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ENGL 1013

Date

### Different Fish, Same Goal: Survival

Catfish and largemouth bass are extremely different species of aquatic fish, but their ultimate natural instinct is the same. They strive to survive and produce offspring to carry on the essence of life, as all species do.

Catfish are a very docile creature by nature, and their habitat ranges from lakes and rivers to creeks and little streams. They do not always need a fresh and constant supply of flowing water, but it makes for a more productive lifestyle. The catfish also needs good solid cover to have a better chance of survival at a young age.

The feeding style of catfish is usually that of bottom feeding. They are mostly scavengers and opportunistic hunters, but one exception of this is the flathead catfish, which prefers to hunt for live prey, but will occasionally scavenge for food.

Spawning is a way of procreation for all species of fish, but catfish are different in the sense that they spawn accordingly to the condition of the water. If there is not an abundance of flowing water, then they will put a slow pace to the procedure until conditions are favorable. They must have a safe, secure, and isolated location to perform their procreation and lay their eggs. They also do not have a parental attachment to their offspring.

The catfish's physical characteristics are somewhat strange to people not used to being associated with the fish. They have soft, smooth, slimy skin, which helps protect them from predators and bacterial infections. The slime acts as a protective device because if a predator attempts to attack them, then it has a difficult time latching on to the catfish. They have long

whiskers protruding from their upper and lower jaws that act as a sensory device to find food and to feel around in front of them to navigate the waters in which they live. They also have a lateral line that stretches the length of their body to determine water pressure and altitude while traveling. However, the lateral line is not that distinctive on the catfish.

The largemouth bass have the same habitats as the catfish except that they are more needful of fresh-flowing water.

The feeding styles of largemouth bass are almost on a separate page due to the fact that they are intensely aggressive hunters of small bait fish such as brim, minnows, and other small aquatic fish.

The spawning techniques of bass are a lot like that of the catfish, but unlike the catfish, bass make a nest in a safe and secure location, such as underwater tree beds and sand pits at the bottom of the lakes and rivers that they inhabit. This unique species may stay on the nest for months and months, going without food until they lay their eggs. However, largemouth bass also do not have a parental attachment to their offspring.

The physical characteristics of bass are also very different than that of catfish. Unlike catfish, they have scales instead of smooth, slimy skin. The mouth of the largemouth bass is very large so they can open their mouth wide and engulf prey with speed and stealth. Unlike the catfish, the lateral line is very apparent on bass; it also stretches the length of their body, and it serves the same purpose.

The catfish and the largemouth bass are exceptional aquatic creatures that inhabit almost all bodies of water in the southern United States. These two fish are very different types of fish in looks and ways of survival, but the one thing they have in common is the will to survive at any cost.