

# Catfish Production

Released January 30, 2008, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Production* call Toby Paterson at (202) 720-3570, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## *Update Alert*

**Stocker and fingerling and fry sales, on pages 10 and 11 were corrected for “Other States” and the U.S. for 2006 and 2007; these changes affect the U.S. and “Other States” total sales on page 1. Average prices, weights, and percents were corrected throughout the report. For a list of specific changes, please contact Toby Paterson at (202) 720-0585**

## **Catfish Value of Sales Down 8 Percent from 2006**

Catfish growers in the U.S. had sales of 445 million dollars during 2007, down 8 percent from 484 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana) accounted for 94 percent of the U.S. total sales. The U.S. sales total of all foodsize fish decreased by 10 percent from 2006 to 409 million dollars in 2007. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 20.1 million dollars, a decrease of 6 percent from 2006. Sales of stockers totaled 15.2 million dollars in 2007, compared to 6.92 million dollars in 2006.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.4 percent of total foodsize fish sales compared with 95.7 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 95.5 percent of stocker sales compared with 85.0 percent in 2006.

## **Water Acres Down 6 Percent from January 1, 2007**

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2008 totaled 155 thousand acres, down 6 percent from the 164 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 3.61 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2008. An additional 500 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2008. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2007, the area taken out of production totaled 8.16 thousand acres. As of January 1, 2008, foodfish were produced on 125 thousand acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 21.2 thousand, and 3.51 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

## **Inventory Numbers**

Catfish producers had 760 thousand **broodfish** on hand January 1, 2008, down 16 percent from January 1, 2007. **Large foodsize** fish on hand totaled 7.75 million on January 1, 2008, a decrease of 8 percent from a year ago. The number of **medium foodsize** fish decreased 8 percent to 90.4 million, while **small foodsize** fish numbers decreased 5 percent to 196 million. **Large stockers** on hand January 1, 2008, at 271 million fish, were down 3 percent from the previous year. **Small stocker** numbers increased 2 percent to 299 million. There were 894 million **fingerlings** on hand January 1, 2008, down 7 percent from January 1, 2007.

## *Special Note*

Beginning with this report *Catfish Production* tables have been expanded to include a U.S. rather than an 11 State total. This includes an “Other States” category to represent those States not listed individually in the tables. Previous year data has been revised to allow consistency and comparability of the data.



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**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres Used for  
Production, 2007-2008, and Total Sales, 2006-2007, by State and United States**

State	Number of Operations on Jan 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jan 1 - Jun 30		Total Sales	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	199	185	23,700	22,000	98,969	94,492
AR	137	128	30,400	29,900	79,586	71,544
CA	37	38	1,500	1,500	7,318	8,335
LA	20	17	6,300	5,500	12,625	9,918
MS	370	350	94,000	87,300	262,510	240,666
NC	44	38	2,000	2,000	7,213	6,680
TX	57	61	1,700	2,900	5,910	9,209
Oth Sts <sup>2 3</sup>	376	247	4,076	3,532	9,874	3,991
US	1,240	1,064	163,676	154,632	484,005	444,835

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

<sup>3</sup> Sales by category for "Other States" may not add to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Catfish: Water Surface Acre Usage  
by State and United States, 2007-2008**

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During Jan 1-Jun 30					Acres Taken Out of Production During Jul 1-Dec 31 Prev. Year
	Foodsize	Fingerlings	Broodfish	Currently Under or Scheduled for:		
				Renovation	New Construction	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
2007 <sup>1</sup>						
AL	21,800	1,300	400	860	110	690
AR	25,500	4,200	560	530	*	950
CA	1,180	180	90	90		*
LA	5,300	820	120	570	*	160
MS	73,500	15,800	2,400	2,900	500	2,100
NC	1,800	90	40	*	30	30
TX	1,500	*	110	100	100	65
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	2,891	859	183	153	135	240
US	133,471	23,249	3,903	5,203	875	4,235
2008						
AL	20,900	700	300	145	115	465
AR	24,000	4,400	500	790	*	1,790
CA	1,170	260	80	*	*	110
LA	4,800	630	*	430		115
MS	67,700	14,000	2,300	1,800	110	5,300
NC	1,650	290	50	10	10	50
TX	2,700	130	50	200	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	2,446	823	229	234	265	334
US	125,366	21,233	3,509	3,609	500	8,164

