

[ [More Wisconsin Fish](#) ]

## Channel Catfish

*Channel catfish* are one of the more popular types of catfish. If you live in the lower portion of the state, you will more than likely spot one of these **catfish** when you go [fishing](#). Wisconsin channel catfish sometimes get mistaken for blue catfish so, when you are fishing for catfish, make sure you check the markings. **Channel catfish** seem to be very abundant round the **Wisconsin River** and the [Castle Rock Dam](#). This type of [channel catfish](#) will pretty much eat anything that comes their way so it is somewhat easy to catch one.

## [Video of Catfish in Lake Petenwell](#)

**Name:** *Channel Catfish*

**Scientific name:** *Catulus punctatus*

**Family:** Ictaluridae

**General description:** blueish-black color, 8 barbels, narrow head, forked tail, up to 60lbs, whiskers around mouth, average length:12-20in

**Habitat:** rivers, lakes, and ponds, cloudy water,

**Spawning/Sexual Maturity:** sexual maturity-4-5 years old, june and july, 3,000-30,000 eggs, water 75 degrees F,

**Diet:** anything that comes their way, plant and [fish](#) matter floating in water, garbage, etc.

**Life expectancy:** up to 20 years

**Predators:** large freshwater [fish](#), mainly flathead catfish and [muskie](#)s, humans

**Known hotspots:** lower 2/3 of state, larger rivers, Wisconsin river as far up as [Castle Rock Dam](#)-both counties.

**Popular baits:** catching by hand(grabbing), trot lines and hoop nets-don't like artificial bait.

**Fishing Tournaments:**

## Channel Catfish

Hits: 19568

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**State Record:** 44lbs, Wisconsin River, 1962

**World Record:** 58lbs, Santee-Cooper Res., South Carolina, July 7, 1964

**Extra facts:** male protects young until they can feed on their own, more abundant than flathead catfish, often get mistaken for blue catfish, most commonly raised aquaculture species in US.

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