



Carp

Cyprinus Carpio



Physical Features

The common carp is a member of the minnow family. They are large and vary in color from a brassy green or yellow, to golden brown, or silver. The belly of the carp is yellowish-white. They also have barbells on both sides of their upper jaw. They typically range from one to ten pounds and can be anywhere from one to 25 inches in length in the Red River. However, in other bodies of water, carp can reach weights as great as 85 pounds!

History

Carp are an invasive species, native to Europe and Asia. They were introduced into the Midwest in the 1880s as a game fish. Carp can do a great amount of harm to an aquatic system. Their movement disturbs aquatic plant life, creating muddy phosphorous rich water and eliminating food and energy sources for other aquatic life.

Spawning

Carp are known to spawn during the whole month of May until late June depending on the water temperature. Typically they lay around 300,000 eggs per fish when spawning which is one reason they are so prevalent in most water systems.

Habitat and Food

Carp are an omnivorous fish. Their diet varies from aquatic plants, to insects, zooplankton, crustaceans, and benthic organisms. They dwell at the bottom, near vegetative sediments. Carp are also very tolerant to harsh conditions of bodies of water. They prefer to be in slow-moving or still water; a good place to look for them in the Red River. Their top fin can often be seen in temporary flooded pools after a flood.

Interesting Facts

Carp are the ancestors of the Koi fish. Rarely eaten in the United States, they are considered a delicacy in many European and Asian countries.

Angling Tips

Carp are often over-looked by anglers, but can provide great fun. Corn and night-crawlers fished on the bottom are a popular angling technique.

For More Information Contact:

River Keepers
325 7th St S., Ste. 201
Fargo, ND 58103-1846
701-235-2895
www.riverkeepers.org