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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

# Catfish Production

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## Foodfish Inventory Numbers Down Slightly From Year Ago Levels

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 291 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2006, down slightly from the July 1, 2005 total of 292 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2006, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 7.13 million, down 1 percent; medium foodsize, 73.7 million, up 2 percent; and small foodsize, 210 million, down 1 percent.

The four major States also had 930 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2006, down 10 percent from last year's 1.03 million.

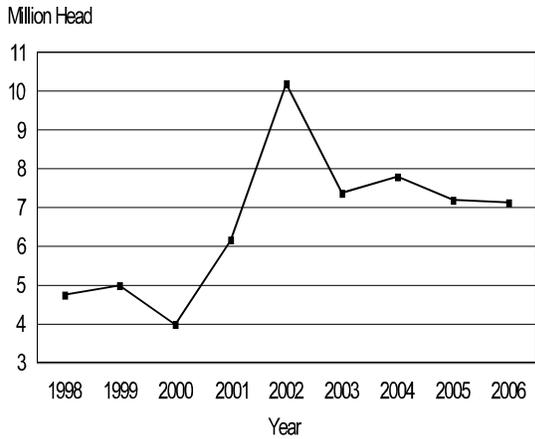
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2006, totaled 301 million fish, up 9 percent from the 275 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 336 million small stockers, up 11 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.46 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2006, up slightly from the 1.45 billion on hand July 1, 2005. Live weight, at 23.2 million pounds, was up 50 percent from the 15.5 million pounds a year ago.

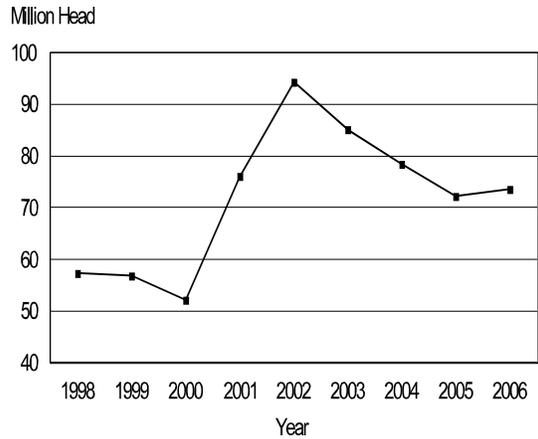
## Water Acres Down 1 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2006, totaled 156 thousand acres, down 1 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 124 thousand acres, down 2 percent from July 2005. Acres for broodfish increased 1 percent to 3.86 thousand acres, and acres used for fingerling production increased 3 percent to 23.4 thousand acres. Acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 period totaled 4.48 thousand, while 5.72 thousand acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The total number of operations on July 1, 2006 in the four major states was 753, down 2 percent from the year ago total of 766.

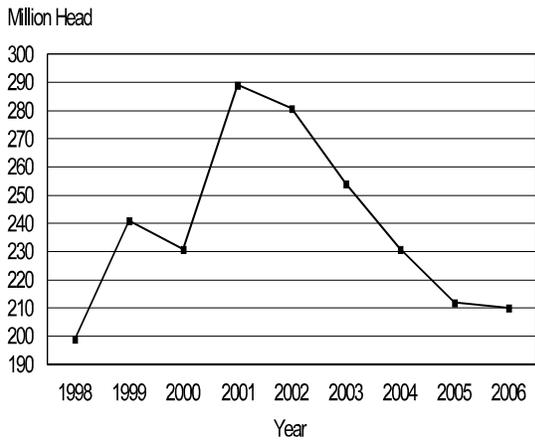
**Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



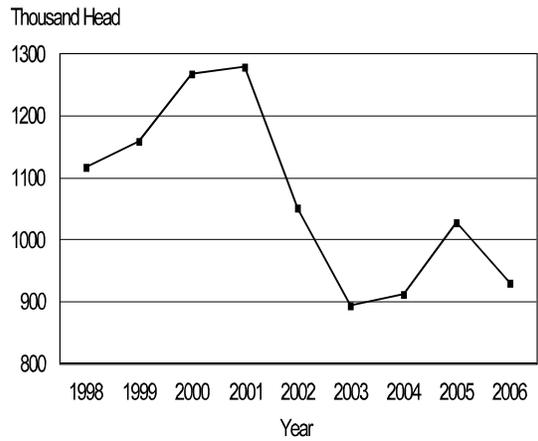
**Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



