Alternative Catfish Methods
Features

**Below The Surface: Blues on Boards .....4**
by Ron Presley
Planer boards work in a wide variety of situations. Once you develop the technique, they can be used with great success in lakes and rivers. Even the Mississippi.

**Caveman Catfishing....12**
by Keith “Catfish” Sutton
No bait, no hooks, no rods, no reels. Noodling for catfish is a “bare hands” sport as old as mankind itself.

**Catfish Profiles in Passion – Phil King.....18**
by Ron Presley
Phil King is a legend in the sport of catfishing. He pioneered many of the techniques that successful catfish anglers use today.

**Getting the Drift of Catfishing.....24**
by John N. Felsher
Juggling for catfish can put a lot of meat in the boat in a short time for little cost -- and it’s a lot of fun!

**River Rumors: Lead Ban.....32**
by Jim Shepherd
Last minute lead ban will affect fishing, hunting in USFWS lands nationwide.

Departments

**Catfish Speak....10**
**Catfish Basics #009....11**
**Catfish Basics #010....17**
**Catfish Conservation....22**
**Catfish Kids....28**
**B’n’M How To....34**
**Why We Catfish....36**
**Tournament Results....39**
**Catfish Clubs....42**
**Catfish Calendar....43**
Catfish Connections

February is an exciting time for catfishermen and women. All the shows, new product in stores, seminars on how to fish different and innovative techniques abound.

Recently, I flew to Wisconsin to attend the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) annual conference. Noteworthy speakers from all walks of fishing defined and gave examples of professionalism in our sport of angling. Anglers for all species were present, not just walleye professionals. Catfishing was represented by Alex Nagy and Seth McCallister.

After attending, and once I thawed out, I believe this association truly is a good professional organization. Its leaders plan to be inclusive and they are capable of promoting, while helping to define our anglers’ professional conduct. I recommend that all fishermen join this association and learn how to become true professionals while building their resumes to be pro staff members, industry representatives, etc.

One of CatfishNow’s goals is to help support, define and enhance our sport by showing that catfishing is not second to any other species. It represents families who have a passion for fishing. These families show our children and our grandchildren the joy of fishing.

In all future editions, you will see our push to recognize and report on activities supporting families and kids in fishing. A new section in the zine is Catfish Kids. NPAA, Future’s Fishing, Take a Kid Fishing, Kids Fishing and Education and many more efforts are teaching families and children the true outdoors fishing experience for future enjoyment of our wonderful freedoms. We will share those experiences in each edition as they are received.

I also believe that the upcoming Catfish Conference brings a synergistic approach to all types of catfishing. It is a place to come together, to share experiences, techniques, etc. I would recommend attendance at this February event and other catfish activities throughout the year.

CatfishNow is also working to bring more awareness to legislative issues and efforts which have the potential to hinder our rights to enjoy our National Parks and Lakes, and fish our rivers and streams.

Please follow us in future editions concerning these major topics. Follow us on Facebook and visit our website too. Share our existence with your friends and other catfish enthusiasts.

Lastly, as I was writing this I learned that a dear fishing friend to us all passed on 31 Jan. TJ Stallings was the marketing director for TTI Blakemore and worked on catfish product lines such as Team Catfish. We will truly miss him.

‘Till Next Month
God Bless and Good Fishing.
Dan Dannenmueller, Publisher
Planer boards are a normal sight on walleye boats, but not so much among catfish anglers. Walleye anglers refer to their fishing technique as bottom bouncing, a technique that is closely related to what catfishers call dragging.

Planer boards are quickly making their way on catfish boats as the method proves itself capable of catching catfish too. Seth McCallister is one of the earlier cat men to implement the method as a way to improve his catfishing. In general he just likes to fish and always has. His long history of being on the water has led him to adopt catfish as his target of choice.

“I have been an avid multispecies angler and tournament fisherman for almost my whole life,” revealed McCallister. “Growing up, I used to float some local creeks. That experience gave me some early exposure to catfishing and the fun and excitement of catching them.”

“I always had fun catfishing, but it was not until a few years ago that I really started to take it seriously and devote a lot of time to the sport,” continued McCallister. “Now I fish around 12 tournaments a year. I spend the majority of my time traveling for catfish in southern states and the southwest on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers with my wife Laura Kane as Team Unhooked Fishing.”

Blues on Boards by Ron Presley

Widen your spread and increase your catch
As someone that was an avid walleye angler, McCallister started using planer boards almost immediately once he started catfishing seriously. "There is a technique in catfishing called ‘dragging,’” explained the Illinois angler. “The technique is very similar to bottom bouncing in the walleye world.”

“We use them in lakes, small rivers and even in some of the largest rivers, such as the Mississippi,” offered McCallister. “We use them on both flats and in large structure situations. If anglers have a circumstance where they would drag in the conventional way, planer boards will work really well.”

McCallister uses the Offshore SST Pro Mag Board for pulling large baits and heavy weights.

Whether it be for walleye or catfish, the technique moves a piece of bait, at slow speeds, across the bottom. Savvy anglers use snag resistant dragging weights that help avoid snags and hang-ups.

McCallister turned to planer boards after observing anglers dragging a few baits behind their catfish boats. “I wanted to increase my spread and planer boards were the natural option for covering more water,” explained McCallister. “Since implementing the technique we have found great success in both lakes and rivers with planner boards.”

McCallister offers a few things to keep in mind when river fishing with boards. “When fishing rivers we prefer..."
to drag downriver,” offered McCallister. “We simply find more action then going against current.”

“When dragging downriver, and on slower rivers such as the Ohio, you need to ensure that your boat speed is greater than the current speed. You don’t want the planer boards, the current and the boat travelling at the same speed. Anglers can adjust for this by using the trolling motor. If the river is running at .3 mph, run your trolling motor to get you up to .5 and the boards will pull out wonderfully.”

“On faster running rivers like the Mississippi, the boards can actually be deployed backwards downriver,” explained McCallister. “With the front of your boat pointing upriver, engage your trolling motor to slow your boat as you slip backwards down river.”

The rig and then the boards can be put out the back of the boat and the boards clipped on the same way as if you were moving forward. “Since the current is moving faster than your boat, the lines will move downriver and the board will actually run backwards down the river,” explained McCallister. “This sounds confusing, but can be a deadly combination on the Mississippi River.”

McCallister did have a caveat related to wood. “I would caution about using them when fishing through lots of wood,” warned McCallister. “This type of structure can really increase the amount of hang ups that you will have.”

