

Catfish Production

Released July 31, 2000, 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 Down 5 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 288 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2000, down 5 percent from the July 1, 1999 total of 302 million. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2000, with their respective percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 4.00 million, down 20 percent; medium foodsize, 52.1 million, down 8 percent; and small foodsize, 231 million, down 4 percent.

The four major States also had 1.27 million broodfish on hand on July 1, 2000, up 9 percent from last year's 1.16 million. Live weight totaled 5.97 million pounds for broodfish, up 5 percent from July 1, 1999.

The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2000, totaled 385 million fish, up 7 percent from the 361 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 377 million small stockers, down 9 percent from last year.

Producers had 1.76 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2000, down slightly from the 1.77 billion fingerlings and fry on hand July 1, 1999. Live weight, at 24.5 million pounds, was up 2 percent from the 24.0 million pounds a year ago.

Water Acres Up 2 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production during July 1 through December 31, 2000, totaled 179,200 acres, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of the total acres, 5,130 acres are to be renovated during the period from July 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000. Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 145,100 acres, up 2 percent from July 1999. Acres for broodfish were up 3 percent to 5,600 acres, while acres used for fingerling production decreased 1 percent to 24,400 acres. An additional 3,730 acres are under construction or expected to be in use by January 1, 2001. During the January 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000 period, 2,210 acres were taken out of production. The total number of operations on July 1, 2000 in the four major states was 895, down 2 percent from the year ago total of 910.

Note: Revisions to January 2000 water surface acres and inventory estimates for Arkansas and the United States are shown on page 5 of this publication.

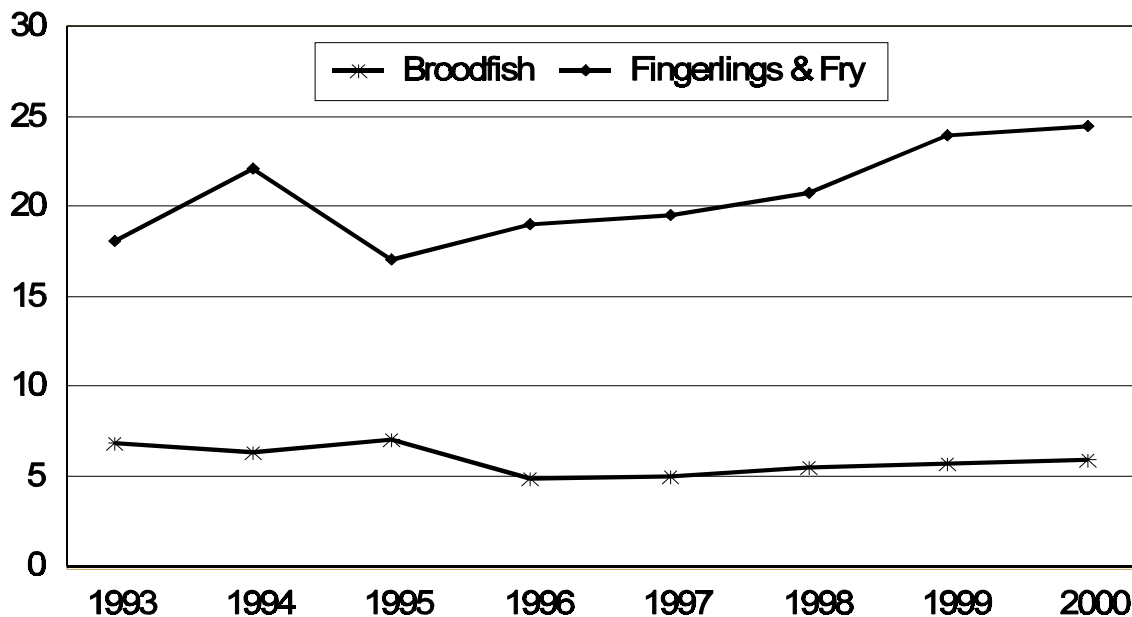
Catfish: Stockers and Food Size Inventory, Four Major Producing States, July 1

Million Pounds



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

Million Pounds



**Catfish: Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, Used for
Production, 1999-2000, by State and United States**

State	Number of Operations on Jul 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production During Jul 1 - Dec 31	
	1999 ¹	2000	1999 ¹	2000
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	255	255	22,000	22,800
AR	160	160	32,000	31,000
LA	105	80	14,200	13,900
MS	390	400	108,000	111,500
Four State Total	910	895	176,200	179,200

¹ Revised.

**Catfish Production: Water Surface Acre Usage,
by State and United States, 1999-2000**

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	
1999 ¹						
AL	19,100	2,000	580	460	320	350
AR	25,000	6,000	900	850	650	500
LA	12,100	1,600	170	400	70	630
MS	86,000	15,000	3,800	3,000	2,100	1,200
Four State Total	142,200	24,600	5,450	4,710	3,140	2,680
2000						
AL	19,800	2,100	600	340	480	330
AR	25,000	4,500	1,100	800	800	300
LA	11,500	1,700	300	990	350	280
MS	88,800	16,100	3,600	3,000	2,100	1,300
Four State Total	145,100	24,400	5,600	5,130	3,730	2,210

¹ Revised.

