

Catfish Production

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Foodfish Inventory Numbers Down 10 Percent From Year Ago Levels

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 347 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2003, down 10 percent from the July 1, 2002 total of 386 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2003, with their respective percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 7.38 million, down 28 percent; medium foodsize, 85.2 million, down 10 percent; and small foodsize, 254 million, down 10 percent.

The four major States also had 894 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2003, down 15 percent from last year's 1.05 million.

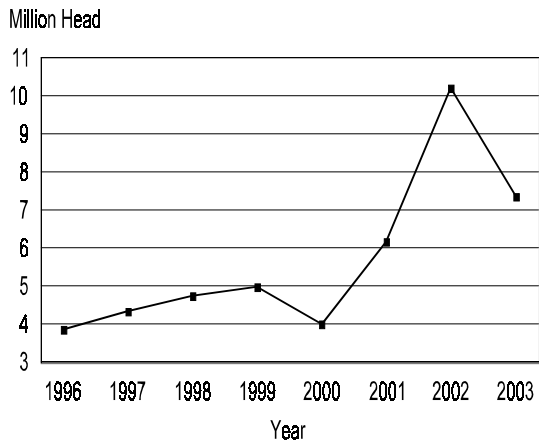
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2003, totaled 314 million fish, down 17 percent from the 379 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 335 million small stockers, down 14 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.50 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2003, down 8 percent from the 1.64 billion on hand July 1, 2002. Live weight, at 22.3 million pounds, was down 11 percent from the 25.1 million pounds a year ago.

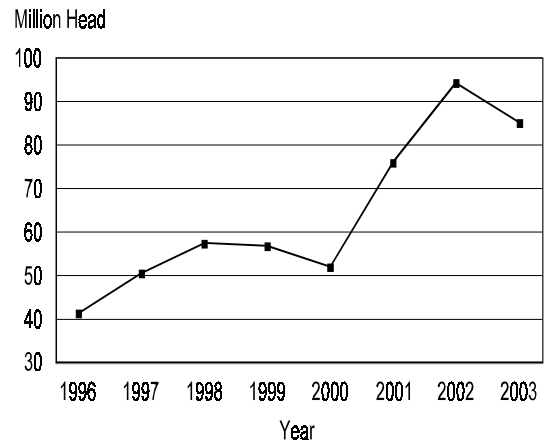
Water Acres Down 5 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2003, totaled 174,900 acres, down 5 percent from a year ago. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 143,100 acres, down 5 percent from July 2002. Acres for broodfish were down 15 percent to 4,025 acres, and acres used for fingerling production decreased 5 percent to 23,860 acres. Acres taken out of production during the January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003 period totaled 4,950, while 3,790 acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1, 2003 to December 31. The total number of operations on July 1, 2003 in the four major states was 825, down 6 percent from the year ago total of 880.

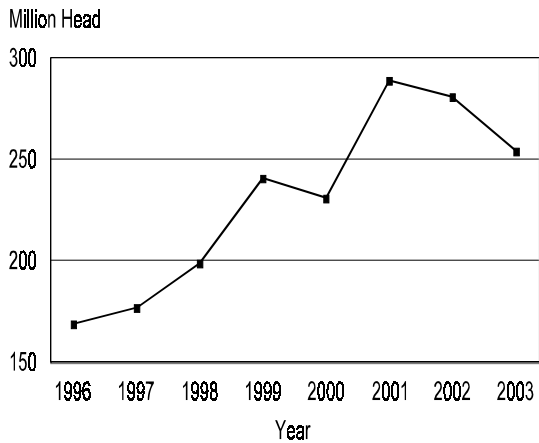
Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



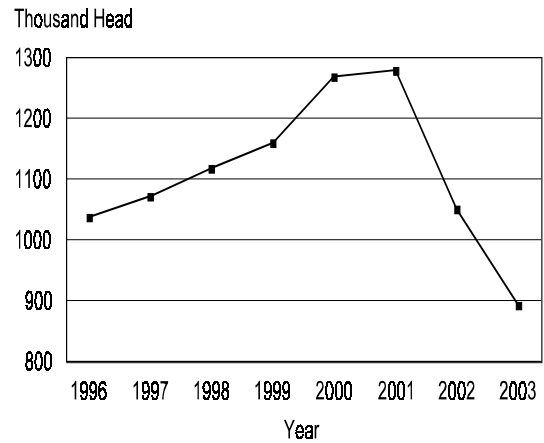
Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