He followed that warning with a dose of encouragement to catfish anglers. “Planer boards are not a hard technique to get good at,” reassured McCallister. “I think many people see planer boards and think it looks difficult. That could not be further from the truth. Planer boards are very simple to use and can really increase your chances for putting quality fish in the boat.”
Anglers need to select their boards to match the fish they target. “When using planer boards for catfish you need to pick a planer board that is large enough to pull both the weight and bait size you use. This is especially important when targeting blue catfish, because of their size. There are larger format boards that many of the striper fisherman use that are perfect for catfishing.”

McCallister mentioned the Offshore SST Pro Mag Board as one he uses. “This size board is perfect for pulling large baits and weights up to 6 ounces, in both lake and river applications. We have used the larger planer boards for small channel catfish and blue cats all the way up to 45 pounds. We will also catch an occasional flathead using this method.”

Although planer boards are at times a bit more work than traditional anchor fishing, it can be a very rewarding and successful presentation when fishing for scattered or moving fish. “When reflecting on a trip after a day of fishing, more often than no we have put many more fish in the boat than we would have with more traditional methods,” revealed McCallister. “This is due to the sheer volume of water you are able to cover using the planer board technique.”

Bait selection is pretty much the same as in any other catfishing situation. “We try to match bait to what the fish are currently feeding on. Skipjack is a favorite of many catfish anglers, but if skipjack are not native to where he is fishing, McCallister will go with the native bait. “We try to target fish using the native bait selection,” said McCallister. “Heads, side-cuts and general bait cut techniques are all dependent on the day. Some days they want a very specific cut and others they might want the whole fish. Fresh is king though, and we try to use the freshest bait possible.”

Time on the water will teach anglers to
recognize a strike. “You will get very used to the way the boards track,” explained McCallister. “When a fish hits, it will pull the board back. Once hooked up anglers should keep the rod tip high and slowly reel in the board. When the board is at the boat it can be unclipped and the fight continues the same as if fishing without boards.”

McCallister’s Mississippi River technique adds another advantage. “Since this method frees up the back of the boat, you and your partner will have plenty of room to bump out the back. Combining techniques like this can help put more fish in the boat on any given day.”

- Ron Presley

8 Catfish NOW February 2017
Planer boards give anglers a widened presentation allowing them to cover more water on each pass.
Pulldown or Takedown: This is the next thing an angler wants to see after deploying the bait. The takedown is an indication that a catfish has taken the bait and is bending the rod. After that it is up to you and a good landing net.

B’n’M prostaff angler
Mark Blauvelt, OH

CatfishSpeak - The Language of Catfishing

Like any other sport, catfishing has a verbiage of its own. From catfish slang to useful phrases, catfish anglers communicate in a special language. CatfishNow plans to keep you up to date with this angler blending of the English language and catfish jargon that we will call CatfishSpeak. Send us your favorite.
“Flatheads like cover,” says B’n’M Prostaffer Jay Gallop. Gallop fishes competitively with his partner Joey Pounders. More often than not it is flatheads that they are bringing to the scales.

“It doesn’t matter whether it’s rocks and ledges or submerged trees,” Continued Gallop. “Anything they can lay up against or get under is what you need to locate. The key to finding them is in knowing how to read your sonar. Knowing exactly where to put the bait is everything! If you bait is not close enough to, or in the tree, that you are fishing there’s a good chance that big fish is not going to leave that tree to come to you.”

“Having a sonar is like getting a new phone,” advises Gallop. “You have to keep playing with it and learning it. That’s how you learn to do what you need to do with it.”

“If you learn to use your sonar you can put a live shad on a B’n’M Silver Cat Magnum and put that bait right where it needs to be,” concluded Gallop. “Now, I am not saying they won’t hit cut bait, because they will. Nevertheless, if I have my druthers, I would rather have a live bait.”
You don’t need bait to catch catfish ... not if you’re a noodler. Noodling requires only two items: your bare hands. That’s right. I said bare hands. “Caveman fishing,” a buddy of mine calls it. In some areas, folks call it hogging, tickling, grabbling or dogging. The noodler wades into a body of water where catfish lurk, then reaches underwater and starts feeling for holes in the bank, in logs, under rocks and so forth. This might be a muskrat or beaver burrow in a bank, a crevice in shoreline riprap, a hollow log or any dark hideaway. Catfish occupy such nooks at times throughout the year, but are most likely to be holed up during spawning season in late spring and early summer when laying, guarding and fanning their eggs. Females lay their eggs, then a male cat guards them. When the noodler reaches in, if a cat is on guard, it’ll bite him. Then he can grab the fish—maybe—and pull it out.

The deal is the noodler never knows for sure what’s in the hole. It might be a catfish. Then again, it might be a snapping turtle, beaver or snake. Mr. Noodler’s holding his breath, getting all tingly with excitement, while he thrusts his hands in dark underwater hidey-holes to see if anybody’s home. He loves this stuff. He thrives on the adrenaline rush.

Some noodlers prefer to lie on their belly on the bank and reach into holes. Most, however, enter shallow water—never as deep as the noodler is tall. One must be able to surface and breathe to avoid possible catastrophe.
AN CATFISHING

Smart noodlers restrict their hand-grabbing activity to waters no deeper than the noodler is tall. One must be able to surface and breathe to avoid possible catastrophe.
tall—to probe likely catfish hideouts. A short cane pole may first be inserted to determine if anyone is home. If a catfish is, and it’s spawning season, the fish will attack the pole, rattling it. The noodler then surfaces for air and prepares to capture the cat with his hands.

If Mr. Noodler finds a hole empty, he moves on and finds another hole. If somebody is home, well ... that’s where things can get interesting.

If a cat attacks, the noodler attempts to grasp it by the mouth, gill cover or anything affording a grip. When noodling outside the spawning season, the hole is blocked, and the noodler tries to coax the cat’s mouth open to gain a handhold. Wiggling one’s fingers may do the trick, but often as not, the noodler must rely on feel to find the cat’s mouth or gill cover and work his fingers in. Once a good grip is attained, if ever, the noodler attempts to resurface with quarry in tow.

At this point, the reason for noodling in shallow water becomes crystal clear. If one cannot quickly
stand with his mouth and nostrils above the water, one might find himself in a sticky predicament. Even then, battling a 50-pound-plus cat to the surface—and this is often done—may require extraordinary effort. Many square inches of the noodler’s hide may be removed in the process. This is not a sport for the faint of heart.

