



Catfish Production

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Foodfish Inventory Numbers Down 8 Percent From Year Ago Levels

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 292 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2005, down 8 percent from the July 1, 2004 total of 317 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2005, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 7.22 million, down 7 percent; medium foodsize, 72.4 million, down 8 percent; and small foodsize, 212 million, down 8 percent.

The four major States also had 1.03 million broodfish on hand on July 1, 2005, up 13 percent from last year's 913 thousand.

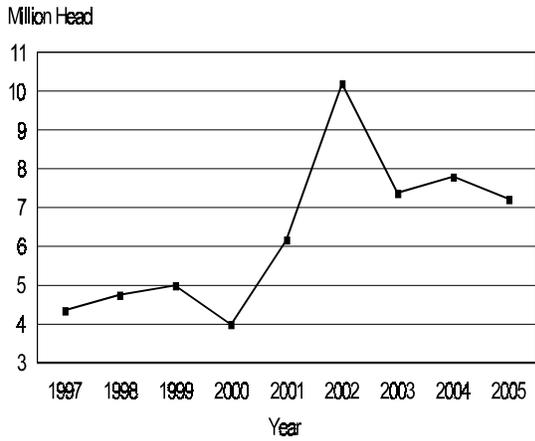
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2005, totaled 275 million fish, down 8 percent from the 300 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 303 million small stockers, down 7 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.45 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2005, up 12 percent from the 1.30 billion on hand July 1, 2004. Live weight, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 8 percent from the 16.9 million pounds a year ago.

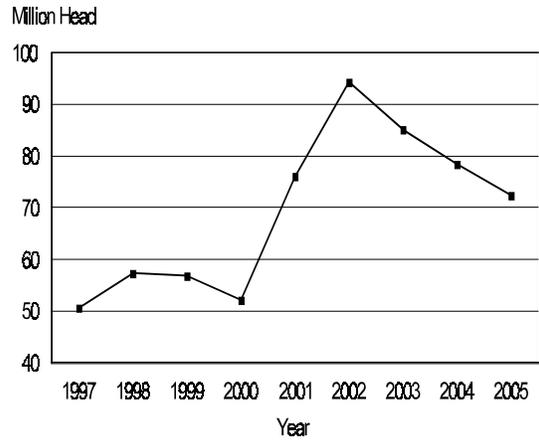
Water Acres Down 7 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2005, totaled 158 thousand acres, down 7 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 128 thousand acres, down 10 percent from July 2004. Acres for broodfish were up 13 percent to 3.83 thousand acres, and acres used for fingerling production increased 10 percent to 22.7 thousand acres. Acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005 period totaled 5.94 thousand, while 5.49 thousand acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2005 to December 31. The total number of operations on July 1, 2005 in the four major states was 766, down 14 percent from the year ago total of 886.

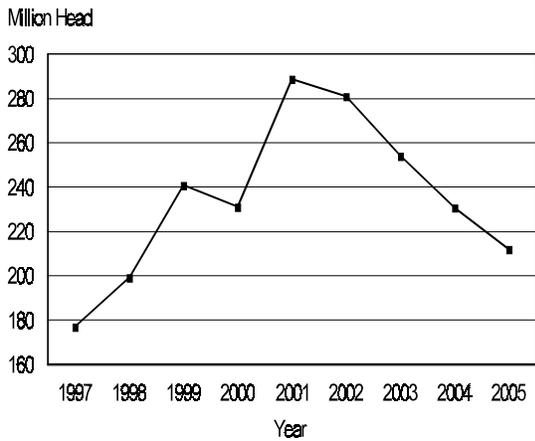
Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



