Little Cats

Of the 13 species of catfish in Pennsylvania, six are called madtoms and may be mistaken for minnows. These little cats have a special niche in streams.

Stonecats are the largest of Pennsylvania's madtoms and are found in the Ohio River and Lake Erie watersheds.

Two of the three endangered madtoms of Pennsylvania, the northern madtom and the mountain madtom, are found in the waterways of Pennsylvania's northwestern counties especially in French Creek. These madtoms are very sensitive to pollutants. So, they are considered indicator species—showing the health of the streams where they live.

The third endangered little cat, the tadpole madtom, is found across the state in the Ohio, Susquehanna and Delaware watersheds. Although endangered in Pennsylvania, it is not endangered elsewhere.

Fill in the question blanks with the correct answers. Then, match and fill in the message blanks below with the numbered letters from the questions. Enjoy a catfish angler message!

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___, ___ ___ ___
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___!
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

1. The group of the smallest catfish species are called

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
11 27

2. Only catfish and trout have an

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
14 4

___ ___ ___.

3. The best time of day to fish for catfish is at

___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
23 25 5

4. Catfish have two kinds of fins that have sharp points. They are the

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
22

and

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ fins.
16

5. Who guards the nest?

___ ___ ___ ___
21 3

6. The largest catfish in Pennsylvania is the

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
17 13

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
6 26

Answers to catfish angler questions and message are on the fourth page of this *PLAY* issue.

7. _____, all three Pennsylvania species, are considered to be "rough" fish.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
1 20

8. Catfish have _____ _____ on their skin, lips and barbels.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
2

9. The mountain and northern madtoms are _____ _____—showing the health of the streams where they live.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
7 12

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
19 24

10. Catfish whiskers are actually called

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
10

11. Which stream in northwestern Pennsylvania can you find two endangered madtoms?

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
15

___ ___ ___ ___ ___
8

12. All catfish species share similar _____ _____ from egg to adulthood.

___ ___ ___ ___
18

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
9