



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.



The Chesapeake Bay Program's Invasive Catfish Workgroup

May 27, 2025

Agenda

10:00 am - 10:15 am	Introduction & Opening Remarks
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Policy Small Group
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Commercial Fishing/ Processing/ Marketing Small Group
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Science & Management Small Group
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Science & Management Small Group (continued)
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Discussion: the future of the ICW
4:00 pm	Adjourn

Housekeeping

- This meeting is being recorded for note taking purposes
- Please put name and affiliation in the chat
- Stay muted unless you are presenting or asking a question
- Chat box for questions and brief comments, or use the Raise Hand icon to be called on during the discussion or Q&A sessions
- For presenters:
 - I will run the lightning talk slides
 - While presenting, turn on your webcams.
 - In person: I will hold up a white sheet of paper to signal a 1-minute warning
 - Virtual: I will type in the chat “1-minute”

Housekeeping

In-person attendees:

- Bathrooms (turn right out of the room - bathrooms on either side of the elevators)
- Lunch
 - Picnic tables outside
 - Recommended eats:
 - Ingrano Bakery
- Respectful dialogue

The Invasive Catfish Workgroup

- Under the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team of the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Tasked with sharing information to inform the management of invasive catfish (mostly Blue catfish) throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Group includes state managers, government, scientists, recreational and charter anglers, commercial watermen, processors, marketing specialists and more



Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

Invasive Catfish Workgroup

- Management strategy published in 2020
 - Reduce biomass by developing/expanding the fishery
- Updated Goal Statement in 2024
- Established specific small teams and action plan in 2024
 - Recreational Fishing and Charter Captains
 - Policy
 - Science and Management
 - Commercial Fishing, Processing and Marketing
- Coordinated funding for research and marketing studies



Invasive Catfish Workgroup Goal

"By 2029, develop management strategies to minimize the spread and ecological impacts of invasive catfishes in the Chesapeake Bay. The management strategies will use the best available science and consider the diverse interests of stakeholders, support ecosystem health, and increase public awareness"



Small Team Priorities

- Recreational Fishing and Charter Captains
 - Keeping the trophy aspect of the fishery a part of any Management strategy
- Policy
 - Advocating for bills that increase the market for Blue catfish within the watershed
- Science and Management
 - Identify tributary specific management research priorities while developing consistent sampling methods throughout the watershed.
- Commercial Fishing, Processing and Marketing
 - Increase commercial harvest landings, dockside value processing capacity, and grow additional domestic and international markets to reduce blue catfish biomass in the Bay and support local economies.

Successes



The Virginian-Pilot

Blue catfish are invasive to the Chesapeake Bay. By eating them, Virginians can help save the bay.

Blue catfish are wreaking havoc on native species in the Chesapeake Bay. To reduce the damage, environmentalists want to encourage more...

Mar 26, 2025

WBOW TV

Maryland Lawmaker Backs Bill to Tackle Blue Catfish Invasion in Chesapeake Bay

A Maryland lawmaker is sponsoring a bill to address the growing problem of blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay.

Mar 7, 2025

Virginia Tech News

The blue catfish: Wanted breaded or fried

Can seafood lovers help manage the growing blue catfish population from the dinner table? In the Chesapeake Bay, the invasive blue catfish...

Aug 19, 2024

Chesapeake Bay Magazine

VA's Second Blue Catfish Grant Awarded to Hampton Seafood Company

Virginia is continuing its fight against invasive blue catfish by boosting the fishery and making it easier to put blue cat into markets and...

Nov 5, 2024

SeafoodSource

US lawmakers propose transferring blue catfish inspections back to the FDA

Recently introduced legislation meant to improve conservation in the Chesapeake Bay region of the United States would also reduce inspection...

Mar 27, 2025



Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 4 oz (113g)

Amount Per Serving	Calories from Fat 27
Calories 110	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 3g	5%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	—
Cholesterol 65mg	22%
Sodium 50mg	2%
Total Carbohydrates 0g	0%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 0g	—
Protein 19g	—
Vitamin A	2%
Vitamin C	2%
Calcium	2%
Iron	2%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet.

INGREDIENTS: BLUE CATFISH



Fisheries Research

Volume 278, October 2024, 107099



Market development for an invasive fish species: Blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay, US

Andrew M. Scheld, W. Reid Calhoun, Ceola B. Gilsinan, Shelby B. White

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2024.107099>

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Highlights

- Invasivorism has been proposed to manage blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay, US.
- Interviews and a survey revealed product familiarity as limiting market development.
- Consumers responded positively to information on harmful effects of blue catfish.

