



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.

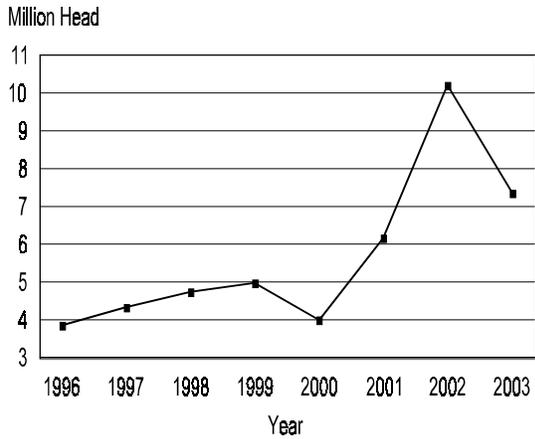
The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2003, totaled 314 million fish, down 17 percent from the 379 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 335 million small stockers, down 14 percent from last year.

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.

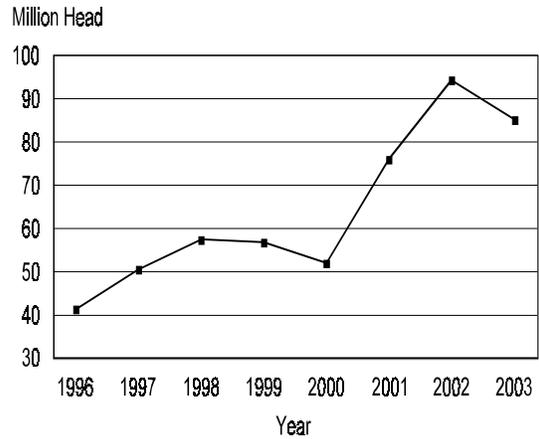
Water Acres Down 5 Percent

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.

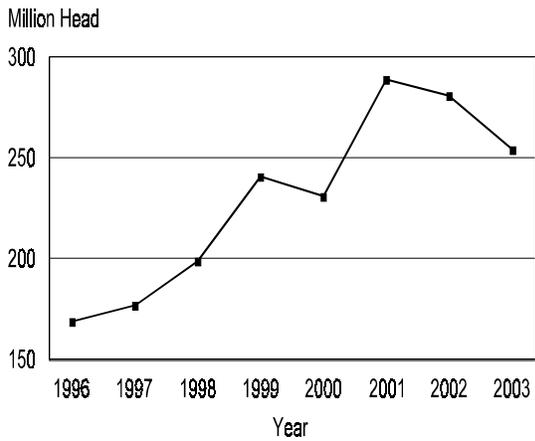
Catfish: Large Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



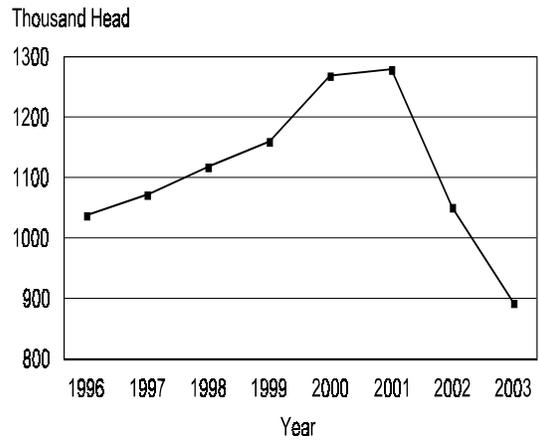
Catfish: Medium Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



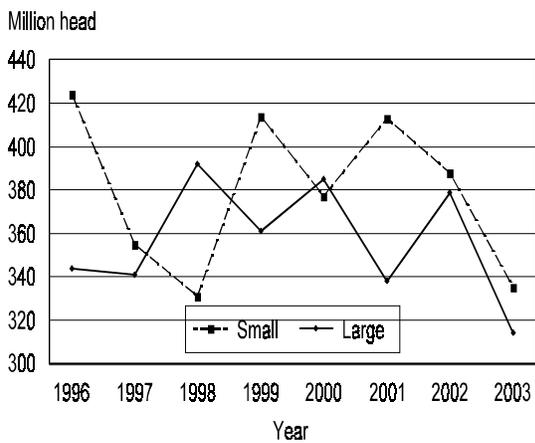
Catfish: Small Food Size Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



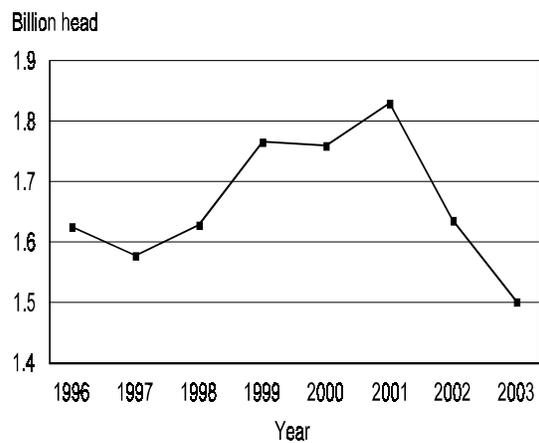
Catfish: Broodfish Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



Catfish: Stocker Inventory
Four Major Producing States, July 1



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



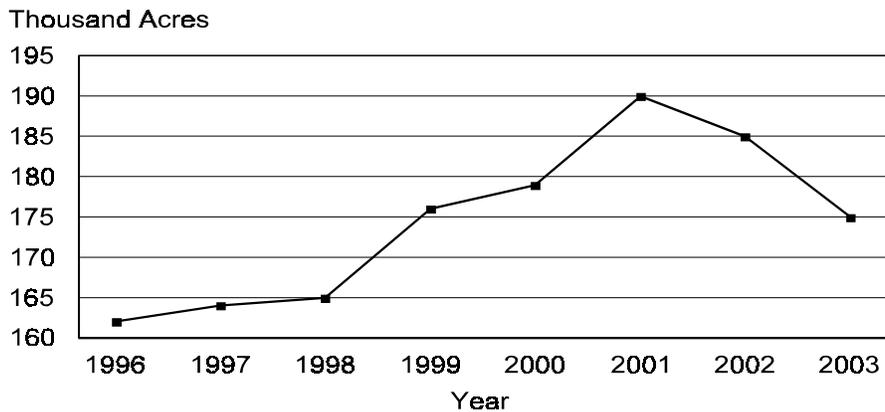
Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for Production, 2002-2003, by State and United States

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**



**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----	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	----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>						
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>						
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>						
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>						
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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