

COMMON CARP

The large fish that you see jumping out of the water or trying to swim up the pump or through the water control structures are Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Carp are not native to the United States and are one of the top 100 most invasive species in North America. This is because it is one of the most widely distributed fish species in North America and they can tolerate a variety of environmental conditions and habitat types in the 48 states.

ORIGIN:

Europe and Asia

INTRODUCTION:

Introduced into Midwest as game fish in the 1880s

PHYSIOLOGY:

Adult Size: typically 15-30 inches; weighs 5-10lbs, can grow bigger

REPRODUCTION:

Large females lay 100,000-500,000 eggs in single spawn



(*Cyprinus carpio*)

INVASIVE SPECIES

IMPACTS:

- Their feeding uproots shallowly rooted plants muddying the water
- They release phosphorus that increases algae abundance
- Carp induced declines in water quality causes declines of aquatic plants needed by waterfowl and fish
- They are highly tolerant of poor water quality and often become abundant in areas where few other fish species will live

Please check our kiosk for more information and to get an answer to frequently asked questions about the Common Carp at the refuge.