

Blue-catfish identification

FISH-012 / REV A / 2026.09.01

Use fin structure and several body traits; color alone is unreliable. Tactics are starting approaches, not a live bite report. Check current access, posted restrictions, species limits, bait rules, weather and water advisories for the exact water before a trip.

STATUS	Recovered/Partial
CLASSIFICATION	FISH
MATERIAL	FIELD / OUTDOORS
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / RECOVERED/PARTIAL
CATEGORY	Fishing / Outdoors
RECORD TYPE	reference

TECHNICAL NOTES

Use fin structure and several body traits; color alone is unreliable.

GOAL

Run the first test described in this guide and record the result for blue-catfish identification.

SOURCE STATE

New reference guidance; not a recovered test result

PREPARATION / NOTES

Tactics are starting approaches, not a live bite report. Check current access, posted restrictions, species limits, bait rules, weather and water advisories for the exact water before a trip.

EQUIPMENT

- Rod and reel matched to the target species
- Hooks, line, sinkers, and landing tools
- Notebook or phone field log

MATERIALS

- Bait or lure identified in the next field log

METHOD / STEPS

1. Look at the anal fin's outline and ray count with the fish supported and handled carefully.
2. Kansas describes blue catfish as having 30 or more anal-fin rays; channel cats generally have fewer and a more rounded anal-fin edge.
3. Compare head/body shape and spotting as supporting clues, not the sole identification.
4. If uncertain, photograph the side and spread anal fin quickly, then release rather than applying an uncertain harvest identification.

THINGS TO WATCH FOR

Juveniles, lighting and water color can mislead. Do not infer sex from size or body color. Keep hands clear of fin spines.

FIRST TEST / WHAT TO RECORD

The identification is based on visible anatomical evidence and current species-specific regulations.

RESULT / WHERE THIS STANDS

The identification is based on visible anatomical evidence and current species-specific regulations.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- Juveniles, lighting and water color can mislead. Do not infer sex from size or body color. Keep hands clear of fin spines.

SPECIFICATION

CATEGORY	Field / outdoors
TARGET	catfish identification
VALIDATION	Date, water, weather, depth, bait, result

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

2026.09.01 / Rev A

Imported as an independent manifest record; public copy keeps uncertainty visible.

REFERENCE NOTES

Kansas fishing reference

(<https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/outdoor-activities/fishing-in-kansas/what-to-fish/blue-catfish>), Kansas regulations

(<https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/programs-services/law-enforcement/regulations-statutes/fishing-regulations>).

HOW-TO SOURCES

Kansas fishing reference

<https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/outdoor-activities/fishing-in-kansas/what-to-fish/blue-catfish>

Kansas regulations

<https://www.ksoutdoors.gov/programs-services/law-enforcement/regulations-statutes/fishing-regulations>

RELEASED MATERIAL / SOURCE LINKS

fish-012-public-summary.txt

PUBLIC SUMMARY / RECOVERED NOTES

<https://u225x.com/downloads/manifest-records/fish-012-public-summary.txt>

RETURN TO THE LIVING RECORD

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This PDF preserves the public notes at this revision. Visit the record for updates and attached images.

<https://u225x.com/record/FISH-012>