

BLUE CATFISH

Ictalurus furcatus

Valenciennes, 1840



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Siluriformes

Family: Ictaluridae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Adults can reach a maximum length of 165 cm for a weight of 68 kg. Torpedo-shaped body, dorsally flattened. Broad head with short but thick barbels. Top of head and upper flanks are bluish-grey, rest of body is creamy white.

Range: The species occurs in North America, in eastern USA and Mexico, in Mobile and Mississippi bassins, south to Rio Grande. Also in Soto la Marina basin.

Habitat : Lakes, medium and large rivers, in deep waters, over mud, sand and gravel.

Behavior: This species usually lives alone but can be found in loose groups. Feeds on aquatic invertebrates, clams and fishes. Prefers fast flowing waters.

Status in the wild: The species has a large range and is very common in the wild. May be declining locally due to pollution and overfishing.

In captivity: This species has apparently never been kept in captivity outside North America. It's known from very few public collections around USA and often kept in huge exhibits with other local fishes. Never bred in public animal collections.