



# Catfish Production

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## **Foodfish Inventory Numbers Show Increase From Year Ago Levels**

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 386 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2002, up 4 percent from the July 1, 2001 total of 372 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2002, with their respective percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 10.2 million, up 66 percent; medium foodsize, 94.4 million, up 24 percent; and small foodsize, 281 million, down 3 percent.

The four major States also had 1.05 million broodfish on hand on July 1, 2002, down 18 percent from last year's 1.28 million.

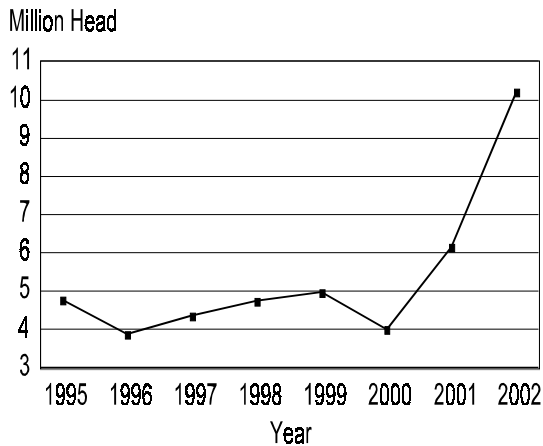
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2002, totaled 379 million fish, up 12 percent from the 338 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 388 million small stockers, down 6 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.64 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2002, down 11 percent from the 1.83 billion on hand July 1, 2001. Live weight, at 25.1 million pounds, was up 14 percent from the 22.1 million pounds a year ago.

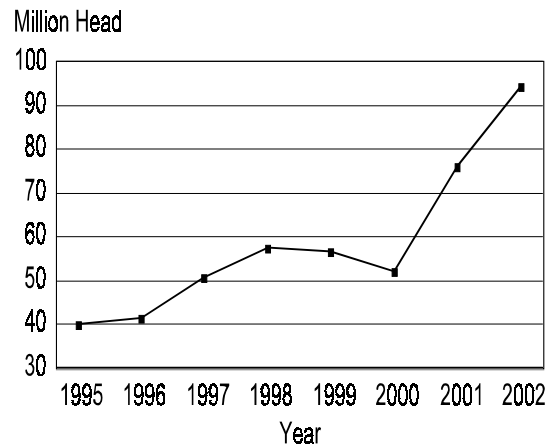
## **Water Acres Down 3 Percent**

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2002, totaled 184,900 acres, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the total acres, 4,590 acres are to be renovated during the period from July 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 151,400 acres, down 3 percent from July 2001. Acres for broodfish were down 3 percent to 4,740 acres, and acres used for fingerling production decreased 4 percent to 25,000 acres. An additional 1,450 acres are under construction and expected to be in use by January 1, 2003. During the January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002 period, 5,370 acres were taken out of production. The total number of operations on July 1, 2002 in the four major states was 880, down 6 percent from the year ago total of 933.

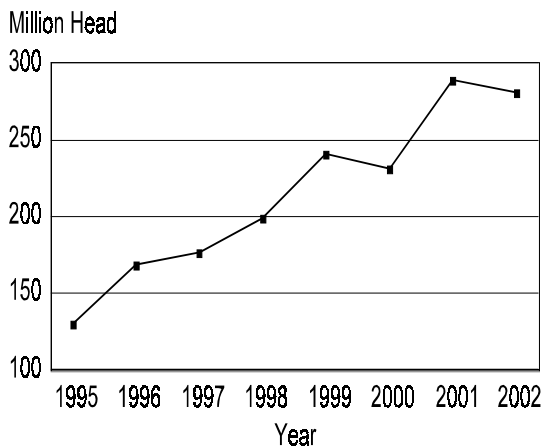
**Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



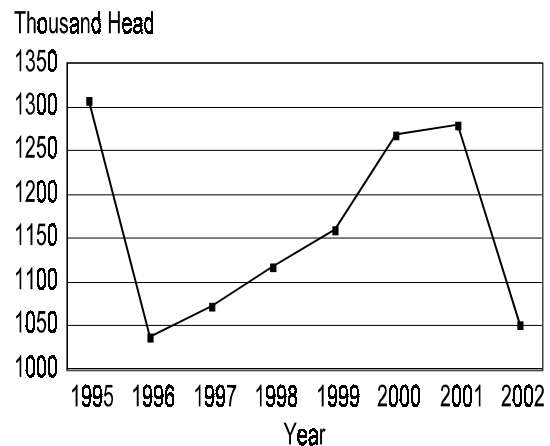
**Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



