

# Catfish Production



USDA  
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## **Catfish Sales Up 10 Percent**

Catfish growers in the 15 selected States had sales of 469 million dollars during 1998. These sales were up 10 percent from the 1997 total of 427 million dollars. Sales of all foodsize fish totaled 441 million dollars and were up 8 percent from last year's total of 407 million dollars. Sales of fingerlings and fry totaled 20.2 million dollars, compared with 15.4 million dollars in sales during 1997. Sales of stockers totaled 7.22 million dollars, up from the 4.03 million dollars sold in 1997.

Direct sales to processors accounted for 95 percent of the total sales of foodsize fish. Eighty-eight percent of the stocker sales were to other producers.

## **Number of Operations Up 8 Percent**

The total number of operations on January 1, 1999 in the 15 selected States was 1,340 up 8 percent from the January 1, 1998 total of 1,243.

## **Water Acres Up 2 Percent**

The water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 175,220 acres, up 2 percent from the January 1, 1998 total. Of the total acres, 5,047 are to be renovated during the period of January 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999. An additional 4,985 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 1999. During the period of July 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998, 2,620 acres were taken out of production. As of January 1, 1999, 5,745 acres were being used for broodfish production, 142,830 acres were being used for foodsize production and 23,580 acres were being used for fingerling production.

## Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 1.17 million **broodfish** on hand January 1, 1999, down 1 percent from the 1.19 million on hand January 1, 1998.

All **foodsize** fish on hand totaled 248 million on January 1, 1999, up slightly from a year ago. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 7.14 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 61.7 million were medium foodsize (1.50 pounds to 3 pounds per fish), and 179 million were small foodsize fish (0.75 pound to 1.50 pounds per fish).

Total number of **stockers** on hand January 1, 1999, at 660 million, were up 9 percent from the previous year's 608 million stockers. The breakdown for January 1, 1999 included 255 million large stockers ((over 180 lbs. to 750 lbs.) per 1000 fish) and 405 million small stockers ((over 60 lbs. to 180 lbs.) per 1000 fish).

There were 959 million **fingerlings** on hand January 1, 1999, down 2 percent from the 976 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 1998.

**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for Production, 1998-99 and Total Sales, 1997-98, by State**

State	Number of Operations on Jan 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jan 1 - Jun 30		Total Sales	
	1998 <sup>1</sup>	1999	1998 <sup>1</sup>	1999	1997 <sup>1</sup>	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	245	250	21,800	21,300	53,740	61,105
AR	165	140	25,000	25,500	55,510	51,141
CA	64	56	2,300	2,000	8,225	7,570
FL	14	31	150	340	352	674
GA	*	66	*	920	*	810
KS	*	18	*	*	*	208
KY	25	33	250	*	905	1,315
LA	101	100	13,500	13,600	30,783	29,438
MS	331	420	100,000	105,000	265,934	306,764
MO	60	45	1,900	1,650	2,022	1,894
NC	53	45	1,300	1,210	2,194	2,436
OK	25	25	450	370	385	385
SC	20	22	1,100	920	2,833	1,894
TN	21	23	290	300	336	280
TX	57	66	2,000	1,600	2,244	3,288
Oth Sts	62		1,090	510	1,364	
15 State Total	1,243	1,340	171,130	175,220	426,827	469,202

\* Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Catfish: Utilization of Water Surface Acres During Jan 1-Jun 30, 1998  
and Acres Taken Out of Production During Jul 1-Dec 31, 1997, by State**

State	Utilization During January 1-June 30					Take Out of Production During Jul 1-Dec 31
	Currently Under or Will Be		For Broodfish	For Foodsize	For Fingerlings	
	Renovated	New Construction				
AL	330	580	590	18,400	1,900	250
AR	650	500	700	19,700	3,900	900
CA	180	90	90	1,900	270	70
FL	*	*	30	35	70	*
KY	*	*	15	190	*	*
LA	350	100	360	11,700	1,400	230
MS	4,400	390	3,800	80,400	12,400	1,600
MO	140	50	60	880	530	100
NC	5	10	50	1,000	170	40
OK	30	*	50	240	95	*
SC	200	*	60	840	200	*
TN	5	*	25	235	30	*
TX	120	*	180	1,200	430	20
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	150	70	127	570	265	133
15 State Total	6,560	1,790	6,137	137,290	21,660	3,343

\* Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes GA and KS.

