

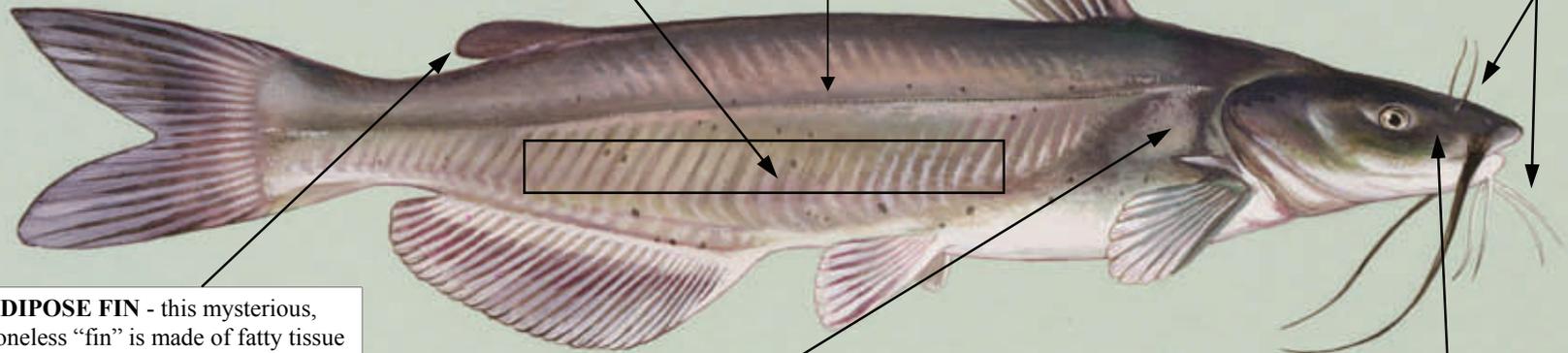


## Channel Catfish Adaptations

**LATERAL LINE** - a series of pores sensitive to water displacement, the lateral line picks up frequencies below the channel cat's hearing range. This includes the slightest movements of prey, predators, and even bankside anglers! Differences in the sonic pattern on either side of the fish indicate the direction from which the signal came. Scientists believe that the channel cat's lateral line is much keener than that of other gamefish.

**TASTE BUDS** - Taste buds are located not only in the mouth of the channel catfish but all over its body - more than 30,000 per square inch along its flanks, with higher concentrations in the barbels. The channel cat is, in effect, a swimming tongue, capable of "tasting" objects from 20 feet away!

**BARBELS** - The channel catfish uses its highly sensitive barbels to help locate food and to cautiously inspect it prior to ingestion.



**ADIPOSE FIN** - this mysterious, boneless "fin" is made of fatty tissue

**AIR BLADDER** - The air bladder acts as a resonating chamber, amplifying sound waves and passing the vibrations to the inner ear via a tiny bone structure. This is analogous to the way a human's eardrum and inner ear bones work and elevates the fish's upper threshold of hearing to 13 times that of a bass.

**ELECTRORECEPTIVE PORES** - Electroreceptive pores on the head allow the channel cat to home in on the weak electric field emitted by prey. The fish employs this sense to find and root up insect larvae and other invertebrates from the mud and sand of the river or lake bed.