



Catfish Production

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Foodfish Inventory Numbers Down 9 Percent From Year Ago Levels

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 317 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2004, down 9 percent from the July 1, 2003 total of 347 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2004, with their respective percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 7.80 million, up 6 percent; medium foodsize, 78.5 million, down 8 percent; and small foodsize, 231 million, down 9 percent.

The four major States also had 913 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2004, up 2 percent from last year's 894 thousand.

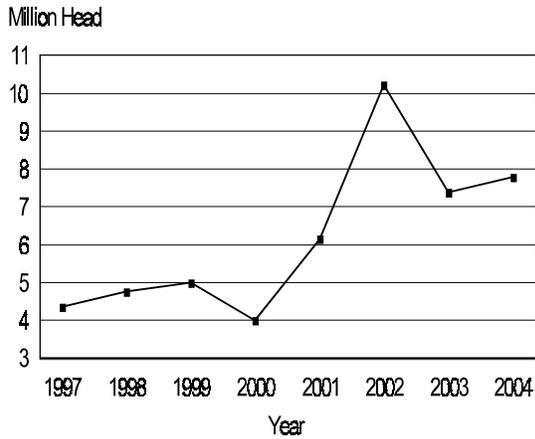
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2004, totaled 300 million fish, down 4 percent from the 314 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 325 million small stockers, down 3 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.30 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2004, down 13 percent from the 1.50 billion on hand July 1, 2003. Live weight, at 16.9 million pounds, was down 24 percent from the 22.3 million pounds a year ago.

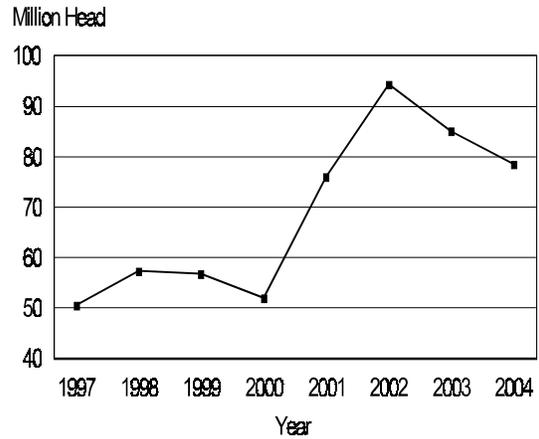
Water Acres Down 3 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2004, totaled 170,100 acres, down 3 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 141,200 acres, down 1 percent from July 2003. Acres for broodfish were down 16 percent to 3,390 acres, and acres used for fingerling production decreased 13 percent to 20,720 acres. Acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004 period totaled 12,740, while 3,940 acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2004 to December 31. The total number of operations on July 1, 2004 in the four major states was 886, up 7 percent from the year ago total of 825.

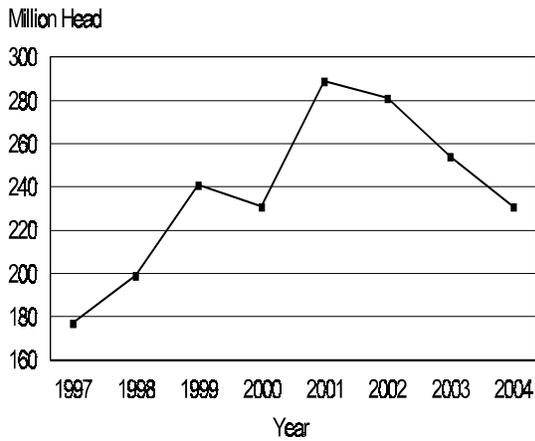
Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



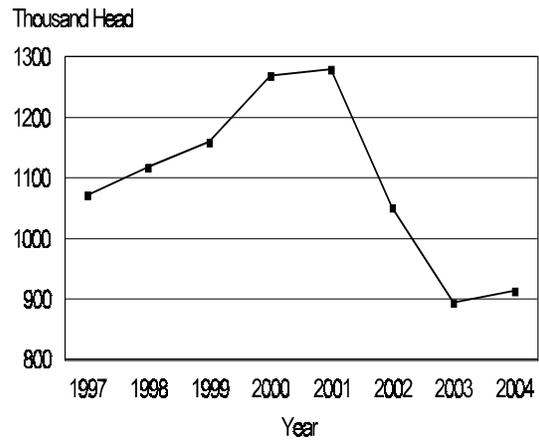
Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



