

## Today we're gonna take up "flathead catfish."

Flatheads are sometimes called apps, yellow cats or Opelousas.

In Red River flatheads usually are roaming around in May hunting for hollow logs and rocks where they can nest and lay their eggs. May is about the only time a person can depend on having enough action with a rod and reel to keep from getting bored.

By June flatheads have settled into their hollows and are laying eggs and tending their nest. Now you're better off fishing for something else.



Flatheads have no eyelids so they are very susceptible to light. That is one of the reasons you will have better catches in murky water on Dark moonless nights.

Flatheads and other catfish have no ears; but they hear better than most other fish. A Catfish uses its swim bladder to detect vibrations. Sound waves travel from its bladder to a small inner-ear bone called an otolith and starts it vibrating. This complex system is very sensitive. Fish with bladders

are much more sensitive to the intrusion of a fisherman than fish without swim bladders. A catfish can hear a fisherman walking around with extreme accuracy.

Flatheads love to roam the shallows on dark nights in the summertime but due to their sensitivity to loud noises it is very hard to fish the shallows. The slightest noise sends them retreating to deep water holes. I suppose that's why on stormy nights with a lot of lightening and loud thunder they stay stuck in their deep water hide-aways and you have better luck catching them.

"Give me a dark stormy night in May and a deep rocky or log strewn fishing hole with a bucket full of big perch or small carp (up to a pound) and I'll show you plenty of action!"