It’s hard to imagine the first brave soul who reached underwater and probed a dark, watery nook for dinner. But imagine it we must, for noodling leaves no traces. It is, as one writer describes it, “as ephemeral as some of the boasts it inspires.”

Trader-historian James Adair was perhaps the first to leave a written record when, in 1775, he described “a surprising method of fishing under the edges of rocks” among Southern Indians.

“They pull off their red breeches, or their long slip of Stroud cloth, and wrapping it around their arm, so as to reach the lower part of the palm of their right hand, they dive under the rock where the catfish lie to shelter themselves from the scorching beams of the sun, and to watch for prey: as soon as those fierce aquatic animals see that tempting bait, they immediately seize it with the greatest violence, in order to swallow it. Then is the time for the diver to improve the favorable opportunity: he accordingly opens his hand, seizes the voracious fish by his tender parts, hath a sharp struggle with it ... and at last brings it safe ashore.”

Noodling had been largely forgotten when I first did it more than two decades ago, but it has since grown in popularity and developed into quite the craze thanks to TV shows, magazine articles and the internet. As a result, lots of testosterone-charged twenty-somethings these days seem to be chomping at the bit to try their, uh, hand at noodling for catfish.

Before you knuckleheads give it a try, though, there’s more you need to know.

When you take a plunge underwater in some catfish-infested river or lake and run your hand up in a hole where a catfish the size of a young steer might be guarding its eggs, something happens you don’t see on noodling TV shows. That catfish gets one look at those pretty pink fingers and its walnut-sized brain sends a message straight to its jaws ... intruder alert! The fish then bites you—hard. Smash-your-hand-with-a-sledge-hammer hard. Turn-your-

What happens next ain’t no treat either. When that behemoth has your digits clamped in its maw, it starts spinning in its version of the alligator death roll. The fish’s coarse-grit teeth will rip your skin like last month’s bills going through a paper shredder.

Always get a powerful grip on the monster’s mouth, or else bones could get broken or digits lost. Or you could get dead.

On the bright side, you could come out of it earning a cool nickname like Nubbins or Two-finger Jack.

All hardcore noodlers have tough, calloused hands, and they got them through old-fashioned hard work—hammering, hoisting, hoeing, and heaving. If you want to join this fraternity of brave sports, work on your grip and toughen your hide before you take the plunge. Until you can crack walnuts and drive nails with your bare hands, you best just stay at home.

Check local regulations, too. In some states, noodling is illegal. In others, it’s permitted, but only during special seasons with a variety of restrictions. Regardless of regulations, noodlers should voluntarily restrict their harvest, protecting a resource that is extremely vulnerable to this ancient method of fishing, especially during the spawn.

One also should consider the many inherent dangers. Encountering snakes, turtles and other dangerous underwater denizens doesn’t happen often, but it does happen. Crippling injuries can result. Reaching in holes also can lead to serious cuts, so up-to-date tetanus shots are a must. If an arm or hand gets stuck, or if an exceptionally large cat is tackled, the noodler can drown. Risks are high. Participants should be aware death or serious injury can result.

The closest most fishermen will come to hand-grabbing catfish is reaching across the table and snatching a fried fillet off a platter. That’s also dangerous, but only when you’re sharing a table with hungry friends and there’s only one fillet left.

For some, however, reaching blind into an underwater hidey-hole, hoping to corner and grab a giant catfish, is an allure too powerful to resist. It’s foolish. It’s dangerous. Yes, even idiotic. But it’s catfishing in its purest, most primitive, most electrifying form.

- Keith “Catfish” Sutton
Millions of anglers chase after the whiskered catfish for the same reason. “I like fishing for catfish because of their size and brute strength,” declared Kris Flores, a catfish angler out of New Mexico and proprietor of Muddy River Catfishing on You Tube. “There aren’t too many fish in North America that can get up into the 100-pound range and fishing for a fish that could potentially be that big is exhilarating!”

Smell is extremely important when fishing for catfish. “The catfish’s body is covered with hundreds of chemoreceptors (just a fancy word for taste buds),” explains Flores. “These taste buds give catfish the ability to taste the water around it or your bait, just by nudging it with its tail. The scent is one of the key elements in luring a catfish to your bait.”

Flores has to adapt his catfishing addiction to his location. “I like using cut bait, because it is easier to obtain than live bait,” stated Flores. “In the state of New Mexico it is illegal to transport live fish from one body of water to another and catching live bluegill as bait is hit or miss. I can catch some bluegill or carp before a fishing trip, put them in the freezer, and forget about them until I need them again.”

Flores typically cuts the baitfish into sections. “I make one cut behind the head from top to bottom and again every 1 to 2 inches down the body,” explained Flores. “I hook the head from underneath the jaw and out the top through the bone between the eyes. This helps keep the hook from hooking back into the bait. The body pieces I’ll hook from the top, being sure to get enough meat on the hook to keep it on, yet leaving plenty of gap on the hook so it can do its job.”

“I’ve noticed that I catch just as many flatheads, blues and channels on frozen cut bait as I do on live bait. I know many anglers would argue that, but this is just from my experience in my area.”
Phil King knows catfish. If you don’t believe that, just ask any knowledgably catfish angler. He was chasing big blue catfish before most anglers even thought about having a catfish tournament. King developed his passion for the whiskered fish as he fished his way through anything that bit, in his early years, to focusing on catfish later.

“There were four stages of development for me,” reported King. “I identify them as childhood to 18 years; crappie and catfishing for eighteen years; beginning to tournament fish for catfish in 1994; and starting the guide service in 1999.”

King lost his dad to a massive heart attack when he was only two-years-old. He credits his grandmother and grandfather for filling the void in his life and for the passion he carries today for fishing, catfishing in particular.

Hoy Jobe, Kings grandfather, was the fishing mentor in King’s life. “As a young man, I recall trying to go to sleep the night before without much success, I was so excited about getting to go fishing. I remember trailing behind my grandfather with a cane pole and worms. We would fish every dark hole in the creek as we waded along. I fondly remember watching my bobber go under,” recalled King.

“We fished all summer while we were out of school on summer break,” recalled King. “My grandfather was quite an outdoorsman. He loved fox hunting and fishing. He left us in his prime at 58 years young. I would often tell my grandmother, Mildred Jobe, just how much I wish I could have carried Hoy catfishing on one good trip. He would have loved every minute!”

