



Life size outline of a 20 kg (44 lbs.), 110 cm (43 in.) flathead catfish.

MEASUREMENT IN INCHES

So What's the Big Deal about Flathead Catfish?

They can grow to be very big – under ideal conditions, flatheads can reach 45 kg (100 lbs.) in weight.

The flathead catfish is an invasive species in eastern Pennsylvania. Flatheads introduced in the upper Schuylkill River have spread downstream and to other tributaries of the Delaware River. Flatheads have also naturalized in the Susquehanna watershed.

Flatheads compete with and eat native fish and are expected to cause declines in native catfish and other native fish populations.

Eating too many flatheads can be risky! Flatheads in the lower Schuylkill (between Flat Rock Dam and Fairmount Dam) tend to accumulate chemicals from the environment, like PCBs. This can pose a health risk for anglers who eat more than the recommended 8 ounces of skinned fillet per month.

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