

# Invasive Species Alert

## Wels Catfish

(*Silurus glanis*)

\*Not detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Can grow up to 10 feet long and live up to 80 years
- Very large mouth with 3 pairs of barbels – 1 pair on upper jaw, 2 on lower jaw
- Brown back and sides with a nearly white belly

**Habitat:** Generally inhabit lowland rivers, backwaters, and well-vegetated lakes, but will occasionally enter brackish water in the Black and Baltic Seas



Photo by Lucas Van Der Geest

**Diet:** Nocturnal predators, forage for fish and other vertebrates as adults. Juveniles are benthic feeders, preying on a variety of fish and invertebrates



Photo by Dieter Florian

**Native Range:** Central and Eastern Europe

**Local Concern:** Voracious predatory habits make the wels catfish a serious threat to populations of native vertebrates. Water quality may also be reduced through drastic trophic alterations.

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Aquaculture release, illegal stocking

Report this species at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone