CATFISH

National Agricultural Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released July 19, 1991, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Catfish Processing up 9 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during June totaled 31.6 million pounds round weight, up 9 percent from June 1990, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during June totaled 16.0 million pounds, an increase of 5 percent from the comparable month in 1990. Sales of whole fish represented 31 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 48 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 43 percent of the total amount sold.

The June average prices received by processors for whole fish were $1.54 per pound for ice pack and $1.64 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during May totaled 184 thousand pounds, 47 percent of which were from Mexico. Imports were down sharply from the amount imported a year earlier. Exports reported during May totaled 15.7 thousand pounds, most of which were to Germany. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch
American Freshwater Farms
Amite River Indutries
Blue Waters Catfish Processors
Cargill Fisheries Products
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm
Country Skillet (ConAgra)
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.
Dorey Fish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.
Franklin Catfish
Freshwater Farms, Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.
Kueter's Lake
Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
La Louision
Limestone Fish Processors
Low Country Aquaculture
NAIAD Inc.
Pisces
Pond Fresh
Pride of the Pond
Prime Line Catfish Co.
Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Sauls Fish Processors
Simmons Farm-Raised
Southfresh Farms
Southern Pride

For information, call Ron Sitzman (202) 447-3244. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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Farm - Raised Catfish, 1990-91
Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers,
Reported by Major Processors; and U.S. Imports

Month	Round Weight Processed: Monthly 1990	Monthly 1991	Cumulative 1990	Cumulative 1991	Average Price Paid to Producers 1/ 1990	1991	Imports of Catfish 2/ 1990	1991
	Thousand Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	33,066	32,206	33,066	32,206	.73	.72	115	355
Feb	31,884	33,036	64,950	65,242	.75	.71	553	344
Mar	33,120	35,951	98,070	101,193	.78	1/	322	93
Apr	30,980	31,205	129,050	132,398	.79	1/	48	641
May	31,542	31,322	160,592	163,720	.79	1/	618	184
Jun	28,967	31,588	189,559	195,308	.79	1/	342	
Jul	29,540		219,099		.79		406	
Aug	31,108		250,207		.79		362	
Sep	27,566		277,773		.78		619	
Oct	29,211		306,984		.78		33	
Nov	27,913		334,897		.77		381	
Dec	25,538		360,435		.74		226	

1/ Price suspended. 2/ Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Catfish Processors' Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory,
June

Item	Whole Fish 1/ 1990	1991	Fillets 2/ 1990	1991	Other 3/ 1990	1991	Total 1990	1991
Year	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,339	3,234	2,713	2,839	625	746	6,677	6,819
Price ($ / lb)	1.64	1.54	2.79	2.65	2.03	1.81	2.14	2.03
Inventory(000) lb	190	268	268	390	183	107	641	765
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,540	1,728	4,522	4,862	2,419	2,574	8,481	9,164
Price ($ / lb)	1.76	1.64	2.72	2.61	2.07	1.95	2.36	2.24
Inventory(000) lb	3,116	1,784	3,011	3,367	2,360	2,327	8,487	7,478

1/ Dressed weight, (head, visera, and skin removed). 2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product. 3/ Includes all products not already reported, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

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The next **Catfish** report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on August 20, 1991.