

Carp history

1831-32: Carp first imported to the United States.

Mid-1877: U.S. Fisheries Commission receives 345 adult carp as brood stock from Germany.

Fall 1879: Carp fingerlings distributed to 38 states and territories.

1880: U.S. Fisheries Commission ships 75 carp to a hatchery in Madison. The carp produced 350 young.

1881: Carp fingerlings in lots of 20-22 were distributed to individuals in Rock, Columbia, Fond du Lac and Manitowoc counties.

1880-94: Carp actively raised at Nevin Fish Hatchery, Madison. As many as 35,000 fish per year stocked in Wisconsin waters.

1895: Carp programs discontinued.

1899: The state fish commission prepares to supervise removal of "deleterious fish" and issues permits.

1903: Lake Koshkonong opened for seining of rough fish.

1912: Seining suspended due to complaints.

1915: Contracts reissued for carp removal.

1923: Public outcry for stronger carp removal efforts on Koshkonong. No aquatic vegetation can be found there.

1934-52: State and private crews work Koshkonong.

1976-87: Bob Hagensick of Lynxville gets seining contract. Carp reduced to an all-time low. Game fish populations flourish, and seining becomes unprofitable. A single seine haul in 1980 captures 1.25 million pounds, which saturates the market and destroys the price. A quarter million pounds of that large catch

eventually escapes back into the lake.

1988-93: A die-off of game fish and big hatches of carp restore the need for aggressive carp removal.

1992: Carp loading dock at Newville rebuilt.

Source: "The History of Carp in Lake Koshkonong" by Don Bush, senior fisheries biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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