**Catfish: Intended Utilization of Water Surface Acres During Jan 1-Jun 30, 1999  
and Acres Taken Out of Production During Jul 1-Dec 31, 1998, by State**

State	Intended Utilization During January 1-June 30					Take Out of Production During Jul 1-Dec 31
	Currently Under or Will Be		For Broodfish	For Foodsize	For Fingerlings	
	Renovated	New Construction				
AL	430	380	560	18,600	1,900	480
AR	600	700	700	20,500	3,900	250
CA	180	160	110	1,640	190	130
FL		90	20	260	60	10
GA	115	*	60	570	160	*
LA	270	230	190	11,500	1,520	350
MS	3,000	3,000	3,600	85,300	14,500	1,120
MO	85	*	60	1,040	430	50
NC	40	25	60	950	200	10
OK	20	10	50	220	90	80
SC	210	*	90	640	160	*
TN	*		30	250	20	*
TX	50	340	130	1,040	390	30
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	47	50	85	320	60	110
15 State Total	5,047	4,985	5,745	142,830	23,580	2,620

\* Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS and KY.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	142	125	750	655
AR	180	157	830	730
CA	25	22	100	110
FL	12	24	42	54
GA	*	5	*	27
KY	*	4	*	12
LA	33	*	173	*
MS	661	656	3,183	3,300
MO	9	5	46	36
NC	54	16	242	100
OK	14	16	67	80
SC	20	31	81	125
TX	15	11	76	50
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	22	98	98	532
Total	1,187	1,170	5,688	5,811

\* Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS and TN.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	1,135	967	3,654	3,160
AR	1,360	1,236	4,390	4,206
CA	100	300	320	1,070
GA	*	25	*	77
KY	12	30	39	107
LA	1,485	1,075	5,230	4,110
MS	2,898	2,950	9,607	10,089
MO	*	85	*	271
NC	55	301	202	998
OK	4	23	14	82
SC	61	46	205	155
TN	32	*	113	*
TX	75	66	291	234
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	78	37	271	120
15 State Total	7,295	7,141	24,336	24,679

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes FL and KS.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	10,655	10,133	20,955	19,551
AR	9,700	10,131	18,400	18,106
CA	1,250	710	2,060	1,420
FL	10	230	24	416
GA	*	125	*	231
KY	38	94	73	167
LA	7,470	6,835	13,500	13,755
MS	31,090	31,850	57,032	59,241
MO	482	495	980	864
NC	417	640	903	1,197
OK	78	53	129	100
SC	571	184	891	333
TN	72	*	115	*
TX	244	188	464	369
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	63	65	128	142
15 State Total	62,140	61,733	115,654	115,892

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Small Foodsize by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	28,732	27,054	29,429	27,147
AR	21,400	20,799	21,800	19,817
CA	1,450	1,020	1,250	980
FL	*	399	*	401
GA	*	420	*	365
KY	*	121	*	120
LA	11,860	11,700	12,315	11,690
MS	111,358	115,151	107,769	114,683
MO	749	633	853	627
NC	1,246	968	1,242	970
OK	91	61	80	57
SC	596	634	526	788
TN	87	*	85	*
TX	464	340	508	387
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	478	49	500	53
15 State Total	178,511	179,349	176,357	178,085

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Large Stockers by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	23,858	28,411	11,484	12,346
AR	36,600	32,766	14,100	12,097
CA	2,220	1,090	660	470
LA	15,170	6,880	6,540	2,985
MS	184,183	182,640	74,380	68,085
MO	1,674	1,200	488	349
NC	1,307	430	572	251
OK	257	317	64	80
SC	442	585	235	233
TX	274	223	120	105
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	1,511	243	738	123
15 State Total	267,496	254,785	109,381	97,124