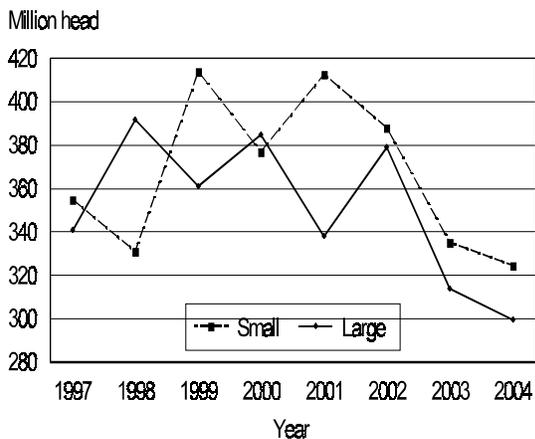
Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



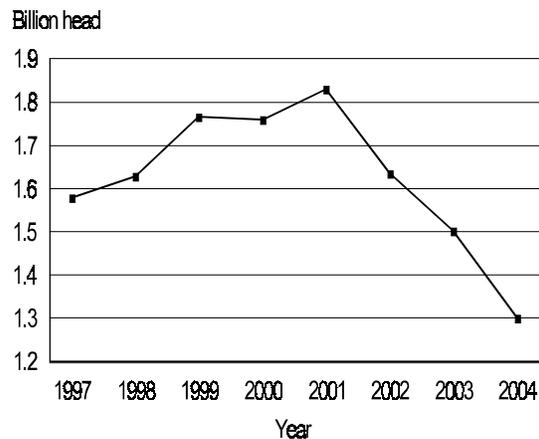
Catfish: Broodfish Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



Catfish: Stocker Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



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



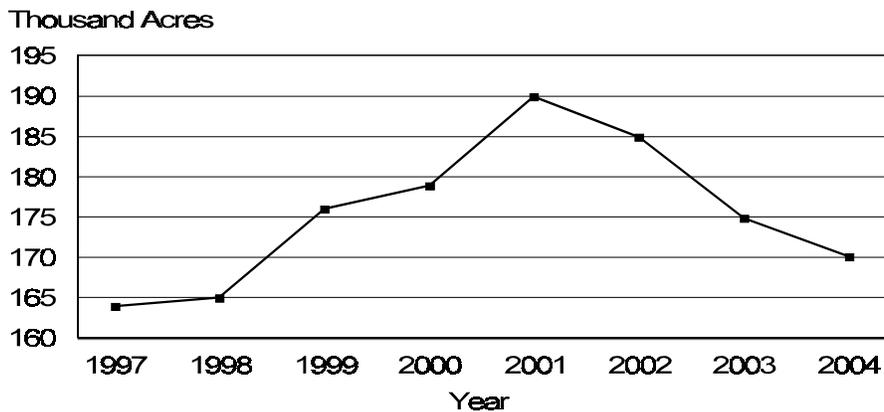
Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for Production, 2003-2004, by State and United States

State	Number of Operations on Jul 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	220	250	26,000	25,700
AR	150	158	33,500	33,000
LA	50	48	9,400	8,400
MS	405	430	106,000	103,000
Four State Total	825	886	174,900	170,100

Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage, by State and United States, 2003-2004

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	
2003						
AL	22,900	1,700	480	590	80	760
AR	28,000	4,300	600	500	*	900
LA	8,100	960	145	600	60	590
MS	84,100	16,900	2,800	2,100	100	2,700
Four State Total	143,100	23,860	4,025	3,790	*	4,950
2004						
AL	23,200	1,400	420	580	100	1,000
AR	28,600	3,500	550	750		4,800
LA	7,400	820	120	210		540
MS	82,000	15,000	2,300	2,400	700	6,400
Four State Total	141,200	20,720	3,390	3,940	800	12,740

