Channel Catfish Channel Catfish - mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/ lanuary field-guide/channel-catfish Channel Catfish -wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/ Ictalurus punctatus species-guide-index/fish/channel-catfish Animalia > Chordata > Actinopterygii > Siluriformes > Ictaluridae or gray below young - blue gray above, sides lighter with spots, white below February dorsa above and sides, and white adults - ďark gray or black Catfish have spines on the front edge of their pectoral fins and their dorsal fin. pectoral barbels Coloring Guide They can lock their spines so that March they stick out from their bodies. This makes them too big to fit inside the mouths of some predators. Sometimes fisherman get stuck with the spines if they don't handle the Size adults - 25 to 80 cm (12 to 32"), and .25 to 23 kg (0.5 to 50 lbs) catfish carefully. blue catfish (a different, larger species) can weigh over 50 kg (110 lbs) barbels May Channel catfish are one of the most fished species in the U.S. It is the state fish of lowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and **Human Connection** Tennessee August large fish - very few things except humans eat large fish very small fish - eaten by crayfish, other fish, medium size fish - eaten by big mouth bass, frogs, snapping, turtles, water snakes September What eats Channel Catfish October herons Habitat (home/food/water) Home November North American Distribution Missouri Distribution insects, mollucs, crustaceans, day - central channel or pool large turbid streams or Channel Catfish eat aquatic plants, almost anything it can smell, catch night - shallows to feed rivers with slow currents or reservoirs, ponds and lakes and fit in its mouth December night night winter day What fish, summer