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Gut 'em: Preventing an Asian carp invasion of the Great Lakes

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When an environmental policy proposal gets bloody, we notice.

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photo credit: [Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee](#)

Fish sellers, harvesting Asian carp from southern U.S. waters, are trucking them to Toronto fish markets on ice. Although both Canada and Ontario prohibit the possession and sale of live Asian carp in Ontario, **some carp imported into Canada are found alive in trucks – after being on ice for up to two days.**

The current law doesn't consider Asian carp's freakish zombie-like talent. That's why the Ontario government is suggesting a change in the rules governing Asian carp coming into Ontario.

Until next Thursday (Feb. 21, 2013), the province is accepting feedback from the public on a proposal for what's been dubbed, "dead means dead" regulations; that in order to import Asian carp to Ontario, the fish need to be gutted. (In legal speak, the fish would be prohibited "unless dead and eviscerated.")

Gross and visceral as it is, we fully support this proposed change, and the speedy education of border enforcement officers. The move could stimulate similar change across Canada, and in

U.S. states.

Trucking live Asian carp across the border is problematic, because of the risk for the cargo to spill, accidentally or not, into the Great Lakes. **Asian carp threaten the Great Lakes ecosystem because they change the food chain radically wherever they take over.** They would eat the food supply of many native fish, and breed like mad.

That's why it's so important we work together to keep this invader out of our Great Lakes. **How you can help:**

Voice your support for the province's proposal. To comment, visit [this website](#) and click on Submit Comment.

To find out more about the threats of Asian carp, check out the province's [discussion paper](#) related to this policy proposal, or check out Great Lakes United's [Asian Carp FAQ page](#).

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