



# White Catfish

*Ameiurus catus*



## **Description:**

- ♦ moderately forked tail
- ♦ blue to gray black above
- ♦ white below
- ♦ spine on pectoral fins and dorsal fins serrated
- ♦ 4 pairs of barbels; 2 on lower jaw, 1 behind nostrils, 1 split on sides of upper jaw
- ♦ chin barbels are most commonly white
- ♦ upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw

## **Size:**

- ♦ up to 24 inches; more commonly up to 12 inches

## **Range:**

- ♦ fresh and brackish waters along Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, from New York to Florida; introduced into Midwest and West Coast states

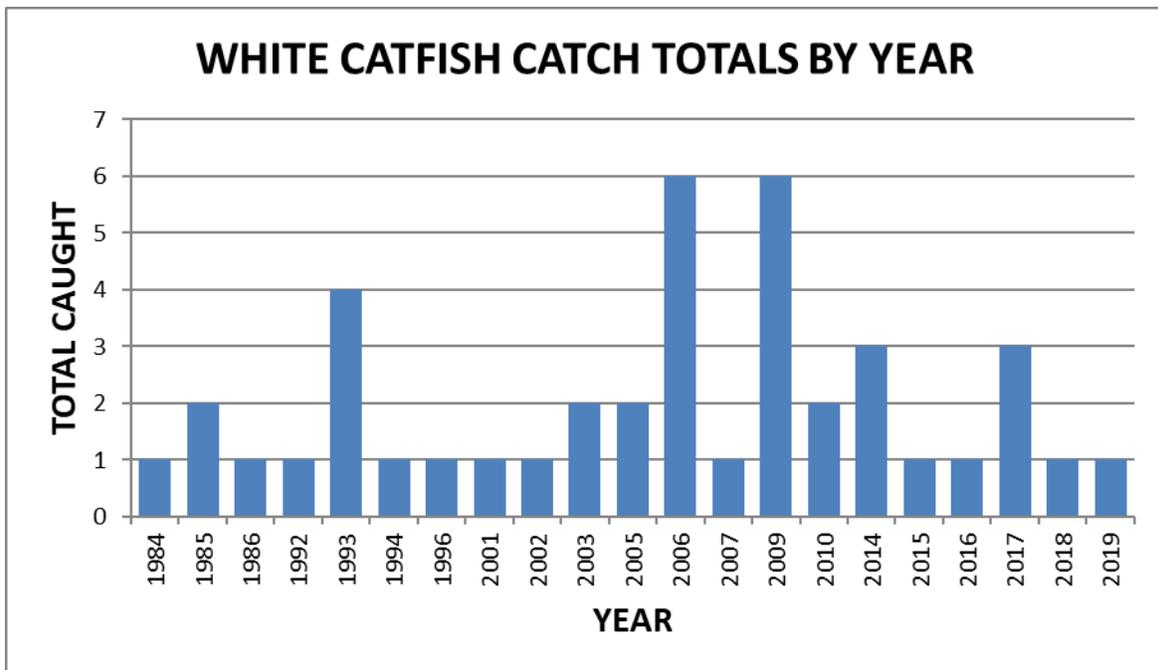
## **Facts:**

- ♦ prefers slow, mud-bottomed pools, open channels and backwaters of small to large rivers, lakes and impoundments
- ♦ feed on anything from insects to crustaceans and fish
- ♦ average lifespan is 12 to 14 years
- ♦ mature at 3 to 4 years
- ♦ barbels contain taste buds which help find food in dark, muddy waters
- ♦ male and female form saucer shaped nest
- ♦ females lay 1000 to 4000 sticky eggs
- ♦ males guard and aerate the eggs
- ♦ males watch over the fry until they disperse



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\*white catfish were only caught during the years shown