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 1999-2000**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per Fish	
	1999 ¹	2000	1999 ¹	2000	1999 ¹	2000
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Foodsize						
AL	1,180	870	3,840	2,790	3.3	3.2
AR	1,110	980	3,825	3,400	3.4	3.5
LA	490	790	1,580	2,520	3.2	3.2
MS	2,210	1,360	7,310	4,700	3.3	3.5
Four State Total	4,990	4,000	16,555	13,410	3.3	3.4
Medium Foodsize						
AL	13,200	10,600	25,200	20,000	1.9	1.9
AR	11,800	8,800	21,500	17,400	1.8	2.0
LA	7,360	8,350	14,800	14,100	2.0	1.7
MS	24,400	24,350	43,200	42,900	1.8	1.8
Four State Total	56,760	52,100	104,700	94,400	1.8	1.8
Small Foodsize						
AL	35,400	32,200	36,200	32,200	1.0	1.0
AR	32,850	33,800	32,800	35,300	1.0	1.0
LA	17,800	14,600	16,750	14,100	0.9	1.0
MS	154,500	150,800	147,500	146,200	1.0	1.0
Four State Total	240,550	231,400	233,250	227,800	1.0	1.0
Broodfish						
AL	125	150	670	840	5.4	5.6
AR	145	220	760	1,100	5.2	5.0
LA	55	64	280	280	5.1	4.4
MS	835	835	4,000	3,750	4.8	4.5
Four State Total	1,160	1,269	5,710	5,970	4.9	4.7

See footnotes at end of table.

--continued

**Catfish: Inventory by Size Category, by State
and United States, July 1, 1999-2000 (continued)**

Size Category and State	Number of Fish		Live Weight			
			Total		Average per 1,000 Fish	
	1999 ¹	2000	1999 ¹	2000	1999 ¹	2000
	----1,000----	----1,000----	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	----Pounds----	----Pounds----
Large Stockers						
AL	33,700	36,700	14,800	17,000	439	463
AR	32,400	43,100	13,800	17,800	426	413
LA	26,300	16,700	10,750	6,650	409	398
MS	268,900	288,800	104,300	114,800	388	398
Four State Total	361,300	385,300	143,650	156,250	398	406
Small Stockers						
AL	22,900	24,400	2,520	2,850	110	117
AR	84,200	72,700	8,920	7,900	106	109
LA	23,300	9,600	2,550	1,230	109	128
MS	284,000	270,000	27,600	25,400	97.2	94.1
Four State Total	414,400	376,700	41,590	37,380	100	99.2
Fingerlings and Fry						
AL	95,200	110,000	1,220	1,760	12.8	16.0
AR	325,000	284,000	4,800	3,800	14.8	13.4
LA	72,500	99,500	1,165	1,940	16.1	19.5
MS	1,273,000	1,266,000	16,800	17,000	13.2	13.4
Four State Total	1,765,700	1,759,500	23,985	24,500	13.6	13.9

* Included in Other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

¹ Revised.

January 2000 Revisions

	Arkansas		United States	
Water surface acres:				
Used for production	33,000		187,230	
Foodsize	27,000		151,480	
Fingerlings	4,700		24,250	
Broodfish	800		5,915	
Removed from production	500		3,750	
	Arkansas		United States	
	Number of Fish	Live Weight	Number of Fish	Live Weight
Inventory:				
Broodfish	260	1,170	1,287	6,105
Foodsize, large	1,800	6,100	5,775	19,736
Foodsize, small	36,900	36,000	199,822	195,778
Stocker, large	50,000	15,000	356,323	138,370
Fingerlings	131,000	5,600	1,053,200	32,960

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1991-2000

Customs Record - Weight Processed, United States, by Month, 1991-2000							
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>	
1991	32,206	33,036	35,951	31,205	31,322	31,588	
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	
2000	50,552	50,942	56,856	48,781	48,424	48,011	
	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>
1991	32,720	32,912	33,244	35,400	31,114	30,172	390,870
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
1999	50,074	50,372	50,414	52,407	48,118	48,341	596,628

**Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors,
United States, by Month, 1991-2000 ¹**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	
1991	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.66	0.65	
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	
2000	0.744	0.788	0.789	0.789	0.785	0.786	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>
1991	0.63	0.60	0.59	0.58	0.57	0.53	0.631
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
1999	0.768	0.743	0.728	0.716	0.713	0.716	0.736

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 and Trout Production" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on February 28, 2001. The next "Catfish Production" report will be released in July 2001.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports by Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

There are two options for subscribing via e-mail. All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. 1) Starting with the NASS Home Page at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>, click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions. 2) If you do NOT have Internet access, send an e-mail message to: usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu. In the body of the message type the word: **list**.

AUTOFAX ACCESS

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts. Document 0411 is a list of available reports.

----- PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-834-0125 FAX: 703-834-0110
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.