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



**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2003-2004**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>---1,000---</i>	<i>---1,000---</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>---Pounds---</i>	<i>---Pounds---</i>
Large Foodsize						
AL	2,500	3,100	8,150	10,400	3.3	3.4
AR	1,130	1,210	3,650	4,100	3.2	3.4
LA	450	690	1,680	2,490	3.7	3.6
MS	3,300	2,800	11,400	9,800	3.5	3.5
Four State Total	7,380	7,800	24,880	26,790	3.4	3.4
Medium Foodsize						
AL	19,200	17,300	34,100	33,100	1.8	1.9
AR	20,300	16,400	38,600	30,500	1.9	1.9
LA	8,900	4,970	15,600	9,800	1.8	2.0
MS	36,800	39,800	68,000	77,000	1.8	1.9
Four State Total	85,200	78,470	156,300	150,400	1.8	1.9
Small Foodsize						
AL	55,100	40,500	54,600	40,600	1.0	1.0
AR	43,800	45,700	39,500	45,600	0.9	1.0
LA	12,000	6,700	10,900	6,600	0.9	1.0
MS	143,400	138,000	143,300	136,000	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	254,300	230,900	248,300	228,800	1.0	1.0
Total Foodsize						
AL	76,800	60,900	96,850	84,100		
AR	65,230	63,310	81,750	80,200		
LA	21,350	12,360	28,180	18,890		
MS	183,500	180,600	222,700	222,800		
Four State Total	346,880	317,170	429,480	405,990		
Broodfish						
AL	65	130	400	730	6.2	5.6
AR	110	110	570	590	5.2	5.4
LA	19	23	100	133	5.3	5.8
MS	700	650	3,200	3,100	4.6	4.8
Four State Total	894	913	4,270	4,553	4.8	5.0

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2003-2004 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	----1,000----	----1,000----	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Stockers						
AL	54,300	69,300	20,000	25,800	368	372
AR	45,600	47,400	16,000	16,800	351	354
LA	6,800	8,970	3,000	2,850	441	318
MS	207,000	174,000	84,600	71,000	409	408
Four State Total	313,700	299,670	123,600	116,450	394	389
Small Stockers						
AL	36,500	43,900	3,600	4,200	98.6	95.7
AR	63,500	55,000	6,000	5,550	94.5	101
LA	10,100	5,750	1,230	630	122	110
MS	225,000	220,000	21,200	21,500	94.2	97.7
Four State Total	335,100	324,650	32,030	31,880	95.6	98.2
Total Stockers						
AL	90,800	113,200	23,600	30,000		
AR	109,100	102,400	22,000	22,350		
LA	16,900	14,720	4,230	3,480		
MS	432,000	394,000	105,800	92,500		
Four State Total	648,800	624,320	155,630	148,330		
Fingerlings and Fry						
AL	92,500	91,000	1,430	1,220	15.5	13.4
AR	220,000	220,000	3,600	3,000	16.4	13.6
LA	85,300	49,000	1,400	570	16.4	11.6
MS	1,104,000	940,000	15,900	12,100	14.4	12.9
Four State Total	1,501,800	1,300,000	22,330	16,890	14.9	13.0

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1995-2004

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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	
2003	55,523	55,461	65,007	57,105	58,424	52,441	
2004	53,849	54,173	60,272	53,896	52,324	50,155	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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
2002	52,363	54,383	53,366	56,576	50,072	47,048	630,601
2003	54,089	54,153	51,885	57,652	51,246	48,518	661,504

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,
United States, by Month, 1995-2004 ¹**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
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	
2003	0.529	0.544	0.585	0.630	0.618	0.586	
2004	0.668	0.703	0.723	0.728	0.720	0.689	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
1995	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.786
1996	0.79	0.78	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.73	0.773
1997	0.71	0.70	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.712
1998	0.76	0.74	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.743
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
2002	0.590	0.582	0.576	0.568	0.560	0.544	0.568
2003	0.564	0.552	0.560	0.567	0.610	0.629	0.581

¹ 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.

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