CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Redtail catfish

Phractocephalus hemioliopterus

The Redtail catfish is a large freshwater fish native to the Amazon, Orinoco, and Essequibo river basins in South America. It is easily recognized by its striking reddish-orange tail and long whisker…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Pimelodidae
Habitat: Large rivers, floodplains, and freshwater lakes in South America
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 15-20 years
Weight: 15–80 kg
Scientific name: Phractocephalus hemioliopterus

Did you know?

- Despite their popularity in home aquariums, Redtail catfish often outgrow most tanks, sometimes leading to their release into non-native waters where…
- Redtail catfish can grow to over 1.5 meters in length and are known for their aggressive feeding behavior. They are sometimes called 'banana catfish'…

What I learned

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