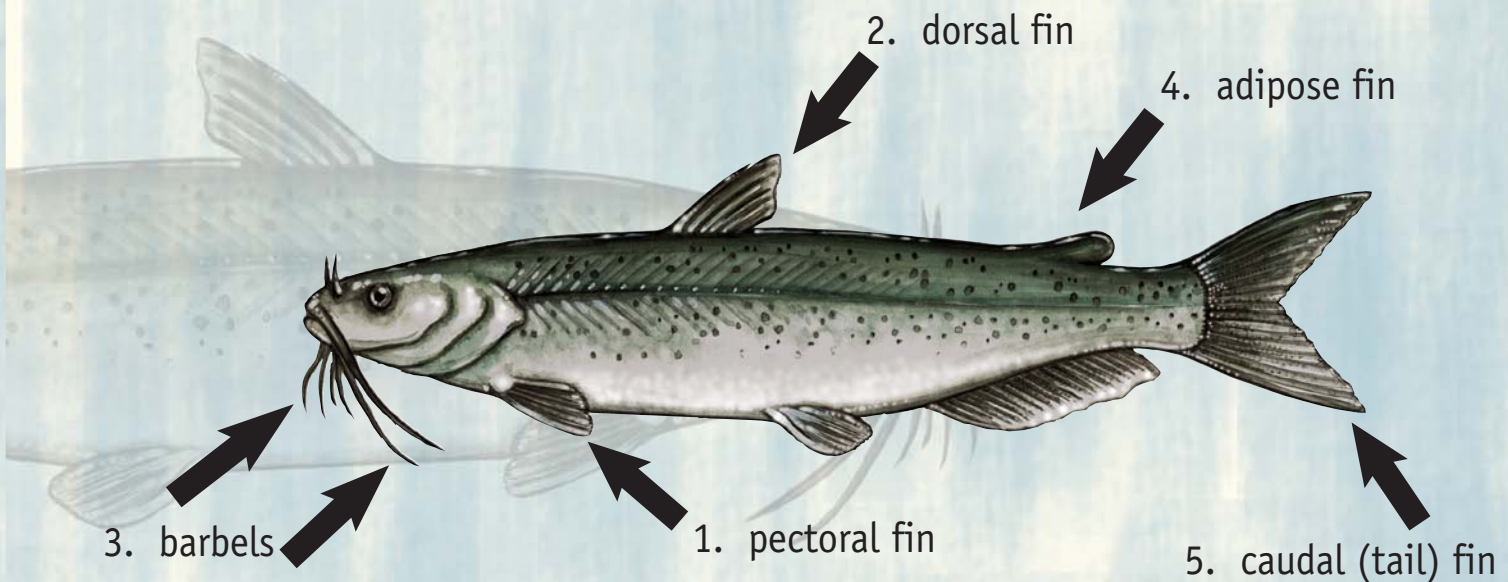


Know your Catfish

Catfish are easily recognized, even by non-anglers. The whiskers are the giveaway. They have other similar characteristics.

1. Pectoral fin: Spines have sharp points, so watch out!
2. Dorsal fin: Spines have sharp points, so watch out!

3. Barbels (whiskers): Four whiskers are located on the upper jaw of the catfish and two whiskers are located on the catfish's chin.
4. Adipose fin: This fin is unique to catfish and the trout
5. Caudal fin: Tail.



The hard part can be identifying the five species commonly caught. The differences are in the color of the chin barbels and the shape of the tail.

White catfish

- Somewhat forked tail with round lobes
- Chin barbels whitish



Channel catfish

- Forked tail with pointed lobes
- Chin barbels black



Yellow bullhead

- Rounded tail
- Long anal fin
- Chin barbels white or yellow



Brown bullhead

- Tail less rounded, almost square
- Chin barbels dark, gray-black. May have whitish color at the base.



Flathead catfish

- Longer, flattened head
- Tail square
- Chin barbels yellow-white
- Mottled fins
- Lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw



Strange . . . But True!

Catfish have taste buds on their skin, lips and barbels. They taste the water while looking for food. There are more taste buds on a catfish's body than in your mouth.