



CHANNEL CATFISH

Ictalurus punctatus

Description:

- ◆ deeply forked caudal fin
- ◆ upper jaw projects beyond lower
- ◆ white to dusky chin barbels
- ◆ olive to pale blue on back and sides with silvery white belly
- ◆ numerous small dark spots on back and sides (absent on young and less obvious on large adults)

Size:

- ◆ up to 50 inches

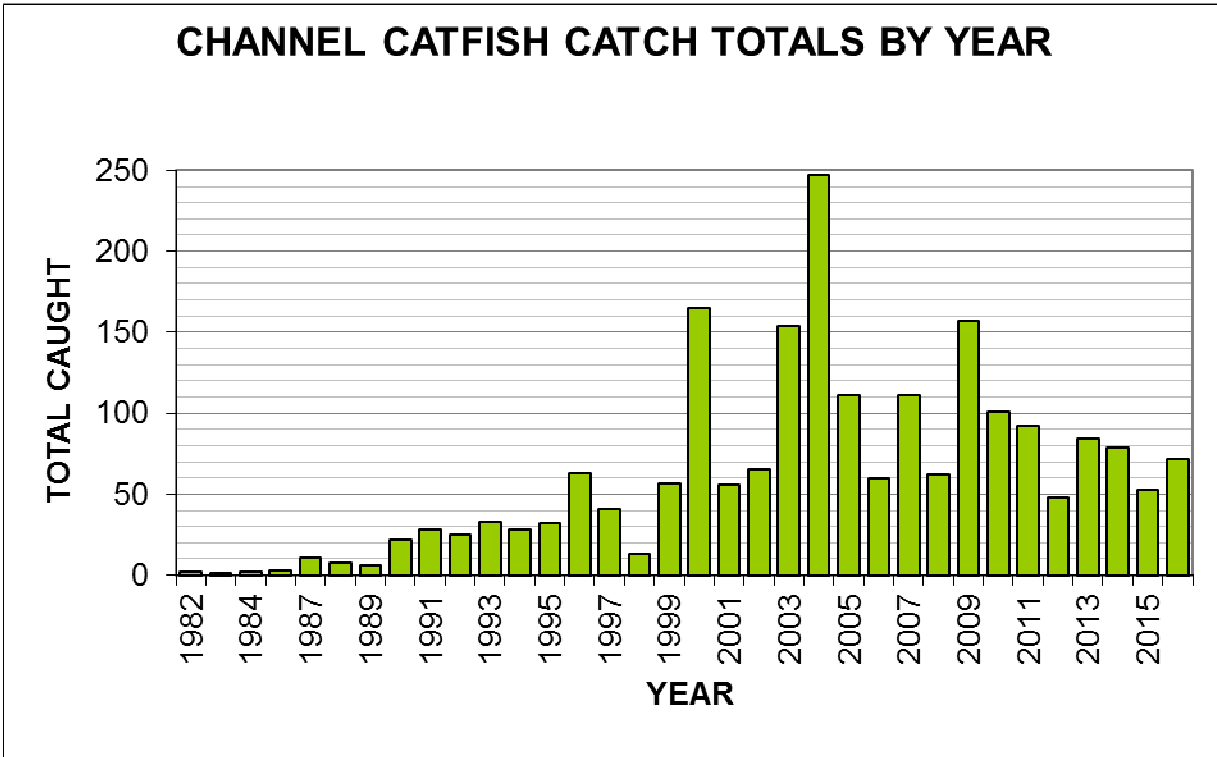
Range:

- ◆ Native to North America, east of Rockies from south Canada, south into northeast Mexico and east of the Appalachians; absent through much of the coastal plains north of Florida; introduced over much of the U.S.

Facts:

- ◆ spawn in late spring or early summer
- ◆ males select dark, secluded nest sites
- ◆ golden yellow gelatinous egg mass deposited by female in bottom of nest and guarded

- by male
- ◇ eggs hatch in a week, if not eaten by male
- ◇ fry remain in nest with male for another week



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