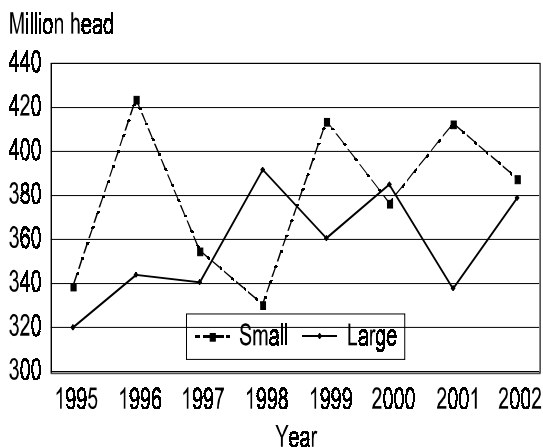
**Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



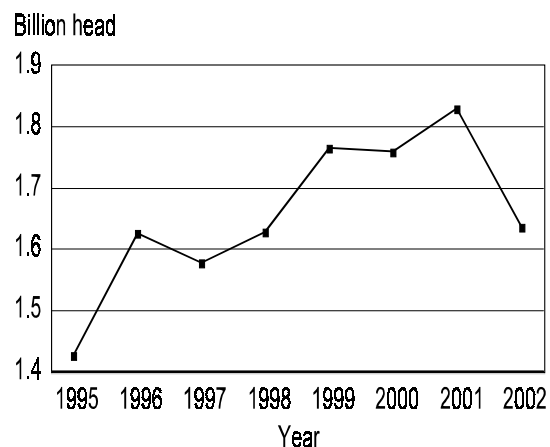
**Catfish: Broodfish Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



**Catfish: Stocker Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



**Catfish: Fingerling & Fry Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



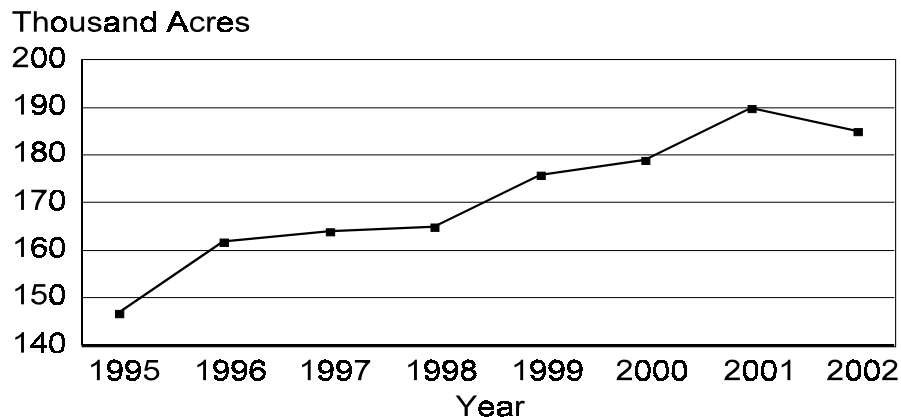
**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for  
Production, 2001-2002, by State and United States**

State	Number of Operations on Jul 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	270	245	26,000	26,100
AR	185	180	37,000	37,500
LA	78	65	13,200	11,300
MS	400	390	113,500	110,000
Four State Total	933	880	189,700	184,900

**Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage,  
by State and United States, 2001-2002**

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During Jul 1-Dec 31 for-					Acres Taken Out of Production During Jan 1-Jun 30
	Foodsize	Fingerlings	Broodfish	Currently Under or Scheduled for -		
				Renovation	New Construction	
2001						
AL	23,200	2,100	600	550	700	280
AR	31,000	5,000	750	700	500	650
LA	11,000	1,700	260	570	210	590
MS	90,500	17,300	3,300	2,600	1,500	2,900
Four State Total	155,700	26,100	4,910	4,420	2,910	4,420
2002						
AL	23,100	1,800	470	320	440	680
AR	31,000	5,000	750	700	150	1,350
LA	9,300	1,600	220	270	60	1,040
MS	88,000	16,600	3,300	3,300	800	2,300
Four State Total	151,400	25,000	4,740	4,590	1,450	5,370

**Water Acres Used for Production  
Four Major Producing States, July 1**



**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, July 1, 2001-2002**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Foodsize						
AL	1,170	3,900	3,900	12,700	3.3	3.3
AR	1,700	3,100	5,600	10,400	3.3	3.4
LA	860	520	2,750	1,890	3.2	3.6
MS	2,440	2,700	8,200	9,200	3.4	3.4
Four State Total	6,170	10,220	20,450	34,190	3.3	3.3
Medium Foodsize						
AL	14,800	23,300	27,400	44,900	1.9	1.9
AR	19,800	24,800	36,500	47,700	1.8	1.9
LA	8,300	4,900	15,700	8,500	1.9	1.7
MS	33,200	41,400	60,400	75,700	1.8	1.8
Four State Total	76,100	94,400	140,000	176,800	1.8	1.9
Small Foodsize						
AL	40,200	45,700	39,700	46,700	1.0	1.0
AR	42,200	41,800	42,200	42,300	1.0	1.0
LA	13,400	8,400	12,900	8,400	1.0	1.0
MS	193,500	185,100	192,600	187,900	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	289,300	281,000	287,400	285,300	1.0	1.0
Broodfish						
AL	160	135	890	960	5.6	7.1
AR	160	140	830	710	5.2	5.1
LA	50	27	292	165	5.8	6.1
MS	910	750	3,900	3,600	4.3	4.8
Four State Total	1,280	1,052	5,912	5,435	4.6	5.2