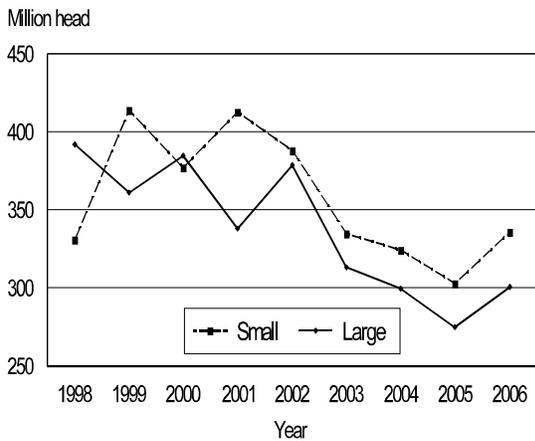
**Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



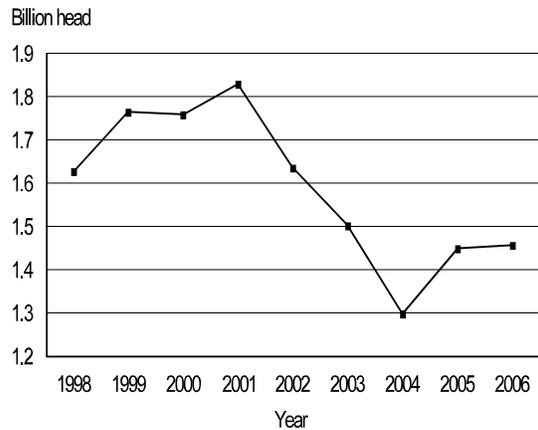
**Catfish: Broodfish Inventory**  
Four Major Producing States, July 1



**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, 2005-2006, by State and United States**

State	Number of Operations on Jul 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31	
	2005	2006	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	210	217	23,700	24,300
AR	124	132	29,000	30,000
LA	32	24	6,900	5,700
MS	400	380	98,000	96,000
Four State Total	766	753	157,600	156,000

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

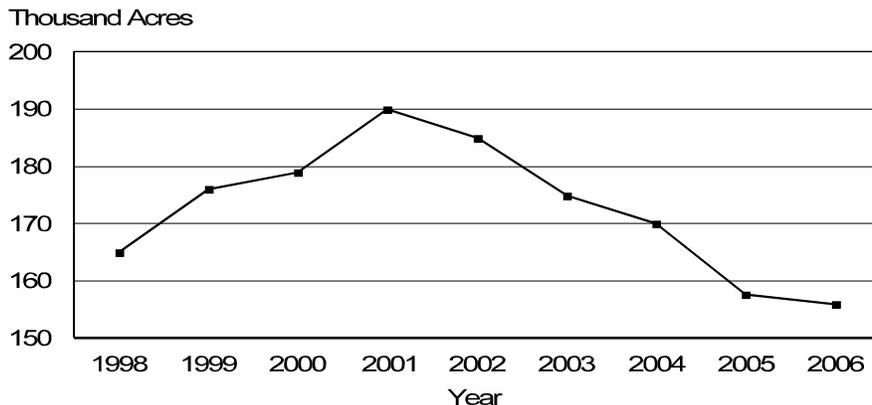
**Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage, by State and United States, 2005-2006**

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	
2005 <sup>1</sup>						
AL	21,600	1,100	330	660	95	450
AR	23,500	4,500	570	560	330	670
LA	5,600	1,100	125	670	*	420
MS	76,300	16,000	2,800	3,600	400	4,400
Four State Total	127,000	22,700	3,825	5,490	*	5,940
2006						
AL	21,800	1,200	400	950	330	410
AR	24,500	4,100	560	630	*	940
LA	4,900	600	100	140		730
MS	73,000	17,500	2,800	4,000	200	2,400
Four State Total	124,200	23,400	3,860	5,720	*	4,480

