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*copy to Mr. Derry
Mr. Thompson*

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
DIVISION OF FISHERIES
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
COOPERATING WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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DIRECTOR

ADDRESS
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

January 22, 1934

Report 242

IDENTIFICATION OF CHANNEL CATFISH FOR ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CON-
SERVATION

On January 20 there was received from Guy G. Derry, Inspector, Department of Conservation, State of Illinois, three dressed catfish (headed, gutted and skinned). Identification was requested. Copy was furnished of a report on these and other fish by David H. Thompson of the Illinois Natural History Survey, who suggested these specimens be sent for the purpose of checking the identification.

The dressed fish measured about 9 1/4" to 10 1/2", including the tail fin, but excluding of course the head which had been cut off in advance of the dorsal fin.

Enough remained of the fish to permit certain identification. The very long dorsal spine, the widely forked caudal fin with sharp lobes decidedly more than twice as long as the median caudal rays, the rather high but only moderately long anal fin with 25 to 27 rays including rudiments and the general form and appearance of the fish proves them to be channel catfish of the species Ictalurus punctatus.

As per Mr. Derry's request, the fish have been preserved in formaldehyde and are being returned (by express C.O.D.), and a copy of this report is being sent to him and to Dr. David H. Thompson.

The Institute is glad to give this small service without charge.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs
Director