

CATFISH



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September 1980

CATFISH PROCESSING UP 12 PERCENT

The domestic production of farm-raised catfish processed during September 1980 totaled 3.82 million pounds roundweight (live weight), up 12 percent from September 1979, but 7 percent below August 1980. The accumulated January - September 1980 production totaled 35.0 million pounds, a 12 percent increase from the corresponding period of 1979.

Net pounds sold during September 1980 were 2.18 million, 8 percent greater than the 2.03 million pounds sold during September 1979. Ice pack sales of 1.09 million pounds were 50 percent of the total amount sold.

Freshwater catfish imports during August 1980 totaled 2.43 million pounds, primarily from Brazil. August imports were more than triple the volume received during August 1979, and over twice the volume received during July 1980. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Operation Price Watch retail price index for fish, during September 1980, rose 0.5 percent from August, and was 6.7 percent above a year earlier. Of the 17 frozen and canned products included in the index, 8 increased, while 9 declined. Prices for king crab meat, halibut steaks, canned tuna, canned Norway sardines, and flounder fillets were substantially higher than the previous month. Retail prices for fish sticks and portions, breaded shrimp, haddock fillets, and canned red salmon registered sizable declines during September.

Production data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

ConAgra
Corbin Fish Farm
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.
Fish Breeders of Idaho

King Kat, Inc.
Seminole Brand
Welfed Catfish, Inc.
Wilkinson, Friday & Kyser
Processing Co.

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRODUCTION, INVENTORY, AND QUANTITY SOLD, 1979-80

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED 1/		CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION 1/		1980 2/				
	1979	1980	1979	1980	ENDING INVENTORY	CHANGE IN INVENTORY	QUANTITY SOLD		
							ICE PACK	FROZEN	TOTAL
THOUSAND POUNDS									
JAN	3,032	3,530	3,032	3,530	969.6	56.9-	1,265	933	2,198
FEB	3,929	4,892	6,961	8,422	1,065.0	95.4+	1,680	1,134	2,814
MAR	4,010	4,060	10,971	12,482	1,070.9	5.9+	1,550	985	2,535
APR	3,025	3,829	13,996	16,311	907.3	163.6-	1,424	1,083	2,507
MAY	3,716	4,045	17,712	20,356	858.3	49.0-	1,398	1,089	2,487
JUN	3,081	3,596	20,793	23,952	917.2	58.9+	1,234	855	2,089
JUL	3,138	3,092	23,931	27,044	766.1	151.1-	1,110	1,144	2,254
AUG	3,978	4,116	27,909	31,160	741.4	24.7-	1,101	1,223	2,324
SEP	3,417	3,817	31,326	34,977	800.6	59.2+	1,093	1,090	2,183
OCT	3,531		34,857						
NOV	3,000		37,857						
DEC	2,779		40,636						

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRICE, 1979-80

MONTH	WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE				PRICES PAID 3/				
	F.O.B. PLANT				RANGE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE			
	ICE PACK		FROZEN			1979	1980		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	1980	1979	1980		
DOLLARS PER POUND									
JAN	1.27	1.53	1.33	1.61	.60-.78	.52	.65		
FEB	1.31	1.56	1.39	1.69	.60-.80	.55	.69		
MAR	1.34	1.61	1.44	1.73	.65-.80	.58	.69		
APR	1.41	1.61	1.49	1.74	.65-.92	.60	.69		
MAY	1.47	1.63	1.50	1.76	.65-.92	.60	.69		
JUN	1.46	1.62	1.53	1.75	.65-.92	.63	.68		
JUL	1.51	1.63	1.62	1.76	.65-.92	.65	.69		
AUG	1.51	1.62	1.63	1.75	.65-.92	.65	.68		
SEP	1.48	1.58	1.59	1.71	.65-.92	.65	.67		
OCT	1.47		1.59			.65			
NOV	1.50		1.60			.65			
DEC	1.50		1.60			.65			

1/ TOTAL LIVE WEIGHT OF FISH DELIVERED FOR PROCESSING. 2/ DRESSED WEIGHT. 3/ PRICES PAID TO FARMERS, HARVESTED, AT PLANT SITE.