



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2007

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IMPORTATION AND INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF BLACK VARIETY OF ASIAN CARP BANNED

Great Lakes Fishery Commission commends today's action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and calls for similar action for bighead carp

ANN ARBOR, MI—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission today lauded the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing the black variety of Asian carp as an “injurious” species under the Lacey Act. Such a listing prohibits the importation and interstate transportation of black carp in an effort to prevent the spread of this harmful fish. The service’s rule will take effect in thirty days. (The summary from today’s posting in the *Federal Register*, and a link to the full listing, is included at the end of this release.) The service took similar action for silver carp—another harmful variety of Asian carp—in April, 2007, leaving the bighead carp as the remaining major Asian carp species still requiring action.

The injurious wildlife provision of the Lacey Act, under Title 18 of the United States Criminal Code, restricts the importation and interstate transportation of wildlife deemed to be injurious or potentially injurious. The listing of black carp under the Lacey Act was strongly urged by the commission, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, states and tribal groups, and law enforcement officials throughout the region.

“The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and its partners have acknowledged that we must do everything possible to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes,” said commission vice-chairman Gerry Barnhart. “Black carp are especially worrisome because they have the potential to wipe out native mussel populations – many of which are already threatened or endangered – in a relatively short period of time. As black carp are not abundant in the wild, today’s action by the Fish and Wildlife Service is an excellent opportunity to stop an invader in its tracks. Banning the importation and interstate movement of the black variety of Asian carp was badly needed, and we appreciate this action. We call upon the service to complete the job by also listing bighead carp as injurious under the Lacey Act.”

“The state, provincial, tribal, and binational agencies throughout the basin have been united and persistent in their requests to have black carp listed as “injurious” under the Lacey Act,” said Roger Knight of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and co-chair of the Council of Lake Committees, a multi-jurisdictional fisheries management body on the Great Lakes. “Such a listing gives all of us the tools we need to end the human-facilitated transportation of these

harmful species, and to enforce the law. We are gratified that our repeated pleas to list this noxious species have been heard. Today's action gives us hope that the federal government will do what each of the Great Lakes states has done already within their borders—ban the transportation of another harmful variety of Asian carp: the bighead carp.”

“Law enforcement officers should be very pleased with today's action, as it gives us the authority we need to use law enforcement as a tool to prevent the spread of harmful species,” said Captain David Bennett, vice-chair of the Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee. “This listing gives law enforcement officials the enhanced ability to regulate the trade and prevent the intentional or accidental release of these potential invaders into the Great Lakes.”

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the *1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries*. The commission has the responsibility to coordinate fisheries research, control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes, and facilitate implementation of *A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*, a provincial, state, and tribal fisheries management agreement. Under the Joint Strategic Plan, the commission facilitates cooperation among the state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies. These agencies have, together, long urged the listing of Asian carp as “injurious” under the Lacey Act.

Summary of Federal Register listing, posted October 18, 2007:

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) adds all forms of live black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids to the list of injurious fish under the Lacey Act. By this action, the Service prohibits the importation into or transportation between the continental United States, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States of live black carp, gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids. The best available information indicates that this action is necessary to protect the interests of wildlife and wildlife resources from the purposeful or accidental introduction and subsequent establishment of black carp in the ecosystems of the United States. Live black carp, gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids can be imported only by permit for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological purposes, or without a permit by Federal agencies solely for their own use. Interstate transportation of live black carp, gametes, viable eggs, and hybrids currently held within the United States will be allowed only by permit. Interstate transportation permits may be issued for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological purposes. DATES: This rule is effective November 19, 2007.

This listing can be found in today's *Federal Register* or online at:

<http://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=72798032084+0+0+0&WAIAction=retrieve>