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# Bighead & Silver Carp in the Lake Erie System

## 2015 Update

- ✓ *Four positive eDNA tests for bighead or silver carp in Ontario assessments (Thames R., Colchester harbor)*
- ✓ *No bighead or silver carp were observed in*
  - *targeted sampling,*
  - *agency core fish community assessments, or*
  - *commercial and recreational fisheries.*
- ✓ *Bighead carp have not been observed since 2000.*
- ✓ *Silver carp have never been observed in the system.*

### 2015 Targeted Sampling (2,909 sites)

*No Asian carp collected from standard gears*

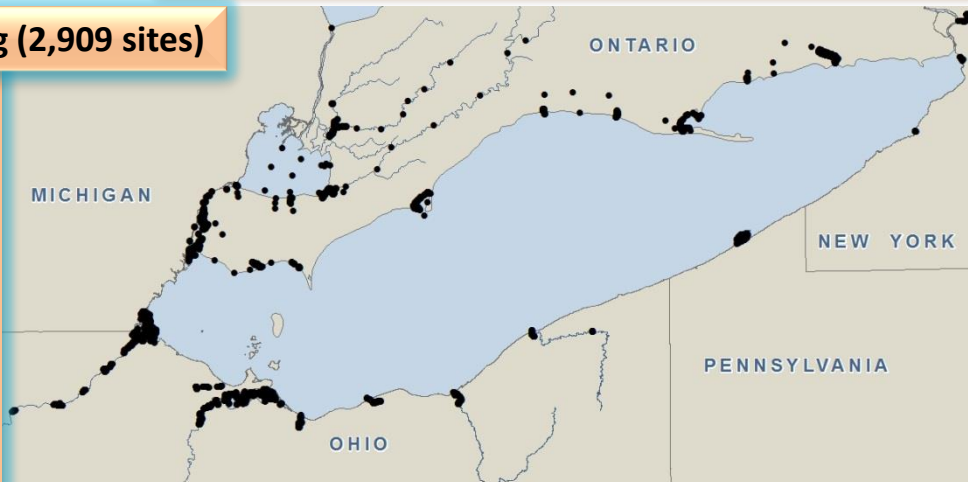
**eDNA results:**

*Three '+' for Bighead Carp and one '+' for Silver Carp*

(1,997 sites, lakewide)

**Sampling by:**

Fisheries & Oceans CAN (DFO), MDNR, ODNR, OMNRF, & USFWS



### 2015 Core Fish Community Assessments (1,064 sites)

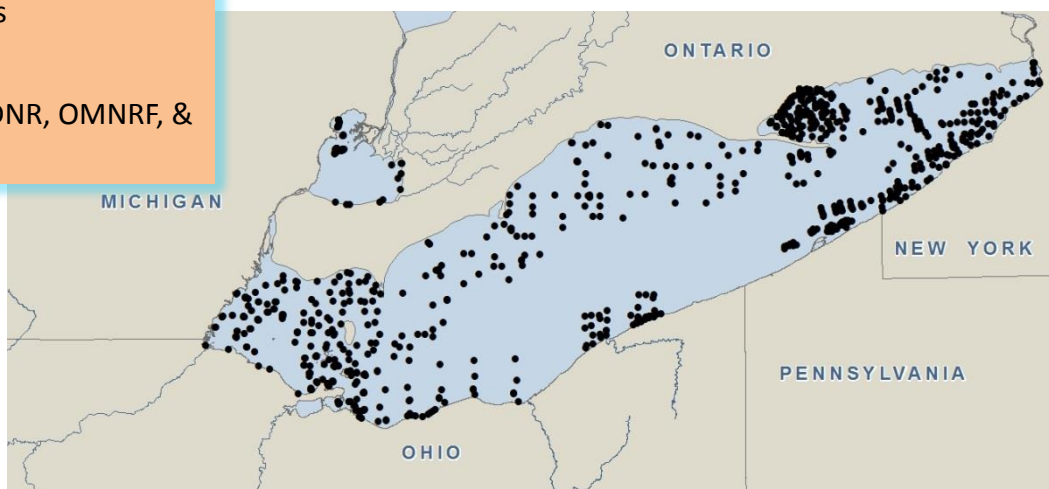
*No Asian carp collected*

**Standard Gears:**

electrofishing, gill nets, trawls, seines, and trap nets

**Sampling by:**

MDNR, NYSDEC, ODNR, OMNRF, & PFBC



**Effort of major fisheries monitored for Asian carps by LEC jurisdictions in the three basins of Lake Erie during 2015. *No bighead or silver carps reported* \*.**

Fishery (units of effort)	West Basin	Central Basin	East Basin
Ontario Percid Commercial Gillnet (kms)	11,121	26,554	2,576
U.S. Commercial Trap Net (lifts)	3,240	7,430	751
U.S. Percid Recreational (angler hours)	2,391,335	1,334,419	420,392

\* Neither species of carp was reported from other monitored fisheries in the Lake Erie system during 2015, including commercial hoop net, pound net, seine, and trawl fisheries, as well as non-Percid recreational fisheries.

**Who serves on the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) and what is their purpose?** *Fisheries managers from Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania coordinate priorities in the Lake Erie system (Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair/Detroit Rivers).*

**How serious is the threat of Asian carps to Lake Erie fisheries?** *Bi-national studies clearly identify the Lake Erie system as having the highest risk of Asian carp establishment and biological impact of any Great Lake.*

**What is the LEC doing about the potential Asian carp threat to Lake Erie fisheries?** *The priority is to prevent bighead and silver carp population establishment in the Lake Erie system by focusing on the identification and elimination of outside sources of carps and their pathways of entry, through early surveillance and application of effective control programs where feasible.*

**Bighead & Silver Carp History in Lake Erie**

**1995:** Adult bighead carp caught, commercial seine, Sandusky Bay (OH).

**2000:** Two adult bighead carp caught, commercial fisheries, Point Pelee (ON) and Cedar Point (OH).

**2012:** Notre Dame tests eDNA samples from 2011  
 - bighead carp, 4 '+' in 200 samples, Sandusky Bay (OH)  
 - silver carp, 2 '+' in 200 samples, Maumee Bay (MI/OH)  
 - 0 '+' in 50 samples, Lorain Harbor (OH)

USACE tests eDNA samples from 2012  
 - silver carp, 20 '+' in 150 samples, Sandusky Bay & River  
 - silver carp, 3 '+' in 350 samples, Maumee Bay & River  
 - no bighead carp eDNA in either river

**2013:** eDNA testing by USFWS and DFO  
 - 817 samples, lakewide  
 - silver carp, 1 '+' in 207 samples, Maumee River

**2014:** eDNA testing by USFWS and OMNRF  
 - 1,457 sites, lakewide  
 - silver carp, 1 '+' in 18 samples Ausable River (L.Huron)  
 - bighead carp, 1 '+' in 30 samples Canard River ; 2 '+' in 129 samples, Grand River .

No bighead or silver carps found in targeted or core assessment programs of fisheries or fish populations in the Lake Erie system.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Great Lakes Fishery Commission**  
**Lake Erie Committee**

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