2.4 AFRICAN CATFISH (*CLARIAS GARIEPINUS*)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Siluriformes

Family: Clariidae

Genus: Clarias

Species: *Clarias gariepinus*

They are found throughout Africa and the Middle East, and live in freshwater lakes, rivers, and swamps, as well as human-made habitats, such as oxidation ponds or even urban sewage systems. The African sharp tooth catfish was introduced all over the world in the early 1980s for aquaculture purposes, so is found in countries far outside its natural habitat, such as Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, and India. The African sharp tooth catfish is a large, eel-like fish, usually of dark gray or black coloration on the back, fading to a white belly. In Africa, this catfish has been reported as being second in size only to the vundu of the Zambezian waters, although Fish Base suggests the African sharp tooth catfish surpasses that species in both maximum length and weight. C. gariepinus has an average adult length of 1–1.5 m (3 ft 3 in – 4 ft 11 in) (Denny & Jacob, 2022). It reaches a maximum length of 1.7 m (5 ft 7 in) TL and can weigh up to 60 kg (130 lb). These fish have slender bodies, flat bony heads, notably