When he was old enough, he didn’t need anyone with him. “I would get off the bus after school and grab a pole, a can of worms, find a dark hole in a ditch and try to catch two-inch bluegill, if that was all I had time to do. Size didn’t matter, getting bit did.”

Focusing on Catfish

Get bit he did, as his focus turned more toward catfishing. Near the end of his crappie and catfish period, King was fishing with another catfish enthusiast, Bruce Paulk, below Pickwick Dam. “I remember tying on many sinkers and hooks that 9-hour day, trying to catch catfish. All I landed were two blue cats big enough for supper that night,” said King.

“I went home and gave my bass tackle to my brother,” recalled King. “It became obvious that I needed some different tackle.”

His brother asked him, “What’s wrong with it?” Kings response was quick and to the point. “Nothing,” he said. “I’m going to learn how to catch those catfish below Pickwick Dam.” And so the quest began.

Learning to catch trophy catfish provided challenging times for King. He witnessed plenty of changes over the years as he developed the mental and physical abilities to find and catch the big cats.

King learned by trial and error that some things worked better than others. “We had to use bigger baits of course, but not always,” said King. “We move up to 80-pound...
Spiderwire Ultra Cast for our mainline and 60 pound Big Game for our hook leader. We loosen the drag to keep from tearing the hooks out of the fish on the way in.”

King also had to learn how to go from 20 to 30 bites per day to 6 to 15 bites per day. “Typically, when you are fishing for bigger fish the number of bites drop,” explained King. “In one two-day national championship, we had 6 bites the first day and 4 the second day, but held on to win the event. The thing is, if the bite is tough it’s usually the same for all. Many things can affect the bite, like a dropping river, weather fronts, water temperature, flood waters and debris under the water like weeds/grass that fish don’t like to sit in to feed.”

Sometimes it was the little things that mattered. “Learning how to increase the catch rate for the big fish was difficult, but through trial and error we discovered things that worked,” explained King. “Once we started using the snell knot and Daiichi wide gap bleeding bait circle hooks, we raised our catch rate to 98 to 100 percent. If they bit, they were usually in the boat. I learned to be patient and let the fish eat the bait.”

Another major change in catfishing related to livewells. “As a result of the changing tournament scene, we went from 100 quart coolers for livewells to 100 gallon tubs,” said King. “Then, SeaArk Boats started listening to the needs of catfish anglers and installed a 74 X 20 X15 inch livewell so anglers could keep the big fish alive and release them after weigh-in.”

One particular year King attended a goal setting class at Kimberly Clark where he was working. It prompted him to set some catfishing goals. “We were challenged to set work and personal goals,” explained King. “My first catfishing goal was to win the National Catfish Derby out of Pickwick,” declared
“My second was to win a national championship.”

“I was nervous before those tournaments in the early days,” admitted King. “I couldn’t sit down and eat my normal breakfast without getting nauseated. I would lie awake at night trying to figure out Plan A, B, and C. My brain just continued to grind, even if I went to sleep, I would be visualizing what I would say if I won.”

“Those first tournaments were 10 fish limits,” recalled King. “We were in the infant stage of tournaments then and reading about Jim Moyer catching big winter blues on the Cumberland River. Most people back then focused on catching 10 fish. It wasn’t until 1999 when we weighed in our first 50-pound fish in a tournament. That year I would go out and fish all day, focusing on catching the biggest fish possible. Keep in mind the 34-inch limit law was not imposed then and lots of big fish were being harvested and removed from the TN river. They have recovered in the past few years, Now, you would need two 40- or 50-pound fish to win the derby.”

King’s first goal took him from 1994 to 2000 when he won the long running National Catfish Derby on Pickwick. Three short years later he was fishing with Stacey Thompson to claim his first National Championship by taking the crown at Cabela’s, first ever, King Kat Classic in 2003.

“I remember that day clearly,” recalled King. “We held those first King Kat Classic trophies high over our heads with pride. I have seen that pride and raising of the trophies from every championship team since.”

King’s catfish adventures had taught him to appreciate that winning feeling associated with tournament fishing. His catfishing came full circle, from learning the sport himself to sharing his expertise with others. Now he is...

King’s hard earned knowledge of catfishing techniques helps him bring catfish like this to the scales.
equally happy targeting eating size catfish or big trophy cats for his clients on guided trips (www.h2ow.com/catfish).

King puts personal traits above winning. “Integrity and respect is something you earn and keep all your life,” suggested King. “There is nothing worth winning if not in the correct manner. You do it right, or you hurt your family, friends, media, sponsors and potential sponsors. Last but not least, you damage your fishing career with all your peers. So, I encourage everyone to win as often as they can, but always the right way and be professional and humble when you do win.”

King recalled a personal example from the past. “After we won the derby two consecutive years, some team in the back of the crowd stated, ‘I wonder how long they had those tied out?’ James (Snuffy) Smith spoke up and said of Tim Haynie and I – ‘You don’t have to worry about them two young men, they are squeaky clean. If they weigh them they caught them legally.’ A couple years later when I heard that Snuffy stood up for us in the crowd, I was more proud of what he said than winning the Derby. I will remember his kind words the rest of my life.”

Tournament fishing will play an important role in the growth of catfishing as a sport, according to King. “The catfishing community needs get behind a credible tournament series or trail and support it and the sponsors that support that trail.”

Fishing partners Stacy Thompson, Tim Haynie and Lealon Harris have been with him along the way. “Catfishing has been good for me, all my life,” reflected King. “We have achieved many firsts that no team can ever achieve again.”

Catfishing was more than recreation for King. Guiding was a way to earn some money and also receive the joy of sharing the sport with others. That joy was income of another kind.

“When I was out of work I fished for a living to pay bills,” said King. “I will never forget the smiles and the comments of my clients. I would hear, ‘I caught the biggest catfish in my life’ or ‘I learned more today than any other time out on the water.’ You can’t purchase those experiences at your local retail store. You have to be on the water with other people to receive the experience.”

King also recalls the many friendships he developed on the tournament trail. “I will never forget the people I met and the new friends I made on the tournament trail. I travelled to Kansas, Iowa, South Carolina, Alabama and more. I travelled all over the US, Canada and Spain in search of catfish. In the process I have made friendships that will last forever.”

King loves catfishing for the mystery of it. “You never know what is going to happen on any given day,” concluded King. “Some days you can’t keep them off the hook and other days they will humble you. They will leave you trying to figure out why the bite was so poor. Most of the reasons are out of our control, but we still keep going and trying to figure it out through our lifetime of fishing.”

