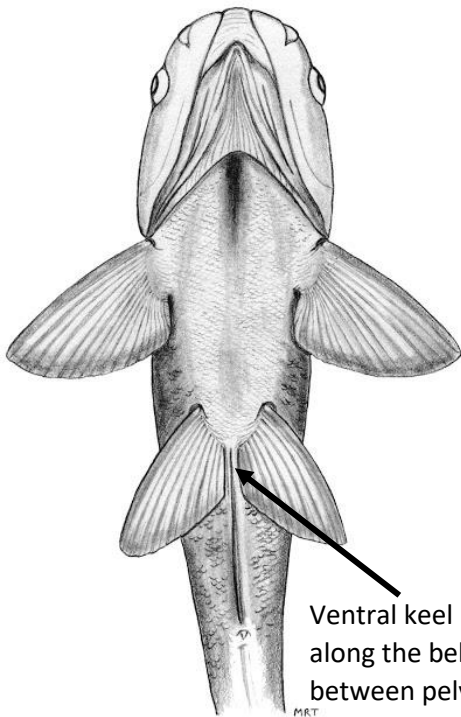


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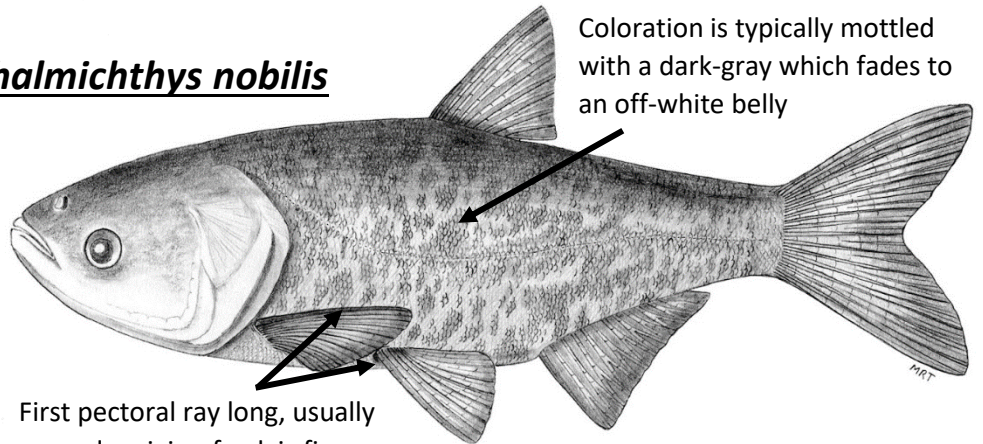
Please Cite: KDFWR (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources). 2020. Invasive carps in Kentucky. Available: <https://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Documents/asiancarpid.pdf>.

The Filter Feeders (Bigheaded Carps)

Bighead Carp – *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*

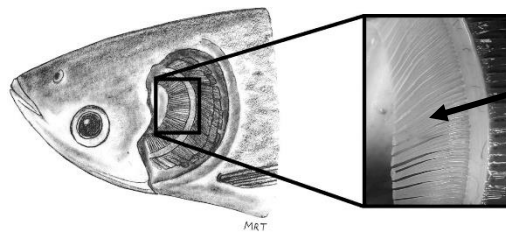


Ventral keel (a ridge along the belly) stops between pelvic fins



Coloration is typically mottled with a dark-gray which fades to an off-white belly

First pectoral ray long, usually exceeds origin of pelvic fin



Gill rakers are discrete, long, and thin. These aid in filtering food particles from the water.

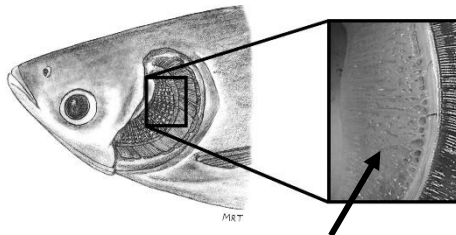
Bighead Carp (Above):

- Bighead carp are large-bodied fish that may grow in excess of 5ft (>1.5 m) and weigh over 110 lbs (50 kg).
- Bighead carp are more reclusive when compared to their close relative and do not typically display the same jumping behavior as silver carp when disturbed.

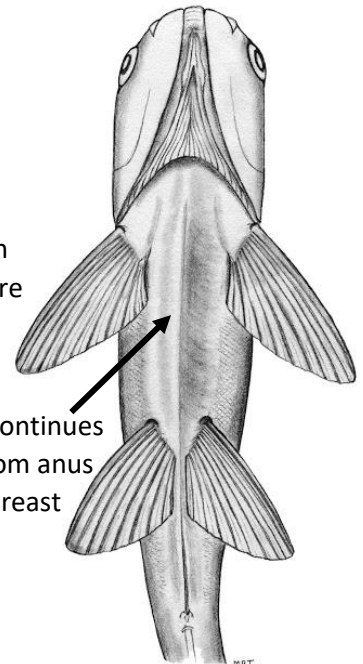
Silver Carp (Below):

- Also a relatively large fish, silver carp grow quickly and can attain a maximum size over 3ft (> 1m) in length.
- Silver carp are often seen in the act of performing acrobatic jumps. A behavior which can cause serious damage to person or property.

