

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Contact: Julie McLemore, Bureau Director
(601) 359-1100

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Vietnamese Basa Illegally Sold As “Imported Catfish.”

Monday, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, assessed an \$1800.00 penalty against a retail grocery store for selling Vietnamese Basa under the name “Imported Catfish.” Greer’s Food Tiger #19, located at 7100 Highway 614; Hurley, MS, admitted to marketing Vietnamese Basa as “catfish” in violation of the recently amended “Mississippi Catfish Marketing Law.”

“United States’ markets have been saturated with foreign fish marketed as ‘catfish.’ This is misleading to the Mississippi consumer who associates the word ‘catfish’ with those fish raised in the Delta and other southern states. There is a strong distinction between the two. U.S. Farm-Raised catfish are fed a grain-based diet and raised under controlled conditions in freshwater ponds. Vietnamese fish feed on wild fish and a number of agricultural byproducts and are raised in cages floating on the MeKong River,” according to Commissioner Lester Spell, Jr..

“We intend to vigorously enforce this law so that the unsuspecting consumer does not fall victim to misleading marketing tactics,” said Spell.