“I don’t plan to quit going unless I become physically unable. Then I’m planning to set on the porch, look at all the photos, and say, ‘Ah, we used to get em.’”

- Ron Presley
Catch-Photo_Release (CPR) has become the code word for many trophy catfish anglers. CPR is one thing that any recreational angler or tournament angler can do to help insure a population of trophy catfish for future generations.

In January, 2017, Jeff Avey followed his personal principles with respect to trophy catfish. He CPR’ed a giant blue catfish at the cost of personal gain. He does not consider his actions a burden, but rather a responsibility.

Avey caught what would have been a CA TFISH RECORD DECLINED.
been a Maryland State Record. The previous record of 84 pounds was set back in 2012 on the Potomac River. Avery was using a Big Cat Fever, MH rod when he hooked and landed an 85 pound Potomac River monster.

Blue catfish are on the invasive species list in Maryland, and anglers are encouraged by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to remove and kill any blue and flathead catfish they catch.

As stated on the DNR website, “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.” As a result of the invasive species designation, a blue catfish must me killed to be certified in the record book as a state record.

“Avery chose to take a photo and release the fish to fight another day,” said a Big Cat Fever Rods spokesman. “Mr. Avey is a great example of conservation and selective harvest. For that we have the upmost respect!”

Avery chose to forgo the state record in favor of CPR. “It would have been great to be in the record books,” stated Avey. “But, it was not worth it to me. I’ve been fishing the Potomac for 20 years and hunting these monster cats for 5. It is the only place I know of where you can catch a trophy consistently. I’d like to keep it that way.”

- Ron Presley
The 20-ounce sport drink bottle tipped and bobbed incessantly before creating a v-shaped wake in the opposite direction as we approached it. Frequently, the bottle disappeared beneath the surface for long periods, only to pop up again 30 to 40 yards away.

“Something big is on that line,” remarked Jack Tibbs, who frequently runs jug lines on Lake Eufaula along the Alabama-Georgia line. “Get the pole around that line and let’s see what’s under that bottle.”

Daniel Felsher snatched the taunt line with a pick-up stick and pulled the rig toward the boat. When he grabbed the line and yanked it up, the enraged, submerged beast plunged for the depths, almost talking Daniel with it. He began battling the creature in hand-to-fin combat until finally hauling a big blue catfish to the surface where Jack could net it.
More Fish, Less Money

Anglers “gone jugging” can often fill a boat quickly with catfish without spending too much money. Called jugging, jug lining or float fishing, this sport essentially consists of suspending baited lines from floats and setting them adrift.

People can use just about anything that floats. Many anglers keep empty milk jugs or drink bottles to use as floats. Others cut inexpensive foam “pool noodles” into sections. Noodles became so popular that many people now call the sport “noodling,” not to be confused with hand-grabbing catfish. Regardless of the float type, fishing like this offers incredible fun that can quickly fill a freezer with great fillets.

“Jugging is a great way to put a lot of catfish in the boat,” explained Don Caldwell, an avid jugger from Lake Charles, La. “I’ve fished catfish all kinds of ways for years and jugging is the easiest and least expensive way to catch large numbers of fish. I’ll set out a line about a mile long with jugs 50 yards apart. When we get to the end, we turn around and start checking them again.”

How Deep?

Line length varies according to water depth. Ideally, anglers need to keep baits suspended near the bottom, but above entangling objects. Anglers may want to experiment with different depths to see what works that day. Tie a 3/0 to 5/0 stainless steel circle hook to the line. Where legal, some anglers rig multiple hooks. In deeper waters, many anglers attach weights to the lines to hold the bait near the bottom.

“I have jugs as shallow as six feet and some all the way down to 35 feet,” advised Brian Barton, a Tennessee angler.
River catfish guide (256-412-0969, www.brianbartonoutdoors.com) from Muscle Shoals, AL.

“I periodically change the line on my reels and use the old line to make jug sets,” reported Barton. “I like to use 85-pound test braided line. When fishing an area with a lot of snags, I might add a 14- to 17-pound monofilament leader so I can break it off if the line snags. In deeper water, I’ll use a 1/4-ounce split shot. When fishing heavy current, I might add a 1/2- to 3/4-ounce weight to keep the line vertical and the bait within three to five feet of the bottom.”

Bait the hooks and release the floats in a likely area. When a fish takes the bait and hooks itself, it moves the float. In a good area, anglers might not wait long for a bite. Usually, anglers work in teams. One person pulls up the line, especially with longer lines. Another person waits to net the fish. Ideally, a third person runs the boat. With only two people fishing, one drives while the other works the lines and nets the fish.

“Jug fishing is a great way to take kids fishing,” Barton explained. “Kids get really excited, because jugging usually involves a lot of action and we can put a bunch of fish in a cooler quickly.”

Where to Go?

Sometimes, fishermen set floats adrift and then go off a distance to watch for bobbing jugs through binoculars. Some sportsmen set out several floats and then go fishing for something else, returning periodically to check the lines. Others leave the jugs out overnight and run them in the morning.

Sportsmen can jug for catfish practically anywhere from small ponds and drainage ditches to massive reservoirs and major rivers. In large lakes, set floats in a wide circle, placing one about every 40 to 50 yards. With jugs arranged this way, anglers can simply run a continuous pattern. On rivers and streams, most people run the jugs one way and then turn around to run them in the other direction. In streams with strong current, look for oxbows, tributaries or other slack backwaters because flowing water can carry floats downstream rapidly.

“If I’m fishing in current, I usually won’t use more than 20 jugs because it’s easy to lose them,” Barton explained. “In a lake on a still day, I might fish as many as 100 jugs. Typically, I use about 50 to 60 jugs. Some people like when the wind moves their jugs, but I’ve had better success when the jug stays in one area so fish can find the bait. I like fishing around high bluff walls because they typically don’t have as many objects to snag and they block the wind.”

What About Bait?

Anglers can bait lines with unlimited choices. Blue and channel catfish are not finicky, they eat almost anything. Any bait that oozes juices or gives off strong odors can entice cats. Popular baits include live or cut shad, skipjack, shiners, nightcrawlers, crawfish, shrimp, chicken livers, cheese or commercial blood and stink baits. Beef
kidneys can make several inexpensive baits.

Many anglers catch their own bait by throwing cast nets. Big game hunters could keep organs from animals they kill to use for bait. Juggers might try several bait types and sizes to see what works best at that time and place.

