

# CATFISH



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## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 17 PERCENT

The domestic production of farm-raised catfish processed during June 1980 totaled 3.60 million pounds roundweight (live weight), up 17 percent from June 1979, but 11 percent below May 1980. The accumulated January - June 1980 production totaled 24.0 million pounds, a 15 percent increase from the corresponding period of 1979.

Net pounds sold during June 1980 was 2.09 million, 21 percent more than the 1.73 million pounds sold during June 1979. Ice pack sales of 1.23 million pounds was 59 percent of the total amount sold during June.

Freshwater catfish imports during May 1980 totaled 1.11 million pounds received primarily from Brazil. May imports were 45 percent below May 1979, but 6 percent above April 1980. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Operation Price Watch retail price index for fish advanced in June 0.9 percent from May, and was 7.3 percent above a year earlier. Of the 17 frozen and canned products included in the index, 11 advanced, 5 declined, and 1 was unchanged from the previous month. Prices for flounder fillets, canned Norway sardines, canned chunked light tuna, fish portions, and haddock fillets were substantially higher than in May. Except for the decline in whiting fillet prices, the decline in prices of halibut steak, canned red salmon, canned Maine sardines, and fish sticks were slight.

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/		QUANTITY SOLD		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	ENDING INVENTORY	CHANGE IN INVENTORY	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		23,931						
AUG	3,978		27,909						
SEP	3,417		31,326						
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		1.62			.65		
AUG	1.51		1.63			.65		
SEP	1.48		1.59			.65		
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.