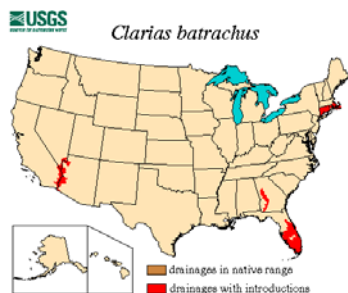


# Walking Catfish

## *Clarius batrachus*

**Identification** Elongated body that tapers to the tail; long-based dorsal and anal fins and several pairs of sensory barbels; flat, wide head; mucus-covered, scaleless skin; typically a uniform shade of gray or gray-brown with small white spots along sides.

**Why is it a Problem?** A voracious and omnivorous eater, the walking catfish has the potential to decimate local species; carries diseases that may be transmitted to local species.



**Range/Habitat** Fresh-water dweller; has become extremely problematic in Florida and other parts of the Southern U.S.; has not yet been found in Maryland.

**Similar Species** Closely resembles the native channel catfish.

**Legal Status** Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

**Control and Prevention** Do not bring live walking catfish into Maryland.

**Method of Introduction** The first introductions in Florida apparently occurred in the mid-1960s when adult fish imported as brood stock escaped from fish farms. Aquarium releases likely are responsible for introductions in other states.

**Want to know more? Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.**