

# Black Carp

## *Mylopharyngodon piceus*

**Identification** Large, long fish; pointed snout, large scales

**Why is it a Problem?** Generally feeds on snails and shellfish; considered to be a serious threat to mollusks native to the U.S., many of which are critically endangered.



Photo 8. Distribution of Black Carp in the United States. See Methods for details regarding data used to create map; definition of "imported" and status of HUCs and states.

**Range/Habitat** Native to Asia, Black Carp have recently been found in the Mississippi Basin. None have been found in Maryland.

**Similar Species** Very similar in appearance to the nonnative Grass Carp.

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

**Method of Introduction** Imported in the 1980s as a food fish and as a biological control agent to combat the spread of a certain type of grub in aquaculture ponds.

**Control and Prevention** Do not bring live black carp into Maryland.

**Want to know more? Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.**