



CHANNEL CATFISH

Ictalurus punctatus

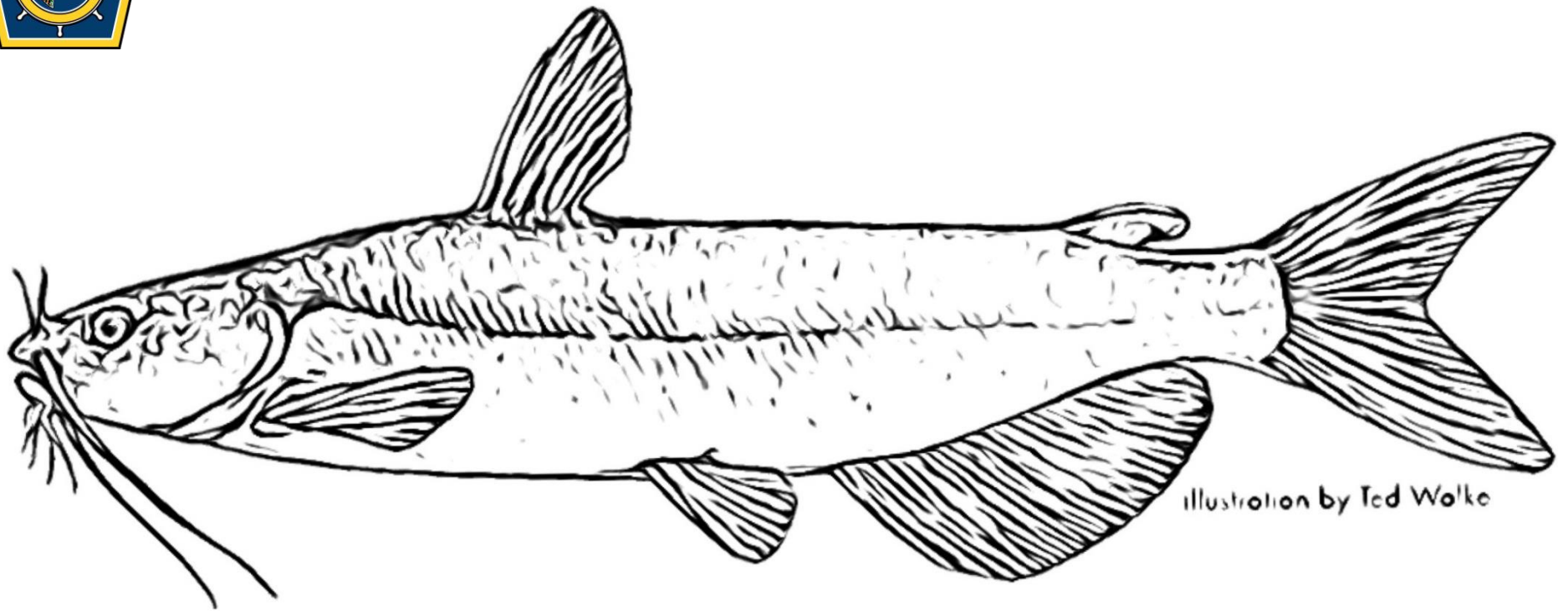


Illustration by Ted Wolke

The Channel Catfish is one of the largest Catfish in Pennsylvania. Some can weigh up to 15lbs with lengths up to 30 inches. The state record is over 35 pounds. Channel "Cats" are a popular sport fish and are raised commercially for the table. They are found statewide.

The Channel Catfish's species name "*punctatus*" means "spotted," referring to the small, dark spots on its sides. The Channel Catfish is the only Catfish that has these spots.

Their back is blue-gray to slate-gray or bluish olive. The sides tend to be silvery-gray, and the belly is whitish. Except for some large adults, especially the males, Channel Catfish have small, irregular spots on the sides and back. None of the other Catfishes has these spots.

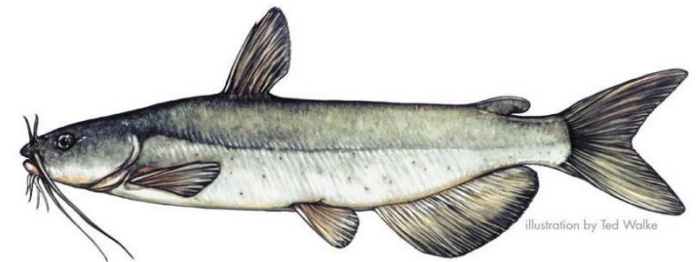


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