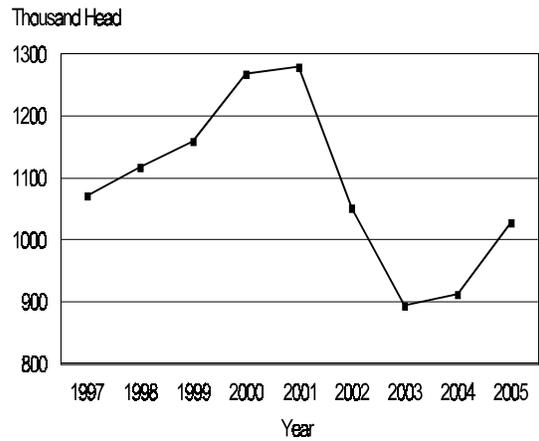
Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



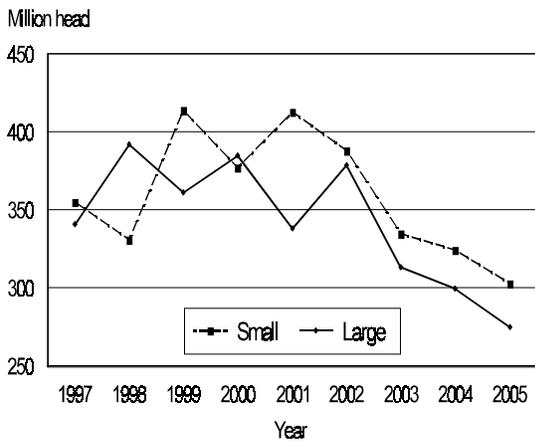
Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



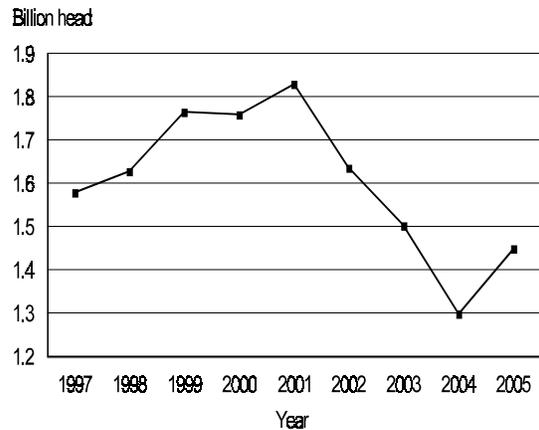
Catfish: Broodfish Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



Catfish: Stocker Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



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



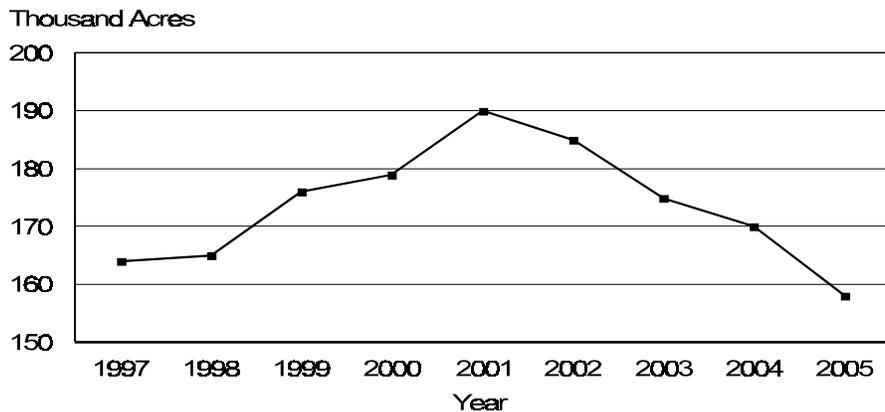
Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for Production, 2004-2005, by State and United States

State	Number of Operations on Jul 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	250	210	25,700	23,700
AR	158	124	33,000	29,000
LA	48	32	8,400	7,400
MS	430	400	103,000	98,000
Four State Total	886	766	170,100	158,100

Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage, by State and United States, 2004-2005

