

FW: DFO confirms grass carp captured near Dunnville - lower Grand River

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From: OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer [mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2013 5:15 PM
To: OFAH Zone J Newsletter
Subject: DFO confirms grass carp captured near Dunnville - lower Grand River

On April 29, 2013 – Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) communicated to MNR that an 18kg (40lb) and 111cm (44") grass carp had been captured near Dunnville, in a side channel within the lower Grand River, a tributary of Lake Erie by an angler on the weekend. DFO staff obtained the fish early in the morning of the 29th and has confirmed that it is a grass carp. They are sending samples of the fish for ploidy testing to determine if the fish is diploid (reproductive) or triploid (sterile).

MNR is working with DFO to coordinate monitoring in the Grand River to determine if additional fish are present. It is anticipated that surveillance will include both environmental DNA analysis and traditional surveillance techniques.

Although grass carp are not considered to pose as serious threat as other Asian Carp species – they could still have a significant impact on Great Lakes ecosystems.

Previously, small numbers of grass carp have been reported in the U.S. waters of Lake Erie . Most recently in 2012, grass carp were detected in the Sandusky River, Ohio and in Monroe , Michigan . Testing of these fish indicated the presence of both diploid and triploid fish.

There have been 7 previous reports of individual grass carp between 1985 and 2008 caught in the Ontario waters of the Great Lakes including Lake Erie – to date there has been no evidence of an established population.

No grass carp were detected as part of MNR's expanded fisheries surveillance program for Asian Carp in 2012 in Lake Erie .

The discovery of this Grass Carp initiates the established Asian Carp Response Protocol which includes internal and external communications and monitoring and surveillance.