



Sandusky River Grass Carp Barrier Project

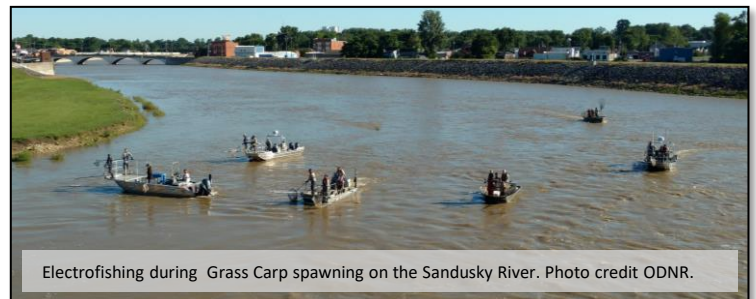
Grass Carp:

- Also known as White Amur.
- Native to eastern Asia.
- Eat aquatic vegetation.
- Can grow to large sizes (more than 40 lbs.)
- Imported to US in 1960s for pond vegetation control.
- Non-reproductive (triploid) grass carp legal in OH since 1988.
- Can impact aquatic habitat when they escape or are released.



Grass Carp in Lake Erie

- Adult Grass Carp have been captured occasionally in Lake Erie since the 1980s.
- In 2012 several juveniles were caught in the Sandusky River. Testing showed that these fish were diploid (capable of reproduction) and had likely hatched in the Sandusky in 2011.
- Grass Carp eggs have been found in the Sandusky and Maumee Rivers and larvae have been found in the Maumee.
- Removal efforts began in 2017. Dedicated removal crews have been used since 2019.



Grass Carp Barrier

- Sandusky River spawning events have been estimated at approximately 200 fish; blocking these fish from spawning habitat will greatly minimize the potential for natural reproduction.
- Spawning habitat has been documented based on egg collections, flow modelling, and the capture of adults during spawning events.
- The optimal location for the barrier has been identified as just downstream of Brady's Island in the City of Fremont, which allows for barrier placement on state and city property and will block Grass Carp from access to all known spawning locations.
- The technologies being considered for the barrier will create a non-physical deterrent including bubbles, lights, and sound. This will provide the opportunity to turn the barrier on and off as desired, only creating a barrier during high flow events when grass carp attempt to spawn.