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes FL, GA, KS, KY and TN.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	20,213	24,274	1,989	2,319
AR	66,000	77,112	5,550	7,438
CA	3,660	1,060	500	130
LA	21,910	28,000	1,830	2,440
MS	222,452	268,323	18,176	26,341
MO	*	1,781	*	182
NC	1,710	1,292	179	124
OK	517	384	43	30
SC	613	530	75	57
TX	628	508	71	49
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	2,679	2,024	289	170
15 State Total	340,382	405,288	28,702	39,280

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes FL, GA, KS, KY and TN.

**Catfish Inventory: Number and Live Weight of Fingerling by State,  
January 1, 1998-99**

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	30,287	41,268	1,282	1,772
AR	175,500	156,213	4,850	5,824
CA	4,530	4,140	200	110
FL	2,235	1,394	18	22
LA	59,360	68,780	1,375	1,705
MS	664,878	654,812	20,209	19,972
MO	10,718	13,245	199	162
NC	5,480	1,862	147	71
OK	3,485	3,456	28	18
SC	2,266	1,780	77	64
TX	6,168	6,154	181	214
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	10,635	5,951	156	89
15 State Total	975,542	959,055	28,722	30,023

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes GA, KS, KY and TN.

**Catfish Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales of Broodfish  
for Breeding by State, 1997-98**

State	Number Sold		Pounds Sold		Value of Sales		Avg Value per Pound	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
AR	20	23	90	105	68	79	0.76	0.75
OK	*	1	*	5	*	5	*	1.00
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	14	12	51	43	58	48	1.14	1.12
Total	34	36	141	153	126	132	.89	.86

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes AL, FL, CA, GA, KS, KY, LA, MO, NC, SC, TN, and TX.

**Catfish Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales of Broodfish  
Previously Used for Breeding by State, 1997-98**

State	Number Sold		Pounds Sold		Value of Sales		Avg Value per Pound	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
AR	25	15	123	76	86	53	0.70	0.70
CA	3	8	12	60	20	100	1.67	1.67
MS	118	223	490	887	339	651	0.69	0.73
MO	*	2	*	17	*	17	*	1.00
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	5	15	22	58	31	48	1.41	0.83
15 State Total	151	263	647	1,098	476	869	0.74	0.79

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes AL, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, NC, OK, SC, TN and TX.

**Catfish Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales of All Foodsize  
by State, 1997-98**

State	Number Sold		Pounds Sold		Value of Sales		Avg Value per Pound	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
AL	34,407	46,850	77,416	88,500	52,643	59,800	0.68	0.68
AR	48,000	38,030	72,000	64,500	50,400	45,800	0.70	0.71
CA	2,668	1,750	4,452	4,090	7,895	7,280	1.77	1.78
GA	*	480	*	732	*	700	*	0.96
KY	346	513	672	1,122	873	1,265	1.30	1.13
LA	30,600	27,710	45,000	40,900	30,150	28,920	0.67	0.71
MS	268,700	286,350	360,000	390,000	255,600	288,600	0.71	0.74
MO	810	1,142	1,504	1,450	1,136	1,100	0.76	0.76
NC	1,594	1,650	2,524	2,700	1,887	2,050	0.75	0.76
OK	137	134	224	203	192	202	0.86	1.00
SC	1,533	1,374	2,646	1,820	2,676	1,786	1.01	0.98
TN	213	134	245	200	294	225	1.20	1.13
TX	2,098	1,222	2,062	1,600	1,947	2,360	0.94	1.48
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	680	436	834	724	1,108	650	1.33	0.90
15 State Total	391,786	407,775	569,579	598,541	406,801	440,738	0.71	0.74

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes FL and KS.