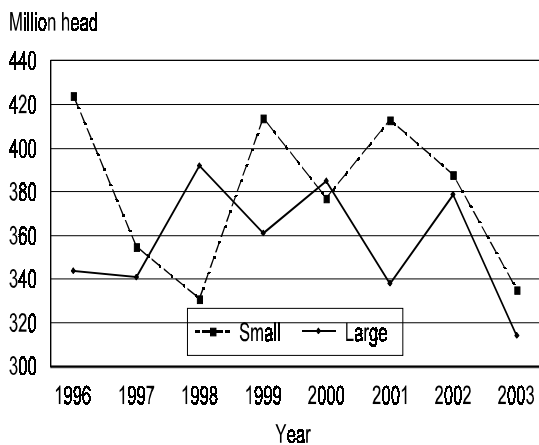
Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



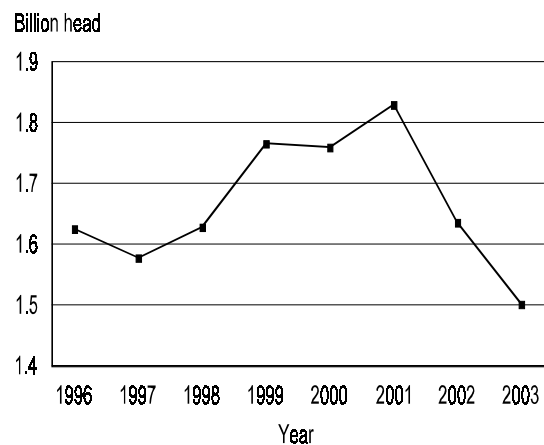
Catfish: Broodfish Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



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, 2002-2003, by State and United States**

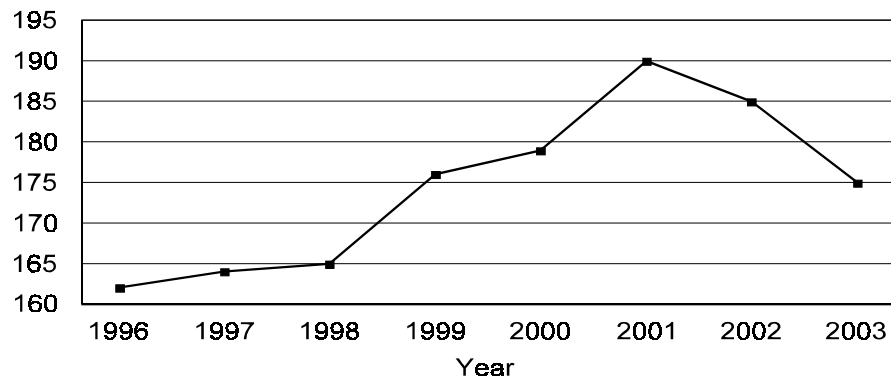
| State | Number of Operations on Jul 1 | | Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31 | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <i>Number</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> |
| AL | 245 | 220 | 26,100 | 26,000 |
| AR | 180 | 150 | 37,500 | 33,500 |
| LA | 65 | 50 | 11,300 | 9,400 |
| MS | 390 | 405 | 110,000 | 106,000 |
| Four State Total | 880 | 825 | 184,900 | 174,900 |

**Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage,
by State and United States, 2002-2003**

| 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 | |
| 2002 | | | | | | |
| AL | 23,100 | 1,800 | 470 | 320 | 440 | 680 |
| AR | 31,000 | 5,000 | 750 | 700 | 150 | 1,350 |
| LA | 9,300 | 1,600 | 220 | 270 | 60 | 1,040 |
| MS | 88,000 | 16,600 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 800 | 2,300 |
| Four State Total | 151,400 | 25,000 | 4,740 | 4,590 | 1,450 | 5,370 |
| 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 |

