

# 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 spone and 4-5 dorsal soft rays, 1 anal spine and 90-94 anal soft rays and a caudal fin with 17 rays.

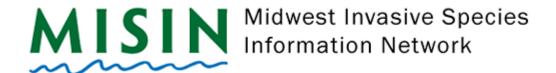
#### Habitat

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





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 commerical 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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