

# THE STATUS OF SPREADING AND RISK PREDICTION FOR SUCKERMOUTHED CATFISH (*Pterygoplichthys pardalis*) IN VIETNAM

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## Summary

Data collection was conducted in 14 provinces/city in 6 regions of the nation from May 2017 to May 2018 to assess the impact of Suckermouthed catfish (*Pterygoplichthys pardalis*) on aquatic resources in Vietnam. The results indicated that 50-80% of surveyed households agreed that the Suckermouthed catfish appears in all types of water bodies, 17 - 38% indicated that the fish appears at the medium level, 3-12% suggested that fish appeared less. The Suckermouthed catfish has been widely distributed in all types of water bodies, yet mostly occurs in rivers and lakes at a rate of 75-100%, its incidence in irrigation canal systems was 70-95%, and in aquaculture pond systems it was 12.5-30%. In the wild, the population of Suckermouthed catfish has been divided into various length groups, the group with the length of 10 cm <math>L < 20\text{ cm}</math> was the largest population (25.0-44.4%). The second was the group of 20 cm <math>L < 30\text{ cm}</math> (22.2-37.5%), followed by the group with a length <math>L < 10\text{ cm}</math> (25.0-29.2%), lowest population was the group of 30 cm (0-6.3%). The rate of intestine length ( $L_i$ ) to body length ( $L_o$ ) varied from  $9.90 \pm 0.21$  to  $10.12 \pm 0.37$ . This fish is omnivorous, it feeds on algae, detritus and decomposing organic matter ( $L_i/L_s \geq 3$ ). Based on the distribution level, occurrence frequency, fertility and eating behavior, it can be forecasted that the Suckermouthed catfish has great impacts on the aquatic resources as well as aquaculture activities in Vietnam.

**Keywords:** *Suckermouthed catfish, alien species, impact risk estimation.*