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

Thousand Acres



**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2002-2003**

| Size Category and State | Number of Fish | | Live Weight | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | | Total | | Average per Fish | |
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | ----1,000---- | ----1,000---- | 1,000 Pounds | 1,000 Pounds | ----Pounds---- | ----Pounds---- |
| Large Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 3,900 | 2,500 | 12,700 | 8,150 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| AR | 3,100 | 1,130 | 10,400 | 3,650 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| LA | 520 | 450 | 1,890 | 1,680 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| MS | 2,700 | 3,300 | 9,200 | 11,400 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Four State Total | 10,220 | 7,380 | 34,190 | 24,880 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Medium Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 23,300 | 19,200 | 44,900 | 34,100 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| AR | 24,800 | 20,300 | 47,700 | 38,600 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| LA | 4,900 | 8,900 | 8,500 | 15,600 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| MS | 41,400 | 36,800 | 75,700 | 68,000 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Four State Total | 94,400 | 85,200 | 176,800 | 156,300 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Small Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 45,700 | 55,100 | 46,700 | 54,600 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| AR | 41,800 | 43,800 | 42,300 | 39,500 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| LA | 8,400 | 12,000 | 8,400 | 10,900 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| MS | 185,100 | 143,400 | 187,900 | 143,300 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Four State Total | 281,000 | 254,300 | 285,300 | 248,300 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Total Foodsize | | | | | | |
| AL | 72,900 | 76,800 | 104,300 | 96,850 | | |
| AR | 69,700 | 65,230 | 100,400 | 81,750 | | |
| LA | 13,820 | 21,350 | 18,790 | 28,180 | | |
| MS | 229,200 | 183,500 | 272,800 | 222,700 | | |
| Four State Total | 385,620 | 346,880 | 496,290 | 429,480 | | |
| Broodfish | | | | | | |
| AL | 135 | 65 | 960 | 400 | 7.1 | 6.2 |
| AR | 140 | 110 | 710 | 570 | 5.1 | 5.2 |
| LA | 27 | 19 | 165 | 100 | 6.1 | 5.3 |
| MS | 750 | 700 | 3,600 | 3,200 | 4.8 | 4.6 |
| Four State Total | 1,052 | 894 | 5,435 | 4,270 | 5.2 | 4.8 |

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 2002-2003 (continued)**

| Size Category and State | Number of Fish | | Live Weight | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | | Total | | Average per 1,000 Fish | |
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | ----1,000---- | ----1,000---- | 1,000 Pounds | 1,000 Pounds | ----Pounds---- | ----Pounds---- |
| Large Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 94,900 | 54,300 | 45,000 | 20,000 | 474 | 368 |
| AR | 49,600 | 45,600 | 18,300 | 16,000 | 369 | 351 |
| LA | 16,500 | 6,800 | 7,200 | 3,000 | 436 | 441 |
| MS | 217,800 | 207,000 | 89,300 | 84,600 | 410 | 409 |
| Four State Total | 378,800 | 313,700 | 159,800 | 123,600 | 422 | 394 |
| Small Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 59,000 | 36,500 | 7,700 | 3,600 | 131 | 98.6 |
| AR | 78,800 | 63,500 | 7,600 | 6,000 | 96.4 | 94.5 |
| LA | 28,500 | 10,100 | 2,400 | 1,230 | 84.2 | 122 |
| MS | 221,800 | 225,000 | 21,700 | 21,200 | 97.8 | 94.2 |
| Four State Total | 388,100 | 335,100 | 39,400 | 32,030 | 102 | 95.6 |
| Total Stockers | | | | | | |
| AL | 153,900 | 90,800 | 52,700 | 23,600 | | |
| AR | 128,400 | 109,100 | 25,900 | 22,000 | | |
| LA | 45,000 | 16,900 | 9,600 | 4,230 | | |
| MS | 439,600 | 432,000 | 111,000 | 105,800 | | |
| Four State Total | 766,900 | 648,800 | 199,200 | 155,630 | | |
| Fingerlings and Fry | | | | | | |
| AL | 121,700 | 92,500 | 1,540 | 1,430 | 12.7 | 15.5 |
| AR | 297,000 | 220,000 | 4,400 | 3,600 | 14.8 | 16.4 |
| LA | 94,300 | 85,300 | 1,700 | 1,400 | 18.0 | 16.4 |
| MS | 1,123,000 | 1,104,000 | 17,500 | 15,900 | 15.6 | 14.4 |
| Four State Total | 1,636,000 | 1,501,800 | 25,140 | 22,330 | 15.4 | 14.9 |

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1994-2003

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
| | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> | <i>1,000 Pounds</i> |
| 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 |
| 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 |

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,
United States, by Month, 1994-2003 ¹**

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | |
| 1994 | 0.74 | 0.77 | 0.79 | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.80 | |
| 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 | 0.70 | 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 | |
| | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
| | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> | <i>Dollars per Pound</i> |
| 1994 | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.78 |
| 1995 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.79 |
| 1996 | 0.79 | 0.78 | 0.77 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.73 | 0.77 |
| 1997 | 0.71 | 0.70 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.71 |
| 1998 | 0.76 | 0.74 | 0.73 | 0.71 | 0.70 | 0.70 | 0.74 |
| 1999 | 0.77 | 0.74 | 0.73 | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.72 | 0.74 |
| 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 |

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.

The next "*Catfish Production*" report will be released early February 2004.

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