Fishermen specifically targeting flatheads should use live baits. Vicious and aggressive predators, flatheads almost exclusively eat other fish and typically feed at night. For targeting flatheads, use live threadfin or gizzard shad, suckers, carp, herring, mullets, river shiners and other small fish. Four to eight large minnows hooked through the lips or eyes can mimic a tempting baitfish school. Few large flatheads can resist gulping a live bream or other sunfish struggling helplessly on a line. Where legal, live sunfish, small catfish and bullheads make excellent flathead baits.

“In the spring and fall, I prefer cut shad,” Barton recommended. “I also use minnows and whole shad. I like to use bluegills and other sunfish in the summer. I fillet a section about the size of a silver dollar. I might get more bites on chicken livers or shad guts, but frequently, small fish nibble off the bait. Shrimp is another favorite. Sometimes, I use live bait, particularly 4- to 5-inch long gizzard shad. Live bream is a particularly good bait for targeting flatheads around logjams. I’ve caught flatheads up to 45 pounds and hooked bigger fish.”

Not all states allow jug fishing, so check the regulations before turning floats adrift. However, where legal, jugging can quickly fill a freezer with fresh fillets. Besides, it’s just an incredibly fun experience for the entire family.
The Indiana Catfish Conservation Association (ICCA) was founded in 2012. Its mission is to promote the management of Indiana’s catfish resources with scientifically relevant data and grow the sport of catfishing through outreach and increased angling opportunities. Over the years the ICCA has worked closely with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to see regulations changed in Indiana to protect catfish from excessive exploitation.

Thirteen members of ICCA volunteered to help the kids at the Indiana State Fair Fishin’ Pond.
With efforts focused on regulation change, the organization hasn’t taken many opportunities to get more people involved in catfishing. In the past year however, ICCA conversations have begun to shift towards doing just that. So, when an opportunity became available last summer, the ICCA took the bait.

Each year at the Indiana State Fair the Indiana Department of Natural Resources gives children the opportunity to catch fish at the State Fair Fishin’ Pond. This pond is a 300,000-gallon concrete structure stocked with 3,000 hybrid bluegill and another 1,000 channel catfish. The pond’s irregular “shoreline”, and installed structure to hold fish, allow over 15 children to fish for 15 minutes in scheduled sessions throughout the day.

Since the pond’s creation, 12 years ago, Go FishIN Program Coordinator Clint Kowalik has seen nearly 40,000 kids fishing at the State Fair. Obviously, providing one-on-one angling instruction to over 3,000 kids each fair season is a big job and requires a lot of help. Finding enough volunteers for two shifts per day throughout the course of the State Fair is a daunting task for Kowalik – especially for the very last shift.

The ICCA heard that the DNR was in need of more volunteers. Kowalik was contacted and the ICCA offered to fill that last shift. It was Sunday, August 21, 2017. Thirteen ICCA members traded in their baitcasters for cane poles and assisted the kids with fishing in the DNR pond. It was an experience enjoyed as much by our members as it was by the kids!

“IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE ENJOYED AS MUCH BY OUR MEMBERS AS IT WAS BY THE KIDS!”

During the 3-hour shift we put nearly 200 new anglers on fish for the first time in their life. The kids were encourage – and sometimes begged – to bait their own hooks and unhook their own fish, so members spent time instructing participants on how to do this. There was also a fair amount of time spent untangling lines!

Ironically, Kowalik indicated that our group caught substantially more channel catfish than any other shift. Despite this, the number of kids getting skewered by dorsal and pectoral fins was, thankfully, surprisingly low!

As an organization, it was great to be able to partner with the DNR and be of assistance to them. However, the experience of engaging Indiana’s youth with something we all love was an amazing opportunity. Seeing wide-eyed kids trying to get a hand around their very first fish and watching the ear-to-ear grins on teenagers as a 12-inch channel catfish sailed through the air at them after a vigorous hook-set is nothing...
The volunteers, in blue shirts, gave personal attention to each child around the fishing pond.

Our mission is to increase the professionalism – and the earnings – of our members as we work with the industry to grow and protect sportfishing.

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Our mission is to increase the professionalism of our members as we work to grow and protect sportfishing.
less than magical. We had so much fun that we have already booked that same shift for next year.

The ICCA will continue to look for opportunities to help get kids have an opportunity to fish. As the national trend of decreased fishing and hunting license sales continues, most natural resource agencies are looking for ways to partner with fishing, hunting, and conservation organizations to get people back outside and engaged in hunting and fishing.

We at the ICCA would like to encourage everyone to contact your local resource agency and see how you can help. The future of conservation depends on having that strong base of hunters and anglers who have always been the ultimate driving force in conservation.

Epilogue: Matt Burlingame is one of the founding members of the Indiana Catfish Conservation Association and served as the group’s President from 2012 – 2016. Matt has a B.S. in Fisheries Science from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in Biology from Kansas State. He has worked as a fisheries research biologist, served on the faculty of Manchester University, and is currently employed as a fisheries biometrician with the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife.

You may follow the activities of the ICCA by visiting their Facebook page.

- Matt Burlingame
As U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director, Dan Ashe’s tenure was at times contentious. But whenever I took exception with one of his decisions, there were back-channel emails reminding me that “we need to try and work with USFWS” and ended with “your criticism of Dan isn’t helping.”

The biggest impact of the lead ban on catfishermen will be the sinkers that they use.

My position was always a simple one: while I liked Dan Ashe, I didn’t trust him. Ashe had lifelong experience with the agency, but was just too-cozy with anti-hunting and fishing groups.

After he told me face-to-face the
USFWS planned on doing something, then was “unavailable for comment” when the agency did exactly the opposite, I reconsidered my considering him an “even-handed career administration who understands his agency” and realized he’d be better classified as a “career political appointee”.

Last week, as Ashe dropped a little parting gift for hunters and anglers: Director’s Order 219, “Use of Non-Toxic Ammo and Fishing Tackle”. His final directive says that ammunition and tackle containing lead will be forbidden on all USFWS lands within five years, sooner if possible.

In a nutshell, it’s Ashe’s coming out of the closet. Too-politic to deal with the fallout of making such a ruling sooner, he stalled, waiting until he was on his way out the door to issue Order 219.

Now, he’s off to his next position, and hunters and anglers are left to deal with his parting surprise.

And many of the same groups concerned over provoking Ashe before are feeling blindsided. True, Ashe never came out and said what he felt about “the lead issue” but his reluctance to take a position was probably an indication of his true feelings. Giving him the benefit of a doubt was, in hindsight, an error in judgement.

