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Naked carp stock grows in Chinaâ??s Qinghai Lake

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Chinaâ??s Qinghai Lake had 114,100 tonnes of naked carp in 2022, over 44 times the figure in 2002, according to the Qinghai provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.

Qinghai Lake is Located in northwest Qinghai Province, the country's largest inland saltwater lake has seen a 5.1-per cent year-on-year growth in naked carp stocks this year, according to the monitoring data recorded by Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute.

According to the Xinhua news agency, the carp species, known as "Huangyu" in China, is endemic to Qinghai Lake. The fish is not only critical to the existence of local bird species, but also to the ecological balance of the highland lake.

Due to overfishing and environmental deterioration, the population of naked carp declined sharply in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2002, Qinghai Lake only had 2,592 tonnes of naked carp.

In order to protect the species and restore the environment, the province banned naked carp fishing in Qinghai Lake and in nearby rivers in 2003. Qinghai has also closed the lake six times during the past four decades in order to better breed fish there.

Notably, the province has released around 197 million artificially-bred fries into the lake over the past 20 years. The practice of releasing the artificially-bred fry contributes to 23 per cent of the species' overall population restoration.

The growth of naked carp in the lake is slow, with low reproductive capacity. Once the fish stocks are exhausted, they are not easy to restore.