Silver Carp – *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*

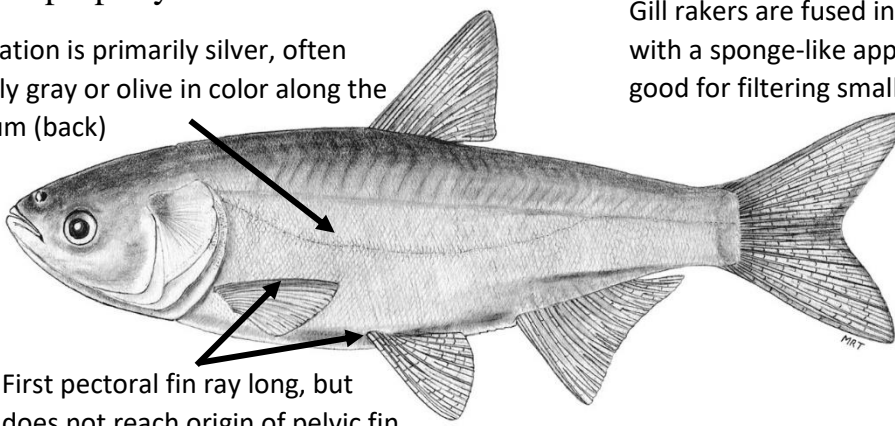


Gill rakers are fused into a tight mesh with a sponge-like appearance and are good for filtering smaller particles



Ventral keel continues along belly from anus through the breast

Coloration is primarily silver, often slightly gray or olive in color along the dorsum (back)



First pectoral fin ray long, but does not reach origin of pelvic fin

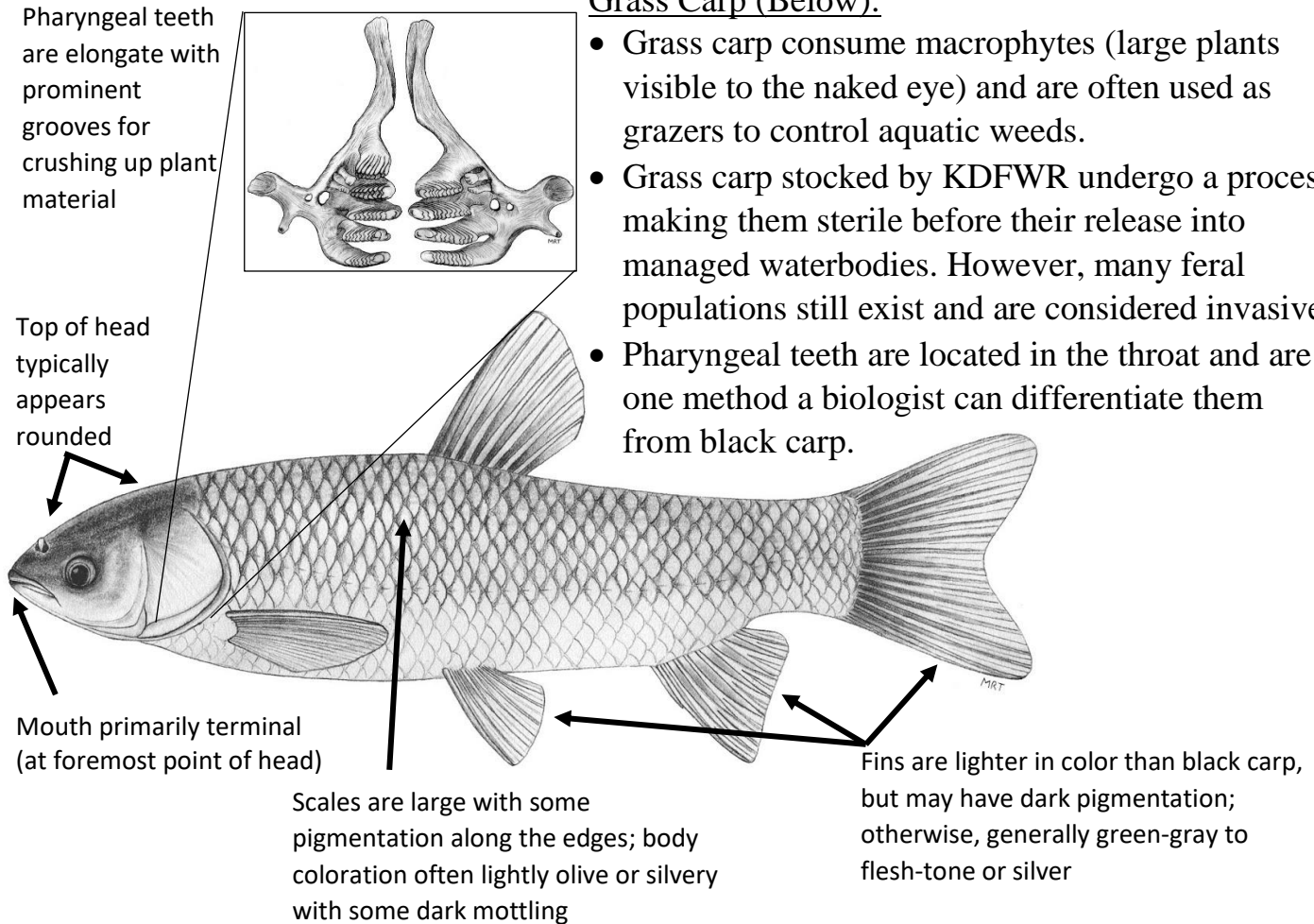
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The Plant Eater (Grass Carp)

