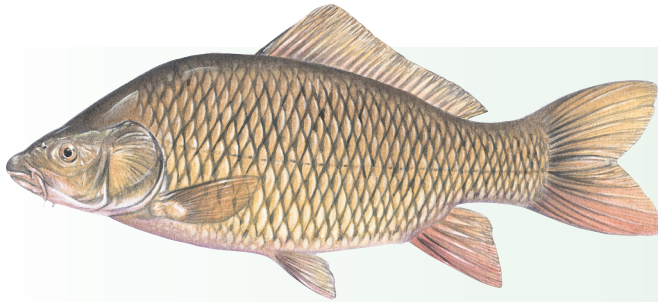




COMMON CARP



Identification

- Large, deep-bodied fish
- One dorsal fin
- Colour varies from silver to olive-green, brass or grey on the back and sides; lighter belly
- **"Whiskers" (barbels) beside mouth**

Habitat

- Warm, shallow, weedy lakes and rivers.
- Along the bottom of clear and murky waters.

Spawning Patterns

- Late spring to early summer when water temperatures reach 17°C.
- A few females lay eggs in shallow weedy bays and are accompanied by up to fifteen males.
- A single female may produce over 2 million eggs!

Diet

- Carp are omnivorous.
- They will suck up a mouthful of the muddy bottom, spit it out into the water and pick out any food items.
- Their diet normally consists of aquatic insects, snails, algae, wild rice and the seeds of aquatic plants.

Age and Size

- Can live up to 20 years old.
- Usually 12-30 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 30 inches.
- Ontario record weight is 41.88 lb.

Fishing Tips

- Late spring to early summer can improve your chances for catching carp, because they are more congregated and visible.
- Early morning and late evening are prime fishing, but can be caught throughout the daytime.
- Use a strong rod, strong fishing line, and a large net.
- Place worms, doughballs, or corn kernels directly on the bottom.
- Strike indicators, such as bobbers, are helpful.