



Catfish Production

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Water Surface Acres at 63,700 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in the three major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi) during July 1 through December 31, 2014, totaled 63.7 thousand acres. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 49.8 thousand acres. Acres used for fingerling production at 8.53 thousand acres, and acres for broodfish at 1.35 thousand acres. Of the total acres in production, 4.16 thousand were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014, while acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014, period totaled 2.34 thousand acres. After a year absence due to sequestration, the July *Catfish Production* report has been reinstated.

Foodsize Inventory at 119 Million Fish

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 119 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2014. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2014 were: large foodsize, 1.65 million fish; medium foodsize, 21.5 million fish; and small foodsize 96.1 million fish. The three major States also had 440 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2014.

Catfish operations in the three major producing States had 268 million stockers on hand on July 1, 2014. The breakouts of stocker fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2014: large stockers, 152 million fish; and small stockers, 116 million fish. Producers had 511 million fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2014.

Catfish Water Surface Acres Used for Production – Major States: 2014

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31 2014
	(acres)
Alabama	16,300
Arkansas	6,100
Mississippi	41,300
Three State total	63,700

Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2014

State and year	Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for				Acres taken out of production during January 1 - June 30
	Foodsize	Fingerlings	Broodfish	Currently under or scheduled for	
				Renovation	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
2014					
Alabama	15,700	430	75	(D)	770
Arkansas	4,600	1,100	175	(D)	700
Mississippi	29,500	7,000	1,100	3,300	870
Three State total	49,800	8,530	1,350	4,160	2,340

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2014

Size category and State	Number of fish	Live weight	
		Total	Average
	2014	2014	2014
	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large foodsize			
Alabama	800	2,950	3.7
Arkansas	200	745	3.7
Mississippi	650	2,150	3.3
Three State total	1,650	5,845	3.5
Medium foodsize			
Alabama	8,580	16,800	2.0
Arkansas	1,340	2,650	2.0
Mississippi	11,600	21,200	1.8
Three State total	21,520	40,650	1.9
Small foodsize			
Alabama	35,500	35,500	1.0
Arkansas	10,200	10,500	1.0
Mississippi	50,400	49,800	1.0
Three State total	96,100	95,800	1.0
All foodsize			
Alabama	44,880	55,250	(X)
Arkansas	11,740	13,895	(X)
Mississippi	62,650	73,150	(X)
Three State total	119,270	142,295	(X)
Broodfish			
Alabama	20	84	4.2
Arkansas	60	285	4.8
Mississippi	360	1,810	5.0
Three State total	440	2,179	5.0

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Catfish Inventory by Size Category – Major States: July 1, 2014 (continued)

Size category and State	Number of fish	Live weight	
		Total	Average
	2014	2014	2014
	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers			
Alabama	52,300	18,300	350
Arkansas	4,370	1,430	327
Mississippi	95,500	37,900	397
Three State total	152,170	57,630	379
Small stockers			
Alabama	22,900	2,250	98
Arkansas	7,360	696	95
Mississippi	85,700	9,850	115
Three State total	115,960	12,796	110
Total stockers			
Alabama	75,200	20,550	(X)
Arkansas	11,730	2,126	(X)
Mississippi	181,200	47,750	(X)
Three State total	268,130	70,426	(X)
Fingerlings and fry			
Alabama	43,700	1,150	26.3
Arkansas	59,900	655	10.9
Mississippi	407,000	4,350	10.7
Three State total	510,600	6,155	12.1

(X) Not applicable.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: All known catfish producers in the three published states are surveyed to collect production data. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. Operators are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to July 1 and given time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of July.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Missing data for large operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Summary expansions account for the remaining non-response operations. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for 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. Due to sequestration, NASS did not produce July catfish production estimates in 2013.

Reliability: In the three published states, catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates are subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

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.

Fingerlings: Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsize (large): Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

Foodsize (medium): Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

Foodsize (small): Fish weighing over three-fourths of a pound to one and one-half pounds.

Fry: Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 inches in length.

Stockers (large): Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Stockers (small): Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish or over 6 inches in length.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage.....	(202) 720-4751
Heidi Gleich – Census of Aquaculture, Mink, Trout Production	(202) 720-0585
Dawn Keen – Egg Products	(202) 720-4448
Michael Klamm – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Joshua O’Rear – Catfish Production, Honey	(202) 690-3676
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-3244

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