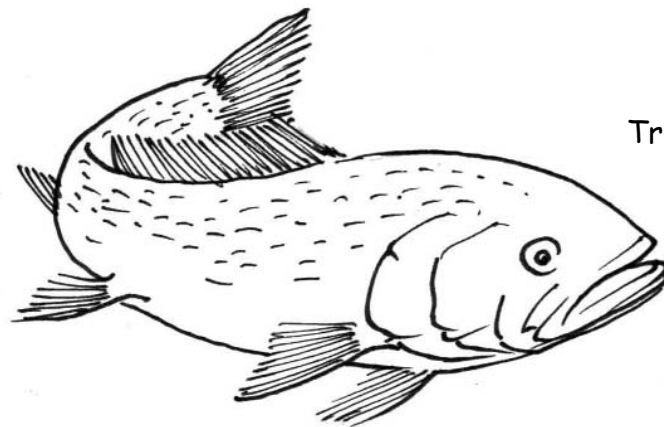


Aquaculture is important because it provides good quality food, produces fish, like TROUT, to stock lakes, PONDS and streams for recreational fishing, and some shellfish like clams, oysters and mussels actually clean the water. Have you ever found an oyster shell that has other shells attached to it? Because oysters often grow together, they form habitats for other marine animals. A HABITAT is a place to live.

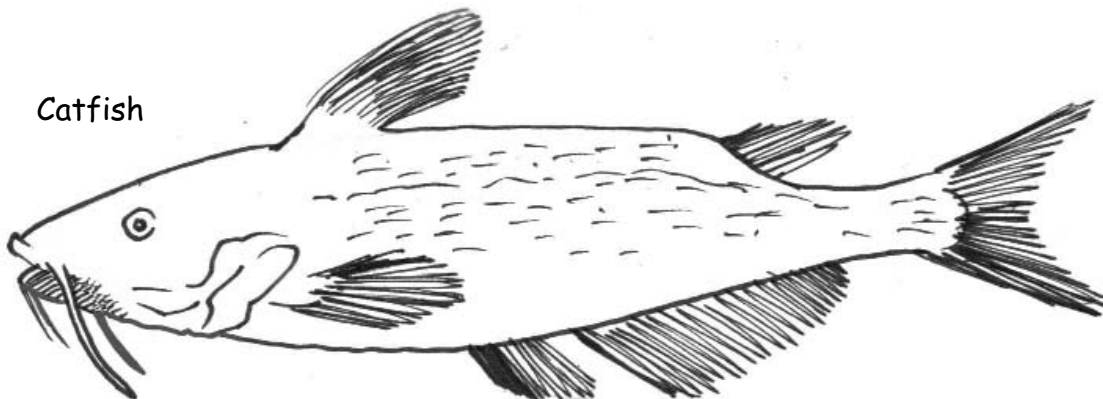
Trout and catfish are both freshwater fish, but they live in very different habitats. Trout like to live in cold, clear, running water that has lots of oxygen. (Remember, fish use their GILLS to take oxygen out of the water so they can breathe.) Trout feed during the day. They eat insects, fish and shellfish.

Catfish live on the bottom and like warm water. Because they often live in murky water, catfish have special "whiskers" called BARBELS that can help them feel around in the dark. That's how they got their name!! Catfish like to feed at night. They eat insects, small fish and plants.

Fish farmers have to recreate those habitats so that their fish will grow. Trout are raised in spring-fed raceways where the water moves quickly through the system. Catfish are raised in ponds. Different types of aquaculture fish are fed different foods just like dogs and cats require different foods. Other kinds of fish and shellfish are raised in indoor systems so that the temperature can be controlled all year round.



Trout



Catfish