

Capture Fisheries of India

3. CAT FISHES

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Due to their unique taste, cat fishes are much in demand. Major contribution of cat-fish aquaculture production comes from *Ictalurus*, *Silurus* and *Clarias* spp. They are both air-breathing and non-air breathing. Notable examples of cat fishes are ; *Clarias batrachus*, *Heteropneustes fossilis*, *Pangasius pangasius*, *Wallago attu*, *Ompok* spp., *Mystus* spp.etc.

Yellow catfish/ suncatfish (Ornamental): *Horabagrus brachysoma* and *H. nigricollaris* are colourfull species of family Bagridae. They are found in Western Ghats and highly priced.

Cat fishes



- [Scientific classification](#)
- Kingdom: [Animalia](#)
- Phylum: [Chordata](#)
- Class: [Actinopterygii](#)
- Infraclass: [Teleostei](#)
- Order: **Siluriformes**

Catfishes are a diverse group of [ray-finned fish](#).

Named for their prominent [barbels](#), which resemble a cat's [whiskers](#)

Catfish are of considerable commercial importance; many of the larger species are [farmed](#) or fished for food

Distribution and habitat:

Extant catfishes species live in inland or coastal waters of every continent except Antarctica. Catfish are most diverse in [tropical](#) South America, Africa, and Asia. More than half of all catfish species live in the Americas.

Catfish have one of the greatest ranges in size within a single order of [bony fish](#). Many catfish have a maximum length of under 12 cm

Catfish have been widely caught and farmed for food for hundreds of years in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America

Catfish are easy to farm in warm climates, leading to inexpensive and safe food at local grocers