



# Carpbusters- Carping for Conservation [www.carpbusters.com](http://www.carpbusters.com)



## Keep the Carp Please!

Before you release one of the worst invasive fish on the planet

### Think Again!

The Carp that so many of us take for granted as a part of the American landscape are an exotic. Asian carp were introduced and are successfully breeding in every state but Alaska. The invasive carp have altered entire bodies of water through their destructive feeding habits and high reproductive rate. They are such a menace that MILLIONS of dollars are spent annually trying to control this aquatic pest. Efforts include poisoning entire lakes, setting up barriers and electroshocking, all in hopes of stopping the onslaught of carp.

We ask all our fellow sportsmen, rather than releasing your carp, put it on ice and dispose of it properly. Some people find them an acceptable food fish. Many raptor rescue centers and wildlife rescue centers would enjoy a few hundred pounds of Carp for animal feed. If all else fails, carp make great fertilizer. Do anything, except release this animal back into the water.

### Our Native Fishes and their waterways thank you!

For more Facts about Exotic Carp please visit your state's DNR website, the USGS website or the EPA website. If your lake has a Carp infestation please visit [www.carpbusters.com](http://www.carpbusters.com). There you will find many groups willing to help remove your carp.

## Proposals for legislation changes to increase the harvest of Asian/Common Carp.

Carpbusters, while a relatively new organization, has been rather successful. Some of our events produce 10,000 pounds or more of harvested carp, carp that could easily be used for beneficial purposes if legislation allowed. What we have learned is that laws do not always promote wholesale harvest of the exotic invasives and thus, states miss an ally in the conservation fight. We are often forced to pay for the removal of fish to the landfill. Tons of carp that have market value but because of their manner of harvest, they are not salable under current law. We at Carpbusters suggest legislative policies that promote aggressive invasives harvest and thoughtfully treat our native fish stocks as a renewable resource.

First, Carpbusters recommends states allow carp to be harvested commercially by bow, net, and hook and line, with a simple inexpensive commercial license. Often, raccoon trappers, crawfish trappers, turtle farmers, mink farmers, etc. are unable to buy bait/food legally from those who harvest carp due to existing regulations. In some states it is illegal to sell fish harvested with a bow. Why are these fish any less worthwhile commercially because of the way they were harvested? Shouldn't the buyers of the fish determine their value rather than state legislation? Have marketing factors demanded this "No fish with arrow holes" policy? Most likely not. While fish harvested with a bow may not be the best for some markets they can and do have value. Amended legislation allowing bow harvesting, opens up the door for those bow fishermen to develop markets for carp in a legal above-board manner, while profiting the state. For example, fish meal/oil remains a big market, with the recent nutritional analysis of silvers and bighead carp done by the St. Louis Zoo and the USFWS as part of the

Carpbusters *Carp as Zoo Feed* initiative. It appears these silvers and bigheads are very well suited for the fish meal/oil market. Promoting a more liberal harvest policy will only enhance these market possibilities. Simply put, we believe states can do no harm by opening up the legislation to allow commercial sale of carp harvested by bow, net, and hook and line. If the market sees no value in them then the bowfishers will simply do what they currently do: haul the fish to dumps, bury them in the ground, give them away to trappers or to other fishermen. If these invasive carps do have commercial value, then their market will dramatically increase, and the states will all benefit.

Second, we recommend states open up more waterways to bowfishing for Asian Carp. Bass pro shops sold an estimated 200,000 bowfishing arrows in 2004. That means there is a tremendous amount of occasional and serious bowfishers out there. With the upcoming cable TV series on bow-harvesting carp, it will only increase. With the real possibility of big sponsorship for bowfishing shows, bowfishing promises to be an important fisheries resource. We propose to amend legislation, and promote Carp-Only or Carp-Primary harvest in waterways infested with Asian carp. For example, ABC waterway is open to lights-on, night bowfishing with a 15 native fish limit AND unlimited Asian carp harvest. By selectively targeting waterways infested with carp for legislative changes, bowfishing then becomes a more useful fisheries management tool. Simply put, each pound of Asian Carp removed is a pound more of native fish in a waterway. So why not promote as much invasive exotic harvest as possible.

You're friends in the conservation fight at [www.carpbusters.com](http://www.carpbusters.com)



Help us remove an invasive species



Several dozen Silver carp jump behind a passing boat, posing new problems for recreational boaters

There are no carp native to the United States, and these carp are out-reproducing our native fish at fantastic rates. A single mature female carp can hold over a million eggs, and it sure looks as though a lot of those make it to adulthood!



Three common carp species in order from top to bottom: Silver, Grass and Bighead.



Having fun with common carp at a favorite reservoir. Can you imagine this picture with bass or catfish?

It's one more excuse to get the family outdoors



Think this bighead's a decent catch now? Just give it a few more years out-eating our native fish. This Bighead is capable of topping 100lbs



Hunting AND fishing. Does it get better?

Whether you need to pull the kids away from the Gameboy, you're keeping up your bow skills, you want some fish for the dinner table, or some really big fish action, or you just want to help our native fish; it's a good time to look into targeting Asian carp.

And that's where Carpbusters can help.



Ian and Kendall show off two caught-and-never-released beauties



Beats the heck out of practicing form on bales of hay!

Honestly, Can you do *this* bass fishing?



Four bowfishermen show off one day's catch. Picture courtesy of Bowfishing Association of Iowa



If this were a bass, I'd have sponsors. Picture courtesy of Josh Dunkle

Depending on the species, Asian carp can grow to maximum sizes from 60 to over 100 pounds. And there's already so many out there in the wild, that a single day's fishing can produce some really impressive results



Bowfishing Association of America record bow-fished Bighead Carp. 85 lbs. Picture courtesy of Chris Reeves



One Carpbusters tournament that produced over 10,000 lbs of Asian carp. That big box isn't a cooler. These fish are being hauled to the landfill in a rolloff dumpster. We at Carpbusters would like to find a better use for these fish in future tournaments.