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, July 1, 2001-2002 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Stockers						
AL	40,900	94,900	17,900	45,000	438	474
AR	48,500	49,600	17,000	18,300	351	369
LA	23,600	16,500	7,760	7,200	329	436
MS	224,600	217,800	91,000	89,300	405	410
Four State Total	337,600	378,800	133,660	159,800	396	422
Small Stockers						
AL	30,700	59,000	3,600	7,700	117	131
AR	71,200	78,800	7,100	7,600	99.7	96.4
LA	11,100	28,500	990	2,400	89.2	84.2
MS	300,200	221,800	28,800	21,700	95.9	97.8
Four State Total	413,200	388,100	40,490	39,400	98.0	102
Fingerlings and Fry						
AL	118,500	121,700	1,860	1,540	15.7	12.7
AR	349,000	297,000	3,700	4,400	10.6	14.8
LA	114,800	94,300	1,420	1,700	12.4	18.0
MS	1,248,000	1,123,000	15,100	17,500	12.1	15.6
Four State Total	1,830,300	1,636,000	22,080	25,140	12.1	15.4

**Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1993-2002**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
1993	40,327	40,277	43,521	39,920	37,030	35,496
1994	36,714	35,035	40,446	34,494	34,163	34,595
1995	38,807	38,515	42,200	36,588	37,030	36,047
1996	38,475	38,004	46,376	38,557	39,517	36,752
1997	42,409	45,067	48,431	45,721	43,409	42,282
1998	46,723	47,606	53,761	49,393	45,218	46,244
1999	48,723	48,891	56,310	46,830	47,703	48,445
2000	50,552	50,942	56,856	48,781	48,424	48,011
2001	46,999	50,257	57,766	52,478	51,736	47,883
2002	52,551	52,856	58,340	50,694	52,902	49,450

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
1993	37,086	37,706	37,072	39,472	36,557	34,549	459,013
1994	35,901	39,813	38,716	39,072	36,054	34,266	439,269
1995	35,800	38,827	37,634	39,456	34,119	31,863	446,886
1996	39,025	40,463	38,807	42,070	37,203	36,874	472,123
1997	43,376	44,154	43,472	46,275	40,137	40,216	524,949
1998	46,383	47,739	46,579	47,904	43,224	43,581	564,355
1999	50,074	50,372	50,414	52,407	48,118	48,341	596,628
2000	49,023	53,204	49,422	51,412	45,535	41,441	593,603
2001	47,829	51,690	49,699	52,264	44,670	43,837	597,108

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,  
United States, by Month, 1993-2002 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
1993	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.72
1994	0.74	0.77	0.79	0.80	0.80	0.80
1995	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
1996	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.79	0.79
1997	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.72
1998	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.78
1999	0.703	0.714	0.732	0.756	0.777	0.775
2000	0.744	0.788	0.789	0.789	0.785	0.786
2001	0.693	0.696	0.697	0.694	0.687	0.669
2002	0.549	0.555	0.565	0.561	0.574	0.588

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>
1993	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.71
1994	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.78
1995	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.79
1996	0.79	0.78	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.73	0.77
1997	0.71	0.70	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.71
1998	0.76	0.74	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.74
1999	0.768	0.743	0.728	0.716	0.713	0.716	0.737
2000	0.760	0.741	0.727	0.710	0.696	0.682	0.751
2001	0.656	0.624	0.610	0.596	0.566	0.554	0.647

<sup>1</sup> Price of fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for services provided by the processing plant, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

## Methodology and Definitions

**Survey Procedures:** All known catfish operators in the four survey states were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and personal interview.

**Estimation Procedures:** Sound statistical methodology was employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data were analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation were compared to their own past operating profile and to trends of similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data.

**Reliability:** Catfish estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and, therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

**Revision policy:** Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data.

### **Definitions Used for Catfish Production:**

**Broodfish** - Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs which go to hatcheries. The most desirable size is 3 to 10 pounds or 4 to 6 years of age.

**Large Foodsize** - Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

**Medium Foodsize** - Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

**Small Foodsize** - Fish weighing over three-fourths pound to one and one-half pounds.

**Large Stockers** - Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

**Small Stockers** - Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish.

**Fingerlings/Fry** - Fish weighing 60 pounds per 1,000 fish and less.

The next "Catfish Production" report will be released early February 2003.

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