

## Wels catfish

### *Silurus glanis*

#### Description

#### Identification

Scaleless, elongated body. It can grow up to 13 feet long with a weight of over 880 pounds. Upper side is usually a dark color and the flanks and belly are more pale. Fins are brownish and the body has a mottled appearance that is sometimes accompanied by brown spots. 1 dorsal spine and 4-5 dorsal soft rays, 1 anal spine and 90-94 anal soft rays and a caudal fin with 17 rays.

#### Habitat

Native to central, southern and eastern Europe and near the Baltic and Caspian Seas. It prefers large, warm lakes and deep, slow-flowing rivers where it can remain sheltered in holes, sunken trees, etc.

#### Reproduction

Breed annually during spring; hatching takes



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3-10 days; reproductive maturity is 4 years for a female and 3 years for a male. The male creates a shallow depression that will hold thousands of eggs. Females can lay up to 30,000 eggs per kilogram of body weight.

### **Impact**

Have been implicated in declining populations of other commercial fishes. Capable of carrying bacterial disease that can be transmitted to other fish such as Red head disease (*Vibrio* sp. bacterium) and Gill disease (*Flavobacterium*).

### **Similar**

Aristotle's catfish (*Silurus aristotelis*); Amur catfish (*Silurus asotus*); Giant lake biwa catfish (*Silurus biwaensis*); Soldatov's catfish (*Silurus soldatovi*); Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*).

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