

**YAQUI CATFISH**  
*(Ictalurus pricei)*

**STATUS:** Threatened with critical habitat (49 FR 34490, August 31, 1984).

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** The Yaqui catfish is a medium to large fish of the family Ictaluridae, with lengths of 40 cm (15.7 in) and weights of a kilogram (2.2 lbs) or more common in wild specimens. The species is similar to the channel catfish (*I. punctatus*) in appearance, except the anal fin base is shorter and the distal margin of the anal fin is broadly rounded with 23 to 25 soft rays. The body is usually profusely speckled.

**HABITAT:** Inhabits moderate to large streams in areas of medium to slow current over sand/rock bottom. Found in streams between 1,219 to 1,425 m (4,000 to 5,000 ft) in elevation.

**RANGE: Historical:** Occurred in the Rio Yaqui Drainage in Sonora, Mexico, including San Bernardino Creek (Blackwater Draw) in Cochise County, Arizona.

**Current:** Found only in the Rio Yaqui Drainage of Sonora, Mexico. Was extirpated from the United States; however, was reintroduced to San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge and West Turkey Creek in Cochise County, Arizona in November 1997.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Habitat destruction and dewatering, and hybridization with channel catfish.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Breeding populations are at Dexter National Fish Hatchery in Dexter, New Mexico, and Uvalde National Fish Hatchery in Uvalde, Texas. Reintroduced populations are on private lands and on San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.

**NOTES:** A Rio Yaqui Fishes Recovery Plan, which included the Yaqui catfish, was completed in March 1995. A copy of the Recovery Plan is available online at:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/RecoveryPlans/YaquiFishes.pdf>

Critical habitat includes all aquatic habitats of the main portion of San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge in Cochise County, Arizona.

Listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the State of Arizona.