

# Catfish

## scientific name

Ictalurus punctatus

# description

Catfish are characterized by a deeply forked tail and spotted sides; this species has eight barbels and black-tipped fins.

Cooked meat is ivory colored.

## interesting fact

Catfish most likely got its name from the whisker-like barbels on its face. Catfish use these barbels to feel around murky water. The barbels also contain taste buds allowing the catfish to taste its food.

## alternatives

Tilapia and Lake Victoria Perch are great substitutes for catfish.

#### source

Most farm-raised catfish are raised in the Mississippi Delta, but there are also catfish farms in Louisiana, Texas, California, Idaho, Alabama, and Florida.

## harvest method

Catfish are typically harvest using seines.

#### harvest season

Typically catfish are available year-round.

## flavor

Catfish has a mild and delicate flavor.

#### texture

The texture of catfish is firm and slightly flaky.

## quality control

Catfish should be wrapped in plastic and surrounded with ice to insure the temperature control.

# other information

Known as one of the most quality-controlled products in the food industry, catfish are grain-fed in order to produce standard, soft-textured, mild tasting meat.

## preparation

Catfish is best baked, broiled, stewed, sautéed, grilled, fried, poached, smoked, and steamed.

## market segments

Catfish is appropriate for fast food and casual dining.

#### nutritional facts

3.5 oz (100g) raw edible portion Calories 163; Calories from Fat 93; Total Fat 10.5g/16%; Saturated Fat 2g/10%; Cholesterol 58mg/19%; Sodium 47mg/2%; Total Carbohydrates 0g/0%; Protein 20g; Potassium 268mg.

