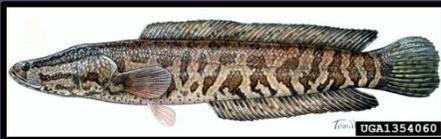


Channa spp., Parachanna spp.

Snakehead

Channidae, the freshwater perciform fish family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Torpedo-shaped body; tapers at the tail
- Can grow to 33 inches
- Single, long dorsal fin along $\frac{2}{3}$ of body
- Long anal fin
- Relatively small head with large mouth and sharp teeth
- Dark irregular blotches on a tan to pale brown body
- Dark stripe from behind the eye to the upper edge of the gill plate

Background

- Native to China, Russia and Korea; likely released into the U.S. through live food markets or aquarium releases
- Found in lakes, rivers, and wetlands
- Survives out of water for up to 4 days
- Voracious feeder of aquatic fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates; capable of eating prey that is 33% of its length
- Can survive in low oxygen environments
- Popular aquarium fish in Europe and Japan

Photo Credit:

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