
Released July 30, 1999, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Catfish Production" call John Lange at (202) 720-0585, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Foodsize Inventory Numbers Up 16 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 302 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 1999, up 16 percent from the July 1, 1998, total of 262 million. Live weight totaled 355 million pounds for all foodsize fish, 14 percent above July 1 a year ago. The breakout of foodsize fish inventory numbers, on July 1, 1999, with percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 4.99 million, up 5 percent; medium foodsize, 56.8 million, down 1 percent; and small foodsize, 241 million, up 21 percent.

The four major States also had 1.16 million broodfish on hand on July 1, 1999, up 4 percent from last year's 1.12 million. Live weight totaled 5.71 million pounds for broodfish, up 3 percent from July 1, 1998.

The number of stockers on hand on July 1, 1999, totaled 776 million fish, up 24 percent from the 623 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers on hand, 361 million were large stockers, up 24 percent from the previous year. The remaining 414 million were small stockers, up 25 percent. Live weight totaled 185 million pounds for all stockers, 17 percent above July 1 last year.

Producers had 1.77 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 1999, up 8 percent from the 1.63 billion fingerlings and fry on hand July 1, 1998. Live weight, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 16 percent from the 20.8 million pounds a year ago.

Water Acres Up 5 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 1999, totaled 172,200 acres, up 5 percent from a year ago total of 164,600 acres. Of the total acres, 4,660 acres are to be renovated during the period from July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999. Acres used for broodfish amounted to 5,350; foodsize 138,700; and fingerlings 24,600. An additional 3,040 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by January 1, 2000. During the January 1, 1999 through June 30, 1999 period, 2,580 acres were taken out of production. The total number of operations on July 1, 1999, in the four major states was 895, up 7 percent from the year ago total of 838.

Note: The next release of *Catfish Production* is tentatively scheduled for February 3, 2000, pending input received from the June 8, 1999, Federal Register notice soliciting comments regarding the NASS Aquaculture program. The *Catfish Production* release scheduled for October 28, 1999, is tentatively canceled.

**Catfish: Number of Operations by State July 1 and
Water Surface Area by State Jul 1 - Dec 31**

State	Number of Operations		Total Water Surface Area	
	1998 1	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	225	255	21,400	22,000
AR	155	145	27,000	28,000
LA	98	105	13,200	14,200
MS	360	390	103,000	108,000
Total	838	895	164,600	172,200

**Catfish: Water Surface Area Being Renovated, Under Construction, Used
for Broodfish, Foodsize, and Fingerling Production by State,
Jul 1-Dec 31, 1998, Taken Out of Production by State, Jan 1-Jun 30, 1998**

State	July 1-December 31					Jan 1-Jun 30
	Being Renovated	Under Construction	Used For Broodfish	Used For Foodsize	Used For Fingerlings	Taken Out of Production
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	510	350	560	18,300	1,900	290
AR	950	500	680	22,800	4,000	350
LA	160	80	290	11,500	1,300	800
MS	2,000	2,000	4,000	84,000	14,000	2,000
Total	3,620	2,930	5,530	136,600	21,200	3,440

**Catfish: Water Surface Area Being Renovated, Under Construction, Used
for Broodfish, Foodsize, and Fingerling Production by State,
Jul 1-Dec 31, 1999, Taken Out of Production by State, Jan 1-Jun 30, 1999**

State	July 1-December 31					Jan 1-Jun 30
	Being Renovated	Under Construction	Used For Broodfish	Used For Foodsize	Used For Fingerlings	Taken Out of Production
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	460	320	580	19,100	2,000	350
AR	800	550	800	21,500	6,000	400
LA	400	70	170	12,100	1,600	630
MS	3,000	2,100	3,800	86,000	15,000	1,200
Total	4,660	3,040	5,350	138,700	24,600	2,580

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

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	110	125	566	670
AR	141	145	615	760
LA	31	55	185	280
MS	836	835	4,172	4,000
Total	1,118	1,160	5,538	5,710

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Foodsize Fish
by Size, State, and Total, July 1, 1998-99**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
Large ¹				
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	886	1,180	2,988	3,840
AR	970	1,110	3,310	3,825
LA	550	490	1,860	1,580
MS	2,348	2,210	7,616	7,310
Total	4,754	4,990	15,774	16,555
Medium ²				
AL	9,403	13,200	18,714	25,200
AR	9,525	11,800	18,020	21,500
LA	4,095	7,360	8,070	14,800
MS	34,377	24,400	59,789	43,200
Total	57,400	56,760	104,593	104,700
Small ³				
AL	26,720	35,400	25,655	36,200
AR	31,400	32,850	30,600	32,800
LA	11,330	17,800	11,050	16,750
MS	130,042	154,500	123,410	147,500
Total	199,492	240,550	190,715	233,250
Total				
AL	37,009	49,780	47,357	65,240
AR	41,895	45,760	51,930	58,125
LA	15,975	25,650	20,980	33,130
MS	166,767	181,110	190,815	198,010
Total	261,646	302,300	311,082	354,505

¹ Over three lbs.

