Catfish

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Fact Finding for Agriculture Since 1863

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Statistics Board

Washington, D.C.

RELEASED: February 21, 1990
3:00 P.M. ET

CATFISH PROCESSING UP 23 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during January totaled 33.1 million pounds round weight, up 23 percent from January 1989, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board.

The January average price paid to growers was 73 cents per pound, 5 cents below the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during January totaled 15.8 million pounds, 13 percent above the comparable month in 1989. Sales of whole fish represented 33 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 46 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 45 percent of the total amount sold.

The January average prices received by processors for whole fish were $1.56 per pound for ice pack and $1.67 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during December totaled 1.02 million pounds, 85 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were significantly above the amount imported a year earlier. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch
Amite River Industries
Aquaculture Products
Blue Waters Catfish
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.
Cole Foods, Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm
Country Fresh Catch
Country Skillet (Con Agra)
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.
Dillons Fresh Catfish
Dorey Fish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.
Franklin Catfish
Freshwater Farms, Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.
Gulf South Processors, Inc.
King Kat, Inc.
Kueter's Lake
Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Limestone Fish Processors
Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
Low Country Aquaculture
Pisces
Pond Fresh
Pride of the Pond
Prime Line Catfish Co.
Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Simmons Farm-Raised
Southfresh Farms
Southern Pride
U. S. Fish Corp.

For Information Call: (202) 447-2123

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, 1989-90
QUANTITY PROCESSED AND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS,
REPORTED BY MAJOR PROCESSORS; AND U.S. IMPORTS

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED				AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS 1/		IMPORTS OF CATFISH 2/	
	MONTHLY		CUMULATIVE					
	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1988	1989
	THOUSAND POUNDS				DOLLARS PER POUND		(000) POUNDS	
JAN	26,948	33,066	26,948	33,066	.78	.73	451	588
FEB	28,559		55,507		.78		508	117
MAR	29,458		84,965		.77		577	795
APR	27,310		112,275		.76		217	417
MAY	28,892		141,167		.76		1,015	952
JUN	27,598		168,765		.75		26	584
JUL	27,827		196,592		.71		724	689
AUG	28,371		224,963		.68		414	422
SEP	30,366		255,329		.65		669	756
OCT	31,670		286,999		.64		674	414
NOV	29,096		316,095		.64		388	66
DEC	25,805		341,900		.68		182	1,024

CATFISH PROCESSORS' SALES VOLUME, AVERAGE PRICE, AND ENDING INVENTORY,
JANUARY

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLETS 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
YEAR	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB	3,127	3,538	2,519	2,850	471	681	6,117	7,069
PRICE ($ / LB)	1.61	1.56	2.72	2.66	1.55	2.00	2.06	2.04
INVENTORY(000) LB	295	303	260	321	78	97	633	721
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB	1,672	1,738	3,956	4,342	2,251	2,622	7,879	8,702
PRICE ($ / LB)	1.72	1.67	2.68	2.63	1.90	1.93	2.26	2.23
INVENTORY(000) LB	1,785	2,579	4,598	3,243	1,397	2,681	7,780	8,503

1/ PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR FISH DELIVERED TO PROCESSING PLANT. 2/ DATA FURNISHED BY U.S. BUREAU OF CENSUS. 3/ DRESSED WEIGHT, (HEAD, VISERA, AND SKIN REMOVED). 4/ INCLUDES REGULAR, SHANK, AND STRIP FILLETS; EXCLUDES ANY BREADED PRODUCT. 5/ INCLUDES ALL PRODUCTS NOT ALREADY REPORTED, INCLUDING WEIGHT OF BREADING AND ADDED INGREDIENTS.

NOTICE

Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports should be directed to ERS/NASS, P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, MD. 20849-1608 or call 800-999-6779.

The next issue of this report will be published **MARCH 20, 1990.**