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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



**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, July 1, 2005-2006**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006	2005	2006
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
<b>Large Foodsize</b>						
AL	2,300	3,400	8,200	11,700	3.6	3.4
AR	1,350	1,230	5,000	4,500	3.7	3.7
LA	660	195	2,400	670	3.6	3.4
MS	2,900	2,300	9,800	8,000	3.4	3.5
Four State Total	7,210	7,125	25,400	24,870	3.5	3.5
<b>Medium Foodsize</b>						
AL	22,000	18,100	42,900	34,100	2.0	1.9
AR	15,500	13,200	29,700	25,600	1.9	1.9
LA	3,800	1,860	7,200	3,250	1.9	1.7
MS	31,000	40,500	57,000	73,500	1.8	1.8
Four State Total	72,300	73,660	136,800	136,450	1.9	1.9
<b>Small Foodsize</b>						
AL	42,500	47,200	42,400	44,900	1.0	1.0
AR	35,400	34,900	35,900	34,800	1.0	1.0
LA	6,100	3,950	5,450	3,450	0.9	0.9
MS	128,000	124,000	126,000	125,000	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	212,000	210,050	209,750	208,150	1.0	1.0
<b>Total Foodsize</b>						
AL	66,800	68,700	93,500	90,700		
AR	52,250	49,330	70,600	64,900		
LA	10,560	6,005	15,050	7,370		
MS	161,900	166,800	192,800	206,500		
Four State Total	291,510	290,835	371,950	369,470		
<b>Broodfish</b>						
AL	100	80	460	360	4.6	4.5
AR	120	130	580	590	4.8	4.5
LA	29	20	115	100	4.0	5.0
MS	780	700	3,700	3,300	4.7	4.7
Four State Total	1,029	930	4,855	4,350	4.7	4.7

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, July 1, 2005-2006 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2005	2006	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2006
	----1,000----	----1,000----	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Stockers						
AL	56,800	72,100	19,600	26,900	345	373
AR	32,400	37,500	13,900	12,000	429	320
LA	3,960	2,290	1,480	1,140	374	498
MS	182,000	189,000	77,000	76,600	423	405
Four State Total	275,160	300,890	111,980	116,640	407	388
Small Stockers						
AL	64,500	67,700	7,500	7,000	116	103
AR	34,900	60,700	3,540	5,830	101	96.0
LA	6,820	3,420	720	315	106	92.1
MS	197,000	204,000	19,000	19,700	96.4	96.6
Four State Total	303,220	335,820	30,760	32,845	101	97.8
Total Stockers						
AL	121,300	139,800	27,100	33,900		
AR	67,300	98,200	17,440	17,830		
LA	10,780	5,710	2,200	1,455		
MS	379,000	393,000	96,000	96,300		
Four State Total	578,380	636,710	142,740	149,485		
Fingerlings and Fry						
AL	48,000	74,000	900	1,100	18.8	14.9
AR	342,000	299,000	3,600	5,000	10.5	16.7
LA	98,000	34,100	484	277	4.9	8.1
MS	962,000	1,050,000	10,500	16,800	10.9	16.0
Four State Total	1,450,000	1,457,100	15,484	23,177	10.7	15.9

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1997-2006**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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	
2006	49,666	49,145	56,315	43,185	42,865	41,214	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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
2005	47,241	50,686	47,151	49,034	46,674	45,707	600,670

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,  
United States, by Month, 1997-2006 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
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	
2005	0.725	0.731	0.733	0.725	0.722	0.721	
2006	0.726	0.729	0.745	0.785	0.796	0.807	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
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
2004	0.682	0.683	0.683	0.695	0.689	0.690	0.697
2005	0.723	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.724	0.726	0.725

<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 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:** 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.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Darin Jantzi, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-3570
David Colwell - Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
Fleming Gibson - Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Catfish Processing, Mink	(202) 690-3237
John Lange - Turkeys Raised, Turkey Hatchery, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-0585
Sharyn Lavender - Layers, Eggs	(202) 720-3244
Jody Roberts - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey	(202) 690-8632

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