

Canadian importer fined for Asian carp possession

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By JOHN FLESHER _ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVERSE CITY — A Canadian fish importer has been fined \$50,000 for possession of Asian carp, including one of the varieties threatening to invade the Great Lakes.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources says Feng Yang of Markham, Ontario, pleaded guilty this week to one count of possessing live invasive fish. It was his second conviction.

Officers with the ministry and the Canada Border Services Agency said they discovered more than 4,000 pounds of bighead and grass carp in tanks on Yang's truck during an inspection.

Bighead and silver carp have infested parts of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and waterways near Chicago. Authorities are trying to keep them from entering Lake Michigan, where scientists say they could destabilize the food chain.

Ontario has banned possession of live invasive fish since 2005.