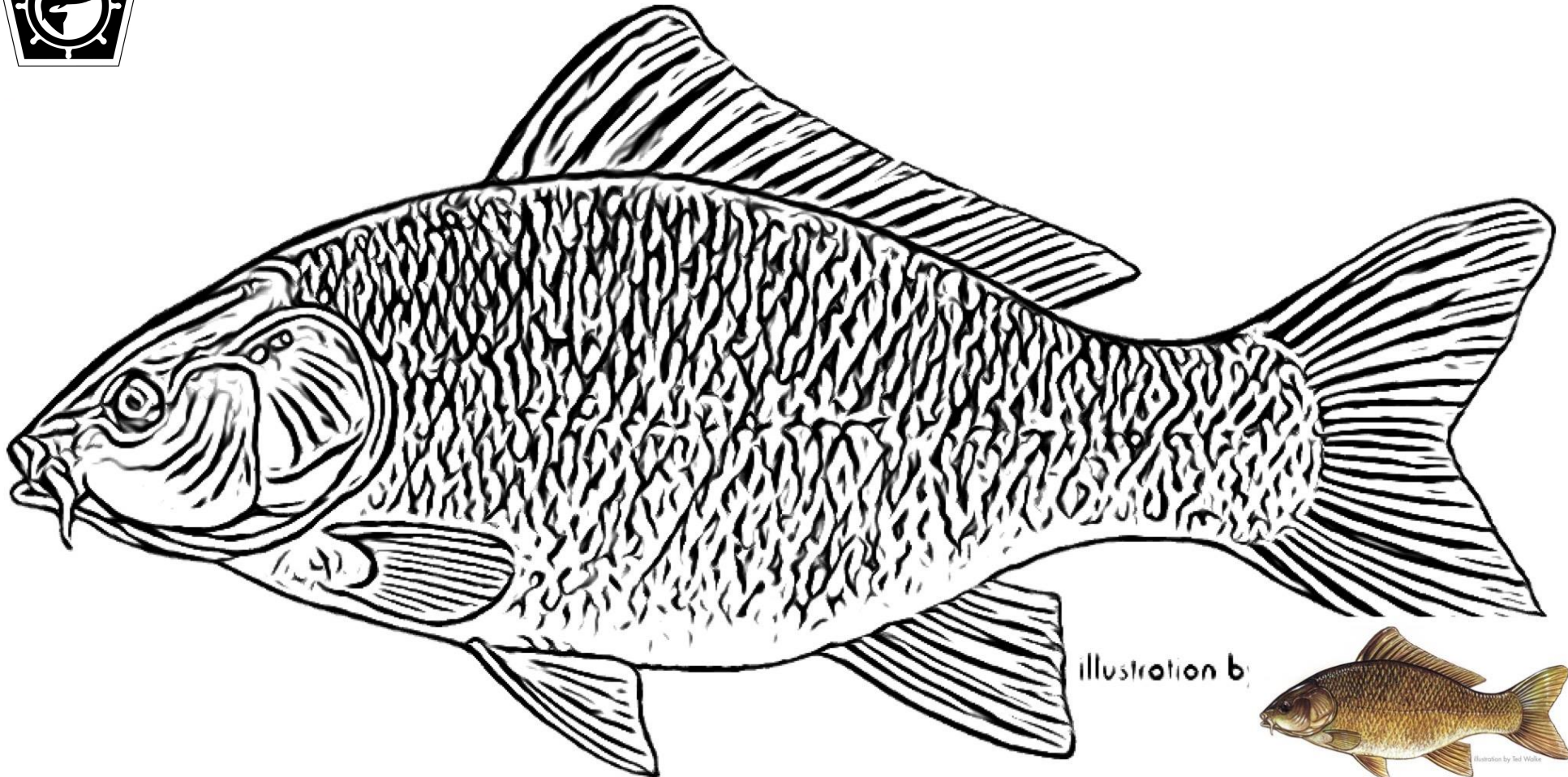




Common Carp

Cyprinus Carpio



Pennsylvania's biggest minnow is not a native of this continent, or this hemisphere. It was originally distributed throughout Europe and Asia. It is not known exactly when Carp were brought to the United States from Europe, probably the mid-1800s to late 1800s. Some earlier reports by European settlers of "Carp" in North America are thought to be misidentifications of the Quillback. By 1880, the U.S. Fish Commission had distributed more than 12,000 Carp to people in 25 states and territories to establish the fish in this country. Today, Carp are found not only throughout the United States, where they are especially abundant in the fertile waters of the Mississippi River watershed, but they occur in all 67 Pennsylvania counties. Young Carp are an important part of the aquatic food base. Larger Carp are a fisherman's challenge because of their tackle-testing weight. Carp are also pursued by bow fishermen, especially when the fish move into shallow water to spawn. The genus name "Cyprinus" is the old-world name for Carp. "Carpio" is a Latinized word meaning "Carp."