



# Black Bullhead

*Ameiurus melas*



## **Description:**

- ◆ dark chin barbels
- ◆ dark olive, slate or yellow brown above
- ◆ shiny olive gold sides
- ◆ yellow to white below
- ◆ no well defined teeth on rear of pectoral fin
- ◆ caudal fin slightly notched
- ◆ short, rounded anal fin

## **Size:**

- ◆ up to 24 inches

## **Range:**

- ◆ native to Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from New York to
- ◆ southern Saskatchewan and Montana south to the Gulf; Gulf Slope drainages from
- ◆ Mobile Bay, Georgia and Alabama to northern Mexico; not native to Atlantic Slope

## **Facts:**

- ◆ prefer slow moving waters with soft bottoms
- ◆ only bullhead species with completely pigmented barbels
- ◆ tolerant of poorly oxygenated, turbid, polluted and high temperature waters
- ◆ venom on ends of pectoral spines (can cause pain to humans for up to a week)
- ◆ spawn May to July
- ◆ females produce 2000 to 3800 eggs
- ◆ female guards nest for first day then the male takes over for the remaining 10 days at most
- ◆ young stay near male for 2 weeks
- ◆ average life span is 5 years



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