**Catfish Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales of All Stockers  
by State, 1997-98**

State	Number Sold		Pounds Sold		Value of Sales		Avg Value per Pound	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
AR	8,100	6,979	1,600	1,966	1,784	1,962	1.12	1.00
CA	245	140	26	70	58	130	2.23	1.86
MS	6,251	24,162	800	3,288	804	3,280	1.01	1.00
MO	*	3,762	*	708	*	661	*	0.93
NC	85	105	9	32	26	35	2.89	1.09
OK	831	712	89	83	131	105	1.47	1.27
SC	452	152	132	46	73	61	0.55	1.33
TX	519	674	160	390	162	442	1.01	1.13
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	6,967	4,463	762	535	989	547	1.30	1.02
15 State Total	23,450	41,149	3,578	7,118	4,027	7,223	1.13	1.01

\* Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes AL, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, and TN.

**Catfish Sales: Number, Weight, and Value of Sales of Fingerling and Fry  
by State, 1997-98**

State	Number Sold		Pounds Sold		Value of Sales		Avg Value per Pound	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
AL	45,525	16,378	500	547	1,025	1,088	2.05	1.99
AR	107,000	167,019	2,300	2,030	3,172	3,247	1.38	1.60
CA	2,249	470	83	17	245	60	2.95	3.53
FL	7,338	1,140	59	29	351	170	5.95	5.86
GA	*	2,850	*	53	*	100	*	1.89
LA	9,760	14,560	95	92	195	189	2.05	2.05
MS	364,375	683,629	5,909	8,735	9,183	14,233	1.55	1.63
MO	*	1,864	*	65	*	116	*	1.78
NC	3,935	3,940	110	172	281	351	2.55	2.04
OK	900	1,020	27	22	62	73	2.30	3.32
SC	1,368	979	39	26	69	41	1.77	1.58
TX	1,290	3,310	46	176	133	479	2.89	2.72
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	5,421	2,494	179	116	681	93	3.80	0.80
15 State Total	549,161	899,653	9,347	12,080	15,397	20,240	1.65	1.68

\* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS, KY, TN.

**Catfish: Foodsize Percent Sold by Outlet Type by State, 1998**

State	Livehauls	Fee/Rec Fishing	Process	Retail Rest. & Fd Stor	Other Outlets
AL		2	96		2
AR	3		97		
CA	16	17		59	8
FL			96	3	1
GA	2	36	43	*	*
KY	*	72	4	*	20
LA	*	*	94		
MS			99		1
MO	71	14	4	1	10
NC			92	6	2
OK	19	6	32	2	41
SC	7		86		7
TN	4	14	33	9	40
TX	13	43	21	1	22
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	52	1		3	44
15 State Avg.	1.3	1.1	94.8	1.2	1.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes KS.

**Catfish: Stockers Percent Sold by Outlet Type by State, 1998**

State	Livehauls	Fee/Rec Fishing	Other Producers	Government	Other Outlets
AR	2		97		1
CA	1	3	65	31	
FL	18				82
MS			100		
MO	29	9	60	2	
NC		2	98		
OK	39	3	52		6
SC	100				
TX	2	10	17	1	70
Oth Sts <sup>1</sup>	1	6	90	1	2
15 State Avg.	4.9	2.1	87.5	0.8	4.7

<sup>1</sup> Includes AL, GA, KS, KY, LA, and TN.

**Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, Monthly,  
1984-98**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
1984	13,265	14,585	14,658	13,349	12,856	11,130	
1985	13,429	17,166	18,290	16,474	17,432	15,897	
1986	19,761	19,083	18,664	16,354	16,013	15,951	
1987	20,988	22,163	27,583	26,781	21,623	19,581	
1988	26,018	27,786	28,179	20,805	20,351	22,839	
1989	26,948	28,559	29,458	27,310	28,892	27,598	
1990	33,066	31,884	33,120	30,980	31,542	28,967	
1991	32,206	33,036	35,951	31,205	31,322	31,588	
1992	36,200	39,228	45,048	41,177	39,111	36,813	
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	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
1984	12,181	13,379	12,520	12,588	12,527	11,217	154,255
1985	14,311	17,130	16,638	16,861	14,625	13,363	191,616
1986	17,036	18,663	18,859	20,453	17,107	15,812	213,756
1987	21,638	24,403	26,577	27,920	20,684	20,555	280,496
1988	23,687	26,941	24,611	26,221	25,037	22,634	295,109
1989	27,827	28,371	30,366	31,670	29,096	25,805	341,900
1990	29,540	31,108	27,566	29,211	27,913	25,538	360,435
1991	32,720	32,912	33,244	35,400	31,114	30,172	390,870
1992	36,128	37,958	37,857	39,212	35,073	33,562	457,367
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