Grass Carp (Below):

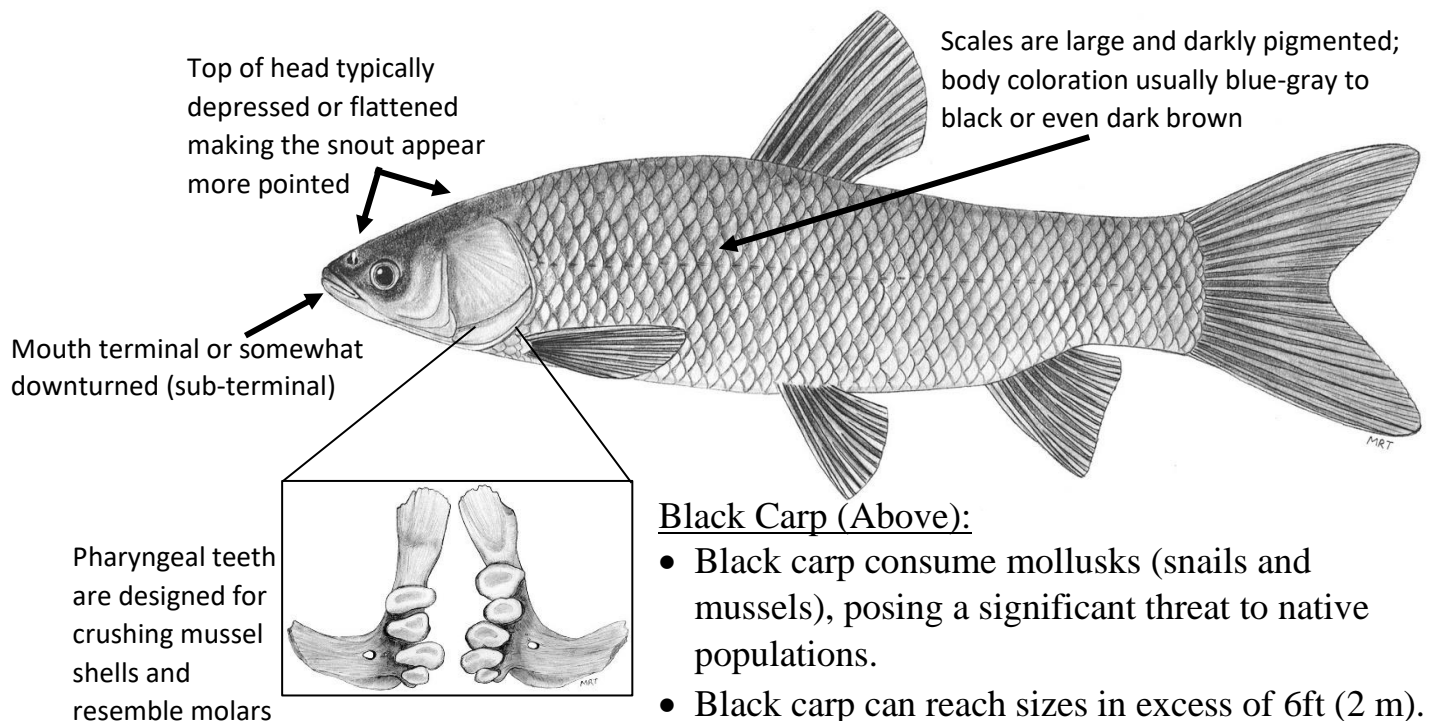
- Grass carp consume macrophytes (large plants visible to the naked eye) and are often used as grazers to control aquatic weeds.
- Grass carp stocked by KDFWR undergo a process making them sterile before their release into managed waterbodies. However, many feral populations still exist and are considered invasive.
- Pharyngeal teeth are located in the throat and are one method a biologist can differentiate them from black carp.



The Mussel Eater (Black Carp)

Black Carp (Above):

- Black carp consume mollusks (snails and mussels), posing a significant threat to native populations.
- Black carp can reach sizes in excess of 6ft (2 m).



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