River Giants Fish Key

1A Body is torpedo shaped……. Go to 3

1B Body is not torpedo shaped…… go to 2

2A Body is long and snake-like ……. marbled eel

2B Body is disk shaped …… giant whiptail ray

3A Fish has barbels (whiskers) …… go to 7

3B Fish has no barbels (whiskers) …… go to 4

4A Mouth points forward, jaws long and pointed ……. alligator gar (color may be spotted or white)

4B Mouth turns upward …… go to 5

5A Pelvic fin long and narrow, anal fin unusually large …… giant gourami

5B Pelvic fin not so …… go to 6

6A Dorsal and anal fins are long and nearly touching the caudal fin ……. arapaima

6B Dorsal and anal fins are well separated from the caudal fin …….. barramundi

7A Snout somewhat pointed, upturned; mouth pointing downward ……. lake sturgeon

7B snout blunt, pointing forward; mouth pointing forward (catfish)…… go to 8

8A Barbels (whiskers) long (extending behind gill slits) ……. go to 9

8B Barbels (whiskers) short (do not extending behind gill slits)……. go to 10

9A Fins are joined in one continuous fin top and bottom …… wallago

9B Fins are separate, broad white stripe along side ……..redtail catfish

10A Fins are rounded ……. go to 11

10B Fins are sharply pointed ……..go to 12

11A Ridge created by a line of scutes (bony plates) along side …….. ripsaw catfish

11B Sides are smooth …… blue catfish

12A Filaments (rays?) trail from ends of fins (dorsal, pelvic and pectoral) …….giant pangasius catfish

12B Fins have no trailing filaments ……. striped catfish