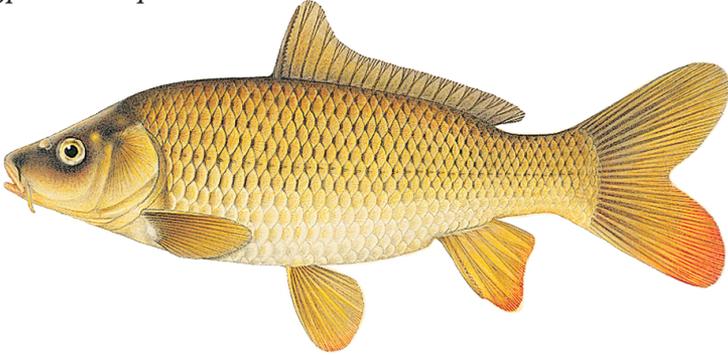


MINNOWS (family Cyprinidae)

Common carp

Cyprinus carpio



Similar Species: Goldfish, bigmouth and smallmouth buffalo

Identification: Barbel on each corner of mouth, heavy serrated spine-like structure at front of dorsal (back) and anal (bottom hind) fin. (Goldfish do not have barbels. The buffalofishes do not have barbels or spines.)

Common carp were introduced to the U.S. in the mid-1800s as a food fish and now are cosmopolitan in North America. Carp flourish in a variety of habitats and can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. They thrive in lakes or sluggish streams that are rich in organic matter and are less abundant in cold, clearer waters. The common carp is an opportunistic bottom feeder and will eat a variety of insects and green plant material. Carp can provide exciting angling on light tackle as they are excellent fighters. Common carp may reach 40 to 50 pounds.