Friday, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies issued a statement expressing “utter dismay” with the release of Order 219. Association President Nick Wiley said “this action flies squarely in the face of a long and constructive tradition of states working in partnership with the Service to effectively manage wildlife resources.”

Wiley went on to call Ashe’s Order 219 “a breach of trust” and “deeply disappointing” given that it was a “complete surprise and there was no current dialogue or input from state fish and wildlife agencies prior to issuance.” No kidding.

Ashe didn’t care about “input” - his less than enthusiastic support for “traditional” ammunition during his tenure always indicated his leanings to the contrary.

And he was never overly concerned about “federal overreach” or the “potential economic impact” on rural Americans. And “concurrent jurisdiction” - the idea of states and federal agencies cooperating when it came to management of migratory birds-was given more lip service than collaborative support.

I’m not saying the professional scientists at the USFWS don’t embrace the idea of concurrent jurisdiction, and they solidly support scientific-based management of federal lands. But the employees of the USFWS understand chain of command. And Ashe was- until Friday- the top of the chain. So, on Friday, he issued what is - unless and until a new director reverses it- the official USFWS position regarding “traditional” ammunition and fishing tackle: it will be gone from federal lands within 5 years.

Now, it’s up to outdoor groups to make it clear that Order 219 has to go. Statements “decrying the decision” won’t get the job done. Nor will “science-based arguments”. This order will likely be tried in the court of public opinion- where emotion trumps facts.

Mainstream media won’t be receptive to science-based arguments - especially when it comes to lead. And anti-hunting and fishing groups will roll out their celebrities and “spontaneous protestors” to praise Order 219’s effort to stop poisoning our public lands.

Expect reporting to reflect that position- regardless of scientific facts to the contrary. And a Trump administration
decision reversing an Obama appointee will be scrutinized for any hint of politics. The timing of Order 219 wasn’t accidental.

And getting it reversed will probably require direct action - something many outdoor advocates don’t like. Having been chided for suggesting that hunters and anglers go on the offensive when attacked, they’re more likely to suggest a more subtle approach- and we may lose-again.

Order 219 has to go. And it must go as the result of direct action from all concerned parties. We now have a president that understands direct action - he regularly trolls his critics- taking his position directly to the people.

It’s time we stop walking quite so softly and begin wielding the big stick. Hunters, anglers, shooters and other outdoorsmen and women helped elect this president- and it took direct action to make that happen.

Winning an election only started the process of reversing bad decisions - now it’s time for everyone to buckle up and get busy. Order 219 is a good start.


- Jim Shepherd
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35 Catfish NOW February 2017
Editor’s Note: Past and future issues of CatfishNow have focused, in this column, on Why We Catfish. This month’s column reaches a little further because many catfish anglers like to fish for other species too, and most have that place they love the most. Something tells me that many of you will connect with what Tammy Wilson sees and feels as she writes about her beloved Indian River Lagoon.

To say that I have known waters would be to understate the entire reason for my very existence. I have trekked through swamps searching fish in places most avoid and perched on rocks jutting from cliff faces with a spey rod on the island’s most famed steelhead river in the dead of winter. I have hiked through deserts and caught bejeweled trout in tiny rivers with dusty boots. I have ridden horseback into the Smokies with fly rod on my back chasing wild brook trout and fished the docks of the crappie capital of the world with minners and bobbers.

I have slipped on rocks and sunk in mud in waters from New Jersey down the east coast to Florida, over to Texas, over to Baja, up to San Francisco, Oregon, Vancouver Island and on to Alaska. I have hiked to the trout stream in the mountains of Costa Rica where parrots and quetzels fly over spooky giant rainbow trout, stocked many years ago from the infamous McLeod River and left to go wild. It’s a scene out of your wildest fantasy.

I have fished the McLeod, for that matter, having one of the most incredible days an angler could hope for, all on dry flies, out fishing my guide five fish to one all day long during a snowstorm. I have wet lines in 42 of these United States and five foreign countries. I know waters. I have seen and loved them all. I have wild crazy one night stands with some of them and managed long term relationships with others. Waters have come and gone from my life, it’s fair to say.

I’ve only ever had one soul mate though. It is the place I found on a map at a time in my life when I needed a refuge. It’s where I would eventually learn to drive, learn to fish, learn to fly fish, learn to love and learn to live.

Miles and miles of dirt roads, alongside miles and miles of lagoon just filled with the unknown and adventure and most all, a refuge. As soon as I absolutely could, I ran far and fast from it and spent the rest of my days longing for it.
It’s a place where many an adventure took place, many lessons were learned, many dues were paid. A place where some people back in the day said a woman had no place with a fly rod. A place where I would eventually find some of the most influential people that would come into my life and help to ultimately set me forth in search of my passion to fish.

I can’t say enough about those men - men I respect and love and cherish my friendship with to this day. I have met my share of anglers along the way. I still talk to many of them. I have learned more from the world’s people than a person could ever hope to learn in a lifetime. I also learned about fishing from them.

I fished alongside some of the best the angling world has to offer. I have fumbled and I have prevailed. Hell, I even overcame the odds once in a while. I have humbled and have been humbled. But there is only one place on this earth that I have found, so far, that humbles me regularly and more deeply than the canyons of the ocean floor. It is a place where eagles soar, gators hunt, dolphins play and during the hottest months of the year, the very water that supports all of the life of all the world that I care to know glows. It glows.

Paddling through the bioluminescence is by far one of the most profound and thought provoking experiences a person can have without the use of hallucinogens. To see the water light up and glow as your paddle moves through it. Giant schools of mullet form underwater meteor showers and dolphins light up the water like fireworks on the Fourth of July.

One has to question everything after witnessing such a thing. I have lived through
several presidents, seen wars come and go, seen men launched into outer space and seen photographs of other planets in my time on earth.

I have witnessed the northern lights and witnessed the sun go down at the edge of the world. But a simple algae, a life form so simple and so perfect and so impactful is what humbles me the most. My church is in my kayak, on the water, watching the sun come up on the lagoon, but nothing makes one find religion like the bright luminescent swirling waters caused by a single celled organism.

The Indian River Lagoon is dying. It’s the place on this earth where my soul feels like it’s home. Being on its waters is where I am comfortable, like a baby nestled under a soft blanket of fog on those fall mornings on the south Mosquito Lagoon.

