

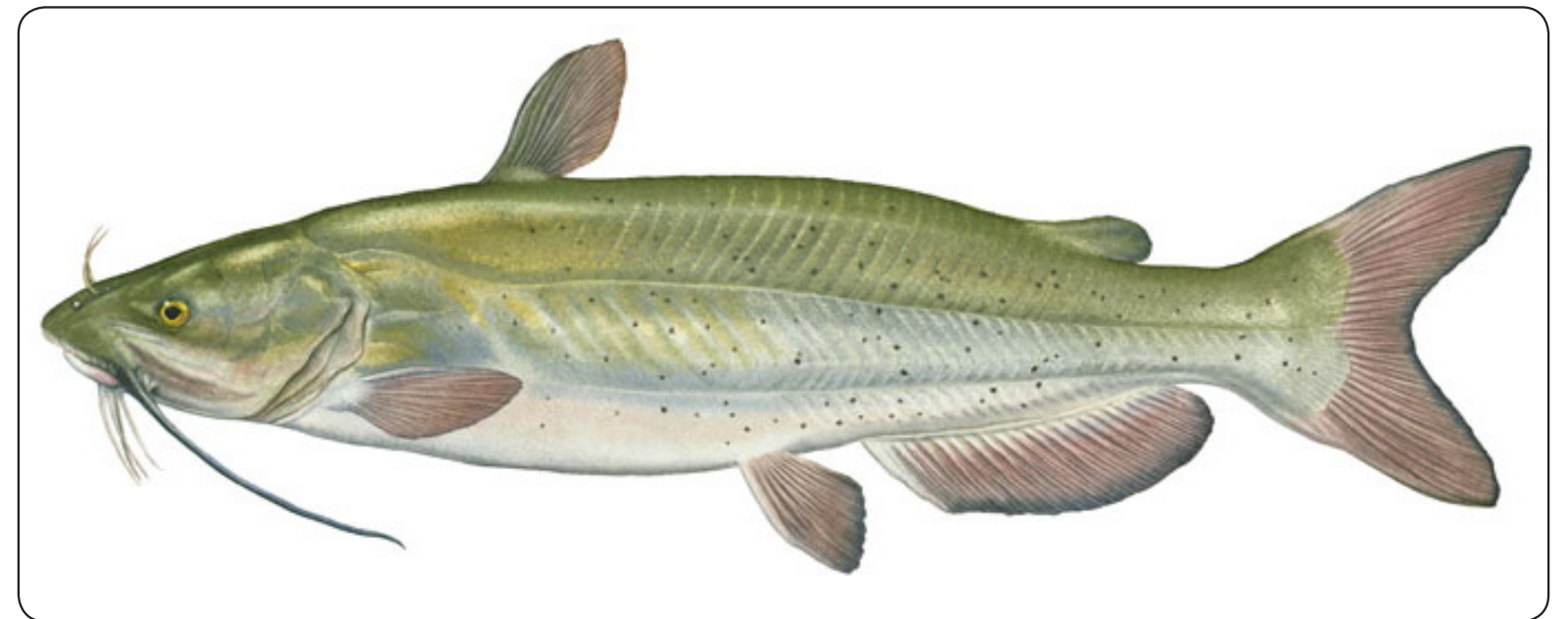
Blue Catfish: *Ictalurus furcatus*



The Blue Catfish is one of the most abundant catfishes in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. Morphologically, the Blue Catfish resembles the Channel Catfish, but differs in its lack of spots on the back and sides. Blue Catfish primarily occupy freshwater lakes, rivers, and oxbows, but are capable of brackish water habitats. Maximum size is more than 100 lbs.

Channel Catfish: *Ictalurus punctatus*

Channel Catfish are native to lower Canada and the eastern and northern United States, as well as parts of northern Mexico. They thrive in small and large rivers, reservoirs, natural lakes and ponds. Channel “Cats” are cavity nesters, meaning they lay their eggs in crevices, hollows, or debris in order to protect them from swift currents.



Channel Catfish possess very keen senses of smell and taste with a very high concentration of olfactory receptors in their nostrils and taste buds distributed over the surface of their entire body. These taste buds are especially concentrated on the Channel Catfish’s four pair of barbels (whiskers) surrounding the mouth.