

Life of a Catfish

Bullheads, catfish and madtoms share similar life cycles. They make nests in or under stream or lake banks, sunken logs, rocks or even pebbles. Some find holes in banks, while others make the holes themselves. Catfish spawn in the spring or early summer from May to July. They lay from 2,000 to 100,000 eggs depending on the species, age and size. The male is usually the main caretaker and protector of the eggs.

As the young grow and mature, they travel in schools. Plant material and aquatic insect larva are their prey. As the catfish fry grow, they may add crustaceans, clams and small fish to their diet.

Most adult catfish are active and feed at night. They also feed in cloudy, muddy waters during the day. Catfish depend on their senses of smell and taste for hunting due to poor vision.

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sac fry

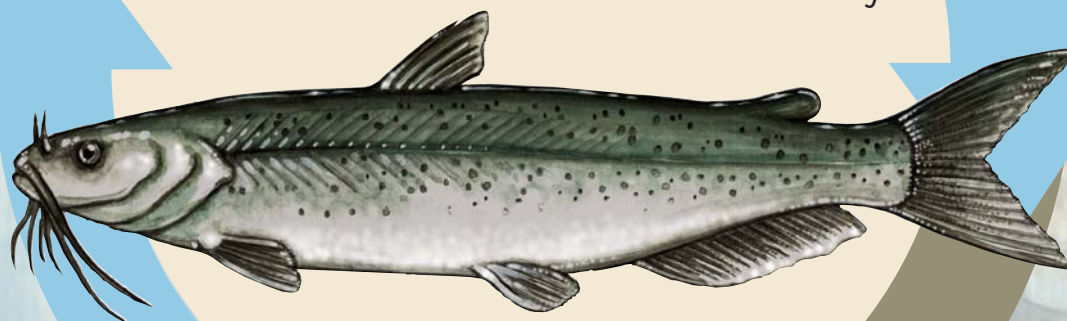
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eggs



fry



adult channel catfish

Answers to catfish angler questions: 1. madtoms, 2. adipose fn., 3. night, 4. pectoral and dorsal, 5. male, 6. flathead catfish, 7. bullheads, 8. taste buds, 9. indicator species, 10. barbels, 11. French Creek, 12. life cycles.
 Answer to catfish angler message: Use stinky bait, and fish at night.