² Over one and one-half lbs. to three lbs.

³ Over three-fourths lb. to one and one-half lbs.

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Stockers
by Size, State, and Total, July 1, 1998-99**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>			
	Large ¹			
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	27,245	33,700	11,943	14,800
AR	38,300	32,400	16,000	13,800
LA	16,230	26,300	6,280	10,750
MS	210,035	268,900	92,187	104,300
Total	291,810	361,300	126,410	143,650
	Small ²			
AL	23,488	22,900	2,503	2,520
AR	76,750	84,200	6,600	8,920
LA	23,135	23,300	2,265	2,550
MS	207,913	284,000	20,021	27,600
Total	331,286	414,400	31,389	41,590
	Total			
AL	50,733	56,600	14,446	17,320
AR	115,050	116,600	22,600	22,720
LA	39,365	49,600	8,545	13,300
MS	417,948	552,900	112,208	131,900
Total	623,096	775,700	157,799	185,240

¹ Over 180 lbs./1,000 to 750 lbs/1,000.

² Over 60 lbs./1,000 to 180 lbs/1,000.

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerlings and Fry
by State, July 1, 1998-99 ¹**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>			
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	78,158	95,200	1,118	1,220
AR	258,500	325,000	3,560	4,800
LA	99,160	72,500	830	1,165
MS	1,193,366	1,273,000	15,251	16,800
Total	1,629,184	1,765,700	20,759	23,985

¹ 60 lbs/1,000 or less.

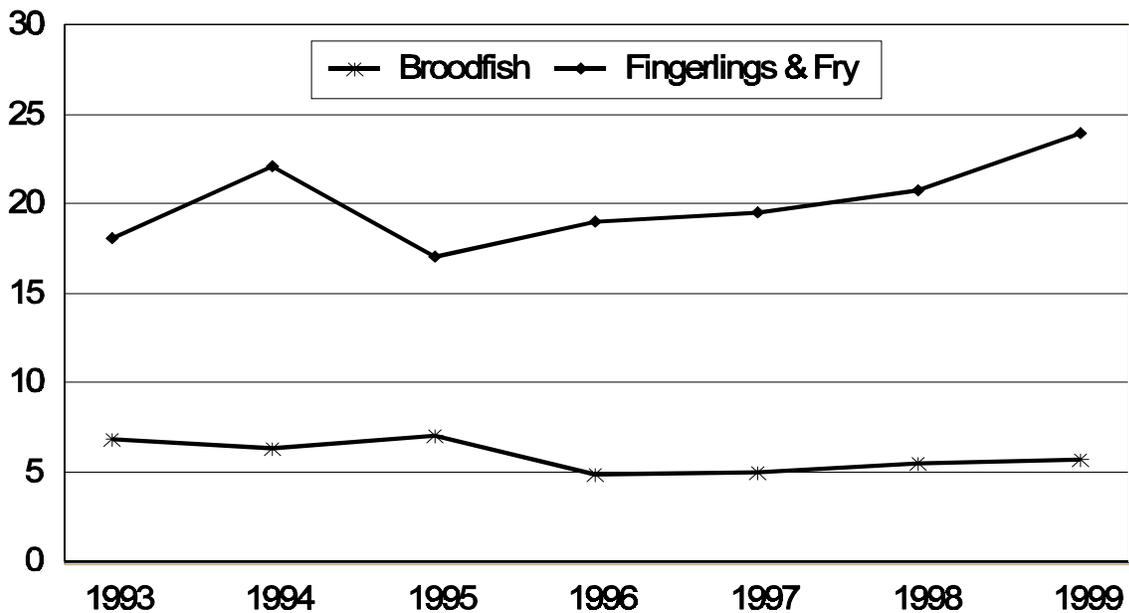
Catfish: Stockers and Food Size Inventory, Four Major Producing States, July 1

Million Pounds



Catfish: Broodfish and Fingerlings/Fry Inventory, Four Major Producing States, July 1

Million Pounds



**Catfish: Round Weight Processed by Month,
United States, 1992-99**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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	
1999	48,723	48,891	56,310	46,830	47,703	48,445	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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 Month,
United States, 1992-99 ¹**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
1992	0.53	0.56	0.60	0.63	0.63	0.61	
1993	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.72	
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	0.703	0.714	0.732	0.756	0.777	0.775	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
1992	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.63	0.598
1993	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.709
1994	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.784
1995	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.786
1996	0.79	0.78	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.73	0.773
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

¹ Price of fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

Catfish Production Estimates

Survey Procedures: About 1,003 operators were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and personal interview, with 89 percent responding. 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.

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 is tentatively scheduled to be released at 3 p.m. ET on February 3, 2000.

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