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](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.