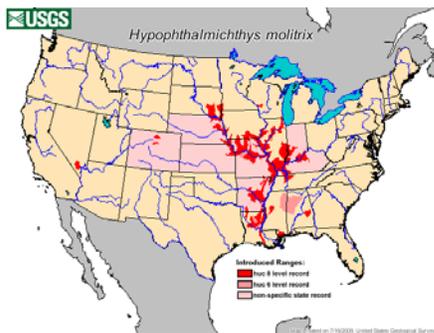


Silver Carp

Hypophthalmichthys molitrix

Identification Large fish with low-set eyes and large, up-turned mouths.

Why is it a Problem? Feeds on plankton, competing with native shellfish and larval fish that also rely on this food source.



Range/Habitat Freshwater fish; established in rivers and streams throughout the Southern United States.

Similar Species Although adults are easily identifiable, juveniles may be confused with shad and other native baitfish.

Legal Status Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

Method of Introduction Imported and stocked in aquaculture ponds to control phytoplankton in the 1970s; has since spread and established itself throughout the Mississippi River basin and in several other areas.

Control and Prevention Do not bring live silver carp into the State.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.