

Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife

Invasive Catfish Symposium November 6-7, 2017

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*We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service*

Invasive Catfish Occurrences in Delaware

Flathead Catfish

DE River Drainage – 1 confirmed report (2010)

★ **Private Pond – illegal stocking (2015)**

Blue Catfish

DE River Drainage- 2 confirmed reports (2013, 2015)

Choptank River Drainage – 1st observed in 2015

Nanticoke River Drainage- reports began in 2015



State Record 36lbs 3.2oz, upper Nanticoke River, Seaford, DE

Gear Type and Trends



- Division of Fish and Wildlife: data on invasive catfish is incidental to other sampling efforts
- Commercial Fishery: landings are mandatory but catfish are not parsed by species and not always the target
- Recreational Anglers: hook & line catch reports are random

River	# Commercial Watermen	Gear Type	2017 Catfish Landings (lbs.)
Nanticoke River	3	Hoop Net Drift Gill Net Hook and Line	10,580
Delaware River	2	Hook and Line	523

7 DE Admin Code §3545: Invasive Finfish

- First Offense: \$25 - \$100
- Subsequent Offenses (within 2 years of first offense): \$100 - \$500

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT
Remove and kill if caught

Northern Snakehead

Photo Credit: NOAA


Blue Catfish

Photo Credit: NOAA

Look for: long dorsal & anal fins, blotchy pattern on body, snake-like head

Look for: straight anal fin, forked tail; Do not confuse with Channel Catfish (bottom photo) which have a lobed anal fin

Please report sightings at (302) 739-9914 or Edna.Stetzar@state.de.us



For more information:
<http://de.gov/invasivespecies>

