Egg
Fertilized eggs are collected from containers in the raceways and placed into hatching jars. Here they are supplied with fresh water and oxygen.

Catfish use cavities in the wild. They spawn under logs, in undercuts, in river banks, or other protected areas. The containers mimic these cavities.

It takes about one week for flathead catfish eggs to hatch!

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Fry
Newly hatched fish are called fry. Fry are born without mouths. A fry feeds off its yolk sac until its mouth develops!

Once they have their mouths, fry feed on plankton. These fry are stocked in lakes and ponds across Mississippi.

Fingerlings
Catfish are stocked when they reach lengths of 2 inches.

Did you know?
- Even as fry, catfish already have barbels (whiskers). Catfish use these to locate food.
- Many fishing enthusiasts enjoy handgabbing for flathead catfish. This is a method of fishing with your hands, also known as “grabbling” or “noodling.”

Learn more about the Flathead Catfish and the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery at www.MDWFP.com.