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	
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
2005						
AL	21,600	1,100	330	660	95	450
AR	23,500	4,500	570	560	330	670
LA	6,100	1,100	125	670	*	420
MS	76,300	16,000	2,800	3,600	400	4,400
Four State Total	127,500	22,700	3,825	5,490	*	5,940

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



**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2004-2005**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Foodsize						
AL	3,100	2,300	10,400	8,200	3.4	3.6
AR	1,210	1,360	4,100	5,000	3.4	3.7
LA	690	660	2,490	2,400	3.6	3.6
MS	2,800	2,900	9,800	9,800	3.5	3.4
Four State Total	7,800	7,220	26,790	25,400	3.4	3.5
Medium Foodsize						
AL	17,300	22,000	33,100	42,900	1.9	2.0
AR	16,400	15,600	30,500	29,800	1.9	1.9
LA	4,970	3,800	9,800	7,200	2.0	1.9
MS	39,800	31,000	77,000	57,000	1.9	1.8
Four State Total	78,470	72,400	150,400	136,900	1.9	1.9
Small Foodsize						
AL	40,500	42,500	40,600	42,400	1.0	1.0
AR	45,700	35,400	45,600	35,900	1.0	1.0
LA	6,700	6,100	6,600	5,450	1.0	0.9
MS	138,000	128,000	136,000	126,000	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	230,900	212,000	228,800	209,750	1.0	1.0
Total Foodsize						
AL	60,900	66,800	84,100	93,500		
AR	63,310	52,360	80,200	70,700		
LA	12,360	10,560	18,890	15,050		
MS	180,600	161,900	222,800	192,800		
Four State Total	317,170	291,620	405,990	372,050		
Broodfish						
AL	130	100	730	460	5.6	4.6
AR	110	120	590	580	5.4	4.8
LA	23	29	133	115	5.8	4.0
MS	650	780	3,100	3,700	4.8	4.7
Four State Total	913	1,029	4,553	4,855	5.0	4.7

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2004-2005 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	----1,000----	----1,000----	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Stockers						
AL	69,300	56,800	25,800	19,600	372	345
AR	47,400	32,400	16,800	13,900	354	429
LA	8,970	3,960	2,850	1,480	318	374
MS	174,000	182,000	71,000	77,000	408	423
Four State Total	299,670	275,160	116,450	111,980	389	407
Small Stockers						
AL	43,900	64,500	4,200	7,500	95.7	116
AR	55,000	34,900	5,550	3,540	101	101
LA	5,750	6,820	630	720	110	106
MS	220,000	197,000	21,500	19,000	97.7	96.4
Four State Total	324,650	303,220	31,880	30,760	98.2	101
Total Stockers						
AL	113,200	121,300	30,000	27,100		
AR	102,400	67,300	22,350	17,440		
LA	14,720	10,780	3,480	2,200		
MS	394,000	379,000	92,500	96,000		
Four State Total	624,320	578,380	148,330	142,740		
Fingerlings and Fry						
AL	91,000	48,000	1,220	900	13.4	18.8
AR	220,000	342,000	3,000	3,610	13.6	10.6
LA	49,000	98,000	570	484	11.6	4.9
MS	940,000	962,000	12,100	10,500	12.9	10.9
Four State Total	1,300,000	1,450,000	16,890	15,494	13.0	10.7

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1996-2005

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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	
2005	53,856	51,720	57,117	50,306	51,552	49,626	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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
2004	51,055	53,295	51,329	52,396	49,536	48,170	630,450

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,
United States, by Month, 1996-2005 ¹**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
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	0.70	0.71	0.73	0.76	0.78	0.78	
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	
2005	0.725	0.731	0.733	0.725	0.722	0.721	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
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	0.77	0.74	0.73	0.72	0.71	0.72	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
2004	0.682	0.683	0.683	0.695	0.689	0.690	0.697

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 were contacted during the first half of January 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: Production 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:

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.

Prices paid to producers by processors - Prices paid by processors for fish delivered to the processing plant door. The prices include charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but do not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

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