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors, United States, Monthly,  
1984-98 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>						
1984	61	66	72	74	73	74	
1985	67	69	73	78	77	77	
1986	70	70	72	74	72	68	
1987	60	57	59	65	69	64	
1988	68	72	75	75	75	78	
1989	78	78	77	76	76	75	
1990	72	74	78	78	78	78	
1991	69	69	69	69	66	65	
1992	53	56	60	63	63	61	
1993	63	67	70	71	72	72	
1994	74	77	79	80	80	80	
1995	78	79	79	79	79	79	
1996	77	78	78	78	79	79	
1997	73	73	73	73	73	72	
1998	69	73	78	79	79	78	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>						
1984	74	72	69	67	65	65	69.3
1985	76	72	71	70	70	70	72.5
1986	66	63	63	62	61	61	66.8
1987	61	60	60	61	62	64	61.7
1988	80	80	79	79	78	78	76.4
1989	71	68	65	64	64	68	71.5
1990	76	76	76	76	75	72	75.8
1991	63	60	59	58	57	53	63.1
1992	59	58	59	61	62	63	59.8
1993	72	73	73	73	73	73	70.9
1994	80	80	80	77	77	77	78.4
1995	79	79	78	78	78	78	78.6
1996	79	78	77	76	75	73	77.3
1997	71	70	69	69	69	69	71.2
1998	76	74	73	71	70	70	74.3

<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.

**Farm-raised Catfish: Imports of Catfish, United States, Monthly,  
1984-98 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
1984	401	479	661	861	436	656	
1985	589	425	976	602	214	928	
1986	383	947	610	954	646	787	
1987	583	1,241	256	1,012	688	301	
1988	451	508	577	217	1,015	26	
1989	588	117	795	417	952	584	
1990	115	553	322	48	618	342	
1991	355	344	93	641	184	484	
1992	237	201	243	233	392	100	
1993	118	183	127	328	204	253	
1994	535	102	163	57	459	362	
1995	61	49	172	181	384	203	
1996	256	304	401	60	373	197	
1997	64	44	44	15		71	
1998	91	9	99	82	208	193	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
1984	384	515	54	599	696	422	6,164
1985	871	423	832	96	603	501	7,060
1986	543	669	486	800	1,142	199	8,166
1987	624	570	622	642	76	464	7,079
1988	724	414	669	674	388	182	5,845
1989	689	422	756	414	66	1,024	6,824
1990	406	362	619	33	381	226	4,025
1991	723	621	80	974	93	594	5,186
1992	344	169	307	187	23	491	2,927
1993	277	444	426	596	781	373	4,110
1994	261	342	322	200	491	192	3,486
1995	294	245	402	219	35	181	2,426
1996	219	164	195	188	103	22	2,482
1997	134	235	32	163	121	19	942
1998 <sup>2</sup>	195	132	21	92	174		

<sup>1</sup> Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

<sup>2</sup> Data not available for December or Total.

## Catfish Production Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** About 1,450 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and personal interview, with over 90 percent providing a usable report. An attempt was made to contact all known catfish producers during this time. States used every available source of producer names to make their list as complete as possible. Great care was exercised to ensure that all operations were accounted for in the estimates.

**Estimation 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. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data.

**Reliability:** Catfish 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 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 at 3 p.m. ET on April 29, 1999.

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