

USDA RULES ON WILD HARVESTED CATFISH MUST BE REPEALED

An overzealous USDA brought in wild harvest catfish under their inspection umbrella for no good reason. If the Trump Administration wants to drain the swamp and remove bad regulations this is the first one they should fix. If the catfish farmers want their competition overseas to meet the same FDA requirements that is fine, but bringing in some of our small catfish fish houses has caused many of them to stop buying them from the fisherman in order to avoid constant inspection by a USDA person. USDA's rules also stop the removal of the invasive catfish in Chesapeake Bay due to their bad rule on wild harvest. If wild harvest can't be removed from USDA then the entire USDA catfish program should be eliminated. SFA salutes the DELMARVA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION and thanks **Captain Rob Newberry**, DFA President, for all his dedicated efforts to bring sanity to USDA.

INVASIVE CATFISH IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

FLATHEAD CATFISH

- Can grow as long as 4 feet
- Dark brown to tan



BLUE CATFISH

- Slate blue on the back
- Silvery/white on its underside



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- DNR asks anglers to keep any blue and flathead catfish they catch.
- Catch and release of these fish is discouraged, as they are invasive top predators and pose a serious long-term threat to our native species.

IN MARYLAND, IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT LIVE BLUE AND FLATHEAD CATFISH INTO ANOTHER BODY OF WATER. VIOLATORS CAN BE FINED UP TO \$1,000.

For more information on Maryland's blue and flathead catfish policy, please visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives/

To report illegal transport or unauthorized introductions of invasive species please contact the Natural Resources Police at 800-635-8124.