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, January 1, 2007-2008**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Large Foodsize						
AL	2,300	2,000	7,600	6,560	3.3	3.3
AR	1,600	2,000	5,410	7,000	3.4	3.5
CA	420	70	1,400	220	3.3	3.1
LA	310	370	1,020	1,210	3.3	3.3
MS	3,000	2,800	9,900	9,000	3.3	3.2
NC	220	300	720	1,000	3.3	3.3
TX	350	60	1,120	210	3.2	3.5
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	200	154	696	534	3.5	3.5
US	8,400	7,754	27,866	25,734	3.3	3.3
Medium Foodsize						
AL	17,300	17,300	32,700	34,000	1.9	2.0
AR	14,400	13,500	28,800	28,000	2.0	2.1
CA	570	520	1,160	890	2.0	1.7
LA	5,960	3,330	10,100	6,550	1.7	2.0
MS	52,200	49,000	93,500	88,500	1.8	1.8
NC	2,600	2,400	5,000	4,400	1.9	1.8
TX	3,130	2,520	6,150	5,100	2.0	2.0
Ots Sts <sup>2</sup>	2,247	1,815	4,293	3,438	1.9	1.9
US	98,407	90,385	181,703	170,878	1.8	1.9

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, January 1, 2007-2008 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Small Foodsize						
AL	41,200	36,300	39,800	34,800	1.0	1.0
AR	37,300	30,900	35,400	30,200	0.9	1.0
CA	720	1,740	760	1,520	1.1	0.9
LA	4,210	3,530	4,850	3,650	1.2	1.0
MS	116,000	110,000	115,000	112,000	1.0	1.0
NC	2,200	2,800	2,400	2,700	1.1	1.0
TX	1,920	7,620	1,720	7,530	0.9	1.0
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	2,709	2,819	2,742	2,793	1.0	1.0
US	206,259	195,709	202,672	195,193	1.0	1.0
Total Foodsize						
AL	60,800	55,600	80,100	75,360		
AR	53,300	46,400	69,610	65,200		
CA	1,710	2,330	3,320	2,630		
LA	10,480	7,230	15,970	11,410		
MS	171,200	161,800	218,400	209,500		
NC	5,020	5,500	8,120	8,100		
TX	5,400	10,200	8,990	12,840		
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	5,156	4,788	7,731	6,765		
US	313,066	293,848	412,241	391,805		

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, January 1, 2007-2008 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Large Stockers						
AL	42,400	48,400	19,000	19,500	448	403
AR	31,200	33,400	10,800	13,200	346	395
CA	1,150	340	630	130	548	382
LA	3,180	3,500	1,020	1,110	321	317
MS	198,000	179,000	78,500	72,700	396	406
NC	1,100	1,700	670	1,100	609	647
TX	360	*	140	*	389	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	3,464	4,736	1,300	1,661	375	351
US	280,854	271,076	112,060	109,401	399	404
Small Stockers						
AL	51,800	51,000	5,900	6,000	113.9	117.6
AR	44,600	56,700	4,200	6,100	94.2	107.6
CA	1,640	*	185	*	112.8	*
LA	5,300	6,550	422	710	79.6	108.4
MS	183,000	175,000	18,500	17,500	101.1	100.0
NC	2,400	1,500	340	220	141.7	146.7
TX	1,260	*	131	*	104.0	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	4,773	8,621	480	899	100.6	104.3
US	294,773	299,371	30,158	31,429	102.3	105.0

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, January 1, 2007-2008 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Total Stockers						
AL	94,200	99,400	24,900	25,500		
AR	75,800	90,100	15,000	19,300		
CA	2,790	*	815	*		
LA	8,480	10,050	1,442	1,820		
MS	381,000	354,000	97,000	90,200		
NC	3,500	3,200	1,010	1,320		
TX	1,620	600	271	155		
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	8,237	13,097	1,780	2,535		
US	575,627	570,447	142,218	140,830		
Fingerlings						
AL	59,500	63,300	2,300	2,750	38.7	43.4
AR	156,000	125,000	5,200	4,900	33.3	39.2
CA	8,130	3,340	255	120	31.4	35.9
LA	7,550	20,500	197	638	26.1	31.1
MS	714,000	641,000	21,400	19,200	30.0	30.0
NC	3,300	6,400	110	260	33.3	40.6
TX	*	4,380	*	230	*	52.5
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	16,334	30,085	448	810	27.4	26.9
US	964,814	894,005	29,910	28,908	31.0	32.3

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State  
and United States, January 1, 2007-2008 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Broodfish						
AL	70	80	320	330	4.6	4.1
AR	120	100	612	490	5.1	4.9
CA	9	12	50	70	5.6	5.8
LA	24	*	107	*	4.5	*
MS	600	500	3,300	2,500	5.5	5.0
NC	10	10	70	50	7.0	5.0
TX	30	10	158	60	5.3	6.0
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	39	48	196	195	5.0	4.1
US	902	760	4,813	3,695	5.3	4.9

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Foodsize Sales by State and United States, 2006-2007**