There are days when I start feeling like the grass is growing under my feet and my initial instinct is to do as I would have done before coming home, and I’d run. My gypsy soul wants to go love other rivers, but the local girl part of me feels like I can’t really leave an old friend in its worst time of need.

I am more committed then ever to getting trash out of there. I will do it alone, I will do it with a partner or I will do it with a group. I’m not picky. Trash war has started.

And, I will still be involved with the Hook Kids on Fishing Programs in the north end of Brevard County sharing my passion for fishing and conservation with kids, because love is a two-way street. The lagoon loves me, and it shows it in so many ways. I must find ways to show my love back. One trash bag a week for me. It may not seem like much to others who speak louder or feel they do more, and that is ok. You love it in your way and I’ll love it mine. There are enough ways to love it to go around. And, we need all kinds of people loving it in many different ways. How will you give back to the river that has given you so much?

Epilogue: Tammy and her fishing buddies Tom Van Horn and Ron Suttles are cofounders of the Annual Charity Toy Rod Catfish Tournament on the St. Johns River near Geneva, FL. She reports that she came up with the idea while crappie fishing with Tom and Ron. She challenges other communities to come up with their own version of the tournament as a way to give back in their part of the world.

- Tammy Wilson
### OLD DOMINION
**HOPEWELL MARINA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JANUARY 14th</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tournament Results</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. David Jones/Barry Jones/Wayne Austin</td>
<td>113.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. John Garland/James Williams</td>
<td>94.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jonathan Penny/Anthony Penny</td>
<td>93.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ryan Smiley/Leo Smiley</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Todd Glidewell/Trevor Morgan</td>
<td>89.4</td>
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### CAROLINA CATFISH TRAIL
**WYLIE-BUSTER BOYD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JANUARY 14th</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tournament Results</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Benji Brown/Todd Kendrick</td>
<td>78.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Anthony Dallas/Tony Dallas</td>
<td>66.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Casey Craig/Larry Craig</td>
<td>62.93</td>
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<td>4. Gary/Gary Sr.</td>
<td>47.53</td>
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<td>5. Richard Hurley/Michael Hamelton</td>
<td>47</td>
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</table>

**BIG FISH**

1. Benji Brown/Todd Kendrick | 37.63 |

### CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL
**NAVARRO MILLS**

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<tr>
<th><strong>JANUARY 14TH</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tournament Results</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ExTream</td>
<td>124.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Catastrophic</td>
<td>81.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Dream Team</td>
<td>74.92</td>
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<td>4. Toons</td>
<td>71.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bluecat Bane</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIG FISH**

1. ExTream | 49.2 |

### CATFISH NATION OUTDOORS
**FORT WASHINGTON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JANUARY 15th</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tournament Results</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Buddy/Donnie</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Roger/DJ/Chip</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Alan/Shawn</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Tim/Mike/Keith</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. JC/Dewayne</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIG FISH**

1. Buddy/Donnie | 45.4 |
## Tournament Results

### CATFISH MAFIA

**POTOMAC**

**JANUARY 21st**

1. Don/Chris 150.2
2. Robert/Petey 128.7
3. Eric/Brad 116.5
4. Keith/David/Glenn 96.5
5. Mark/Doug 55.9

**BIG FISH**

1. Don/Chris 86.35

### JKV CATFISHING

**LAKE WHEELER**

**JANUARY 28th**

1. Justin Browning/Seth Wilson 138.4
2. Andrew Han/Nick Han 117.6
3. Paul Mayfield/Richard White 106.45
4. Dale Kerns/Ken Gatlin 101.2
5. Chris Baker/Caleb Mcandas 101.15

**BIG FISH**

1. Paul Mayfield/Richard White 74.05

### FISHIN BLUES

**SOONER LAKE**

**JANUARY 28th**

1. Chris Baldwin/Adam Shriver/jason Smith 61.27
2. Josh Rollins/Brad Hill 58.34
3. Cody Forshee/Andrew Melendy 44.25
4. Matt Thomas/Jeremy Herrman/Brian Garcia 35.2
5. Donnie Dunn/Bob Johnson 28.83

**BIG FISH**

1. Josh Rollins/Brad Hill 38.5

### SOUTHEASTERN CATFISH CLUB

**LAKE WATeree**

**FEBRUARY 4th**

1. Jeff Manning/Michael Paciocco 68.15
2. Steve Whitley/Shane Owenby 67.2
3. John Jerry/Ray Morton 64.25
4. Benji Brown/Riley Brown 58.8
5. Lee Hardee/Joshua Coggins/Shane Tuell 54.7

**BIG FISH**

1. John Jerry/Ray Morton 49.4
# Tournament Results

## Old Dominion
**February 4th**

1. Hugh Self/Gene Burton 77.7
2. David Jones/Barry Jones/Wayne Austin 74.3
3. Torch Vohun/DJ Landry/Troy & Kenedy Vohun 73.6
4. Michael Conner/Shane Farrar 56
5. James Williams/John Garland 54.65

## Catfish Nation Outdoors
**February 4th**

2. Shawn/Josh 13.4
3. Tim/Keith/Ivan and Billy/John 8.2

## Central Texas Catfish Trail
**February 4th**

1. Michael Houston/Larry Johnson 28.94
2. James Tucker/Mike Wilcox 26.82
3. Duke Picket/Levi Picket 25.28

**Big Fish**

1. Duke Picket/Levi Picket 10.74

## Indiana Catfish Association
**February 4th**

1. Justin Alford/Josh Hammerlin 163.6
2. Ton Petrocoski/Henry Neafus 118.5
3. Andy Williams/Josh McClure 116.4
4. Jon Land/Dan Fields 115.8
5. Mark Robbins/Dan Detering 114.4

**Big Fish**

1. Justin Alford/Josh Hammerlin 72.6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>CONTACTS</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALABAMA CATFISH TRAIL</td>
<td>DANIEL PARSONS</td>
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<td>CABELA’S KING KAT TOURNAMENT TRAIL</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.bigsouxcatanglers.com">www.bigsouxcatanglers.com</a></td>
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<td>CAROLINA ANGLERS TEAM TRAIL C.A.T.T</td>
<td>JEREMY COE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kingkatusa.com">www.kingkatusa.com</a></td>
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<td>CATFISH CHASERS TOURNAMENT SERIES</td>
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<td>CATFISH MAFIA</td>
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<td>CENTRAL MISSOURI CATS</td>
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<td>CENTRAL TEXAS CATFISH TRAIL</td>
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### CATFISH CALENDAR

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Stay warm. Spring is coming

See ya’ next month