

## **Flathead catfish**

*Pylodictis olivaris*



**Similar Species:** None

**Identification:** Dark mottling on sides, head broad and flat, tail square and unforked.

Flathead catfish are limited to large rivers in the southeastern part of South Dakota. Adults are almost entirely piscivorous, eating mostly live fish. Adults spend the day in deep water or under cover and move to shallows and riffles to feed at night. Flathead catfish build nests in secluded areas and spawn somewhat later than channel catfish. This catfish is an important commercial species in southern areas of the U.S. and a popular sport fish. Flathead catfish can reach 100 pounds, but 10- to 20-pound fish are considered big by South Dakota anglers.