Year and State	Number of Fish	Live Weight		Average Price per Pound	Total Sales
		Average per Fish	Total		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
2006 <sup>1</sup>					
AL	71,000	1.8	131,000	0.75	98,250
AR	56,500	1.8	99,200	0.76	75,392
CA	1,680	1.8	3,050	2.34	7,137
LA	10,800	1.5	15,700	0.80	12,560
MS	215,000	1.5	313,000	0.77	241,010
NC	4,600	1.9	8,600	0.81	6,966
TX	4,450	1.6	7,250	0.80	5,800
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	6,842	1.4	9,281	0.86	7,980
US	370,872	1.6	587,081	0.78	455,095
2007					
AL	85,900	1.4	124,000	0.75	93,000
AR	57,600	1.6	90,400	0.75	67,800
CA	2,300	1.5	3,380	2.41	8,146
LA	10,500	1.3	13,400	0.73	9,782
MS	180,000	1.6	290,000	0.73	211,700
NC	3,800	2.0	7,700	0.80	6,160
TX	7,490	1.6	11,900	0.74	8,806
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	5,061	1.5	7,617	0.44	3,356
US	352,651	1.6	548,397	0.75	408,750

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Broodfish Sales by State and United States, 2006-2007**

Year and State	Number of Fish	Live Weight		Average Price per Pound	Total Sales
		Average per Fish	Total		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
2006 <sup>1</sup>					
AL	5	4.0	20	1.15	23
AR	*	*	*	*	*
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	*	*	*	*
MS	120	5.0	600	0.76	456
NC	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	51	3.4	175	1.13	198
US	176	4.5	795	0.85	677
2007					
AL	5	4.0	20	2.20	44
AR	20	5.0	100	1.10	110
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	*	*	*	*
MS	190	3.7	700	0.74	518
NC	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	37	3.4	125	0.78	98
US	252	3.8	945	0.81	770

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Stocker Sales by State and United States, 2006-2007**

Year and State	Number of Fish	Live Weight		Average Price per Pound	Total Sales
		Average per 1,000 Fish	Total		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
2006 <sup>1</sup>					
AL	840	95	80	1.20	96
AR	*	*	*	*	*
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA					
MS	41,000	85	3,500	1.28	4,480
NC	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	10,561	189	1,993	1.18	2,342
US	52,401	106	5,573	1.24	6,918
2007					
AL	760	132	100	2.10	210
AR	12,000	103	1,240	1.15	1,426
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA					
MS	36,000	222	8,000	1.66	13,280
NC	*	*	*	*	*
TX	*	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	1,570	350	550	0.54	296
US	50,330	197	9,890	1.54	15,212

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Fingerling and Fry Sales by State and United States, 2006-2007**

Year and State	Number of Fish	Live Weight		Average Price per Pound	Total Sales
		Average per 1,000 Fish	Total		
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
2006 <sup>1</sup>					
AL	16,000	31.3	500	1.20	600
AR	127,000	10.6	1,350	2.10	2,835
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	*	*	*	*
MS	412,000	24.5	10,100	1.64	16,564
NC	2,800	41.1	115	2.14	246
TX	240	33.3	8	3.41	27
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	14,394	34.5	497	2.10	1,043
US	572,434	22.0	12,570	1.70	21,315
2007					
AL	13,000	42.3	550	2.25	1,238
AR	89,300	13.7	1,220	1.81	2,208
CA	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	*	*	*	*
MS	351,000	22.5	7,900	1.92	15,168
NC	4,900	57.1	280	1.80	504
TX	1,790	55.9	100	3.22	322
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	28,796	26.5	764	0.87	663
US	488,786	22.1	10,814	1.86	20,103

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish: Foodsize and Stockers Percent Sold by Point of First Sale,  
by State and United States, 2006-2007**

Size Category and State	Processor		Fee-Fishing and Recreational Use		Live Haulers		Retail		Other	
	2006	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Foodsize										
AL	97	95	1	1	1	1	*		1	3
AR	97	98	*	*	3	2	*	*	*	1
CA	*		*	15	18	17	62	58	13	10
LA	87	97	3	*					10	
MS	99	98	*		*		*		1	2
NC	95	93	*	*	*	*	*	*	3	5
TX	78	86	1	4	20	8			1	2
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	42	40	19	23	32	30	3	3	4	4
US	95.7	94.4	0.3	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.3	2.3
	Other Producers		Fee-Fishing and Recreational Use		Live Haulers		Government		Other	
	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007	2006 <sup>1</sup>	2007
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Stockers										
AL	98	50	*	4	*	1				45
AR	81	80			*	*	*	*		
CA	*	*	*	*	*	*				*
LA										
MS	100	100	*							
NC	*	*	*	*						
TX		87		*	*	*			*	
Oth Sts <sup>2</sup>	42	42	19	21	32	30	3	3	4	4
US	85.0	95.5	1.5	1.0	11.7	1.3	0.3	1.2	1.5	1.0

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or data are less than 0.5 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

## Reliability of Catfish Production Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All known catfish producers are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to January 1 and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of January. Care is exercised to ensure all operations are accounted for.

**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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. 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.

**Reliability:** 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.

**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 of a 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 or over 6 inches in length.

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

**Fry** - Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 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.

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

Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey .....(202) 720-3244

Kim Linonis - Layers, Eggs .....(202) 690-8632

Toby Paterson - Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture,  
Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....(202) 720-0585

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