

# Catfish: Taking a Closer Look

Catfish mostly feed at the bottom and at night. They have many characteristics that help them find food.

## Catfish Characteristics

Heavy, bony head and a small gas bladder make it easier for catfish to sink or stay on the bottom.

Flattened head to dig through the bottom for food.

Smooth, scaleless skin that is covered with taste buds.

Nostrils have folds of tissue that are highly sensitive to smell.

Fleshy "whiskers," called barbels, are loaded with taste buds that help find food in murky water and at night.

Flathead Catfish

Flat belly helps to lie at the bottom.

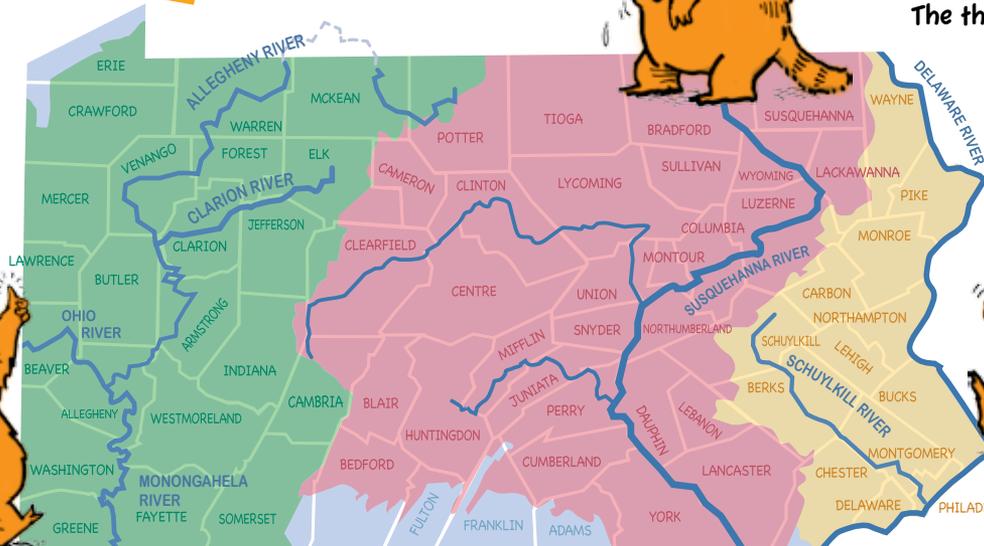


Flathead Catfish



### The three River Basins:

- Ohio River Basin (native)
- Susquehanna River Basin (not native)
- Delaware River Basin (not native)



## Flathead Catfish: Friend or Foe?

In western Pennsylvania, flathead catfish are native to the Ohio River Basin. Flathead catfish have recently been introduced to eastern Pennsylvania waters and could possibly harm other native fish and aquatic species. What should you do if you catch a flathead catfish in the Susquehanna River or Delaware River basins? This includes flathead catfish caught in the Schuylkill River. Only take fish if you plan on eating them. Flathead catfish are now included under the statewide 50 fish per day, no minimum size limit.

A **native species** is one that normally lives in a certain region or habitat.