



# Black Bullhead

## *Ameiurus melas*

### Physical Features

They are identified by their distinctive barbells located on the snout, a common characteristic of the catfish family. They can be distinguished from their brown and yellow cousins because their barbells are black and they have a light crescent near their tail fin. They are also the smallest of all bullheads in the area, usually 6-10 inches in length, rarely weighing over a pound.

### Habitat and Food

Of all the bullheads the Black Bullhead can live in the most polluted waters. These fish have been known to eat just about anything, from snails and insects to fish and plants. They are considered nocturnal feeders and can be both predators and scavengers. They are classified as a rough fish, and favor soft bottomed, slow moving waters in the Red.

### Spawning

These fish usually spawn April through June, where the females usually lay 2,000 to 6,000 eggs in a nest which she digs out on the bottom. Males are the protector of the nests and will do so until a few weeks after the young hatch.

### Interesting Facts

Bullheads have nearly 100,000 taste buds scattered all over their body. Many of these sensors are found on their very sensitive barbells. A common belief is that these sensors help the fish find the food in their habitat which is often dark and murky.



### Angling Tips

Black bullheads are often caught by accident. Pursue these fish like any other member of the catfish family. Night-crawlers and stink baits fished on the bottom are angler favorites.

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### For More Information Contact:

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