

Arkansas

Catfish Production



Arkansas
Field Office

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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This report contains the results of the **July 1 Catfish Growers Survey** conducted during the first half of July 2006. The catfish estimates are based on a census of all known active operators in the four major catfish production states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi). This report and the data for the past 10 years are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and more detailed national report is available on the NASS website at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and interview for the survey.

July 1 Foodsize Catfish Inventory Down 6 Percent

Commercial catfish operations had 49.3 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2006, down 6 percent from July 1, 2005. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from a year ago are: large foodsize, 1.2 million, down 9 percent; medium foodsize, 13.2 million, down 15 percent; and small foodsize, 34.9 million, down 1 percent.

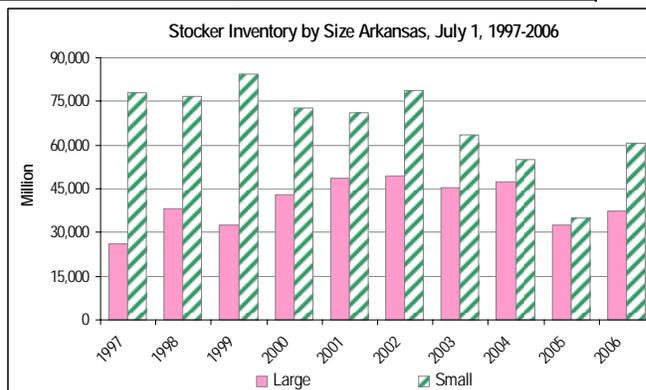
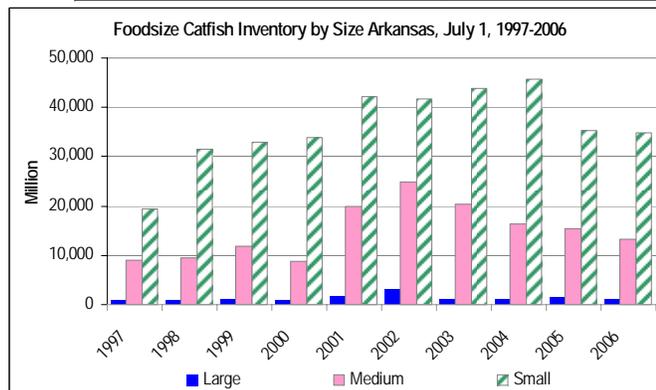
Arkansas was the third in the nation following Mississippi and Alabama in total foodsize inventory on July 1, 2006, unchanged from July 1 last year. Broodfish on hand totaled 130,000 fish, up 8 percent; total stockers at 98.2 million, were up 46 percent; and fingerlings, at 299 million, were down 13 percent from a year earlier.

Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2005-2006

Type/Size	Inventory Number			Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2005	2006	% Chg.	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	
Broodfish	120	130	+8	580	590	4.8	4.5
Foodsize Total	52,250	49,330	-6	70,600	64,900	-	-
Large	1,350	1,230	-9	5,000	4,500	3.7	3.7
Medium	15,500	13,200	-15	29,700	25,600	1.9	1.9
Small	35,400	34,900	-1	35,900	34,800	1	1
						<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
Stockers Total	67,300	98,200	+46	17,440	17,830	-	-
Large	32,400	37,500	+16	13,900	12,000	429	320
Small	34,900	60,700	+74	3,540	5,830	101	96
Fingerlings	342,000	299,000	-13	3,600	5,000	10.5	16.7

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4-6 years of age
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish
- Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish
- Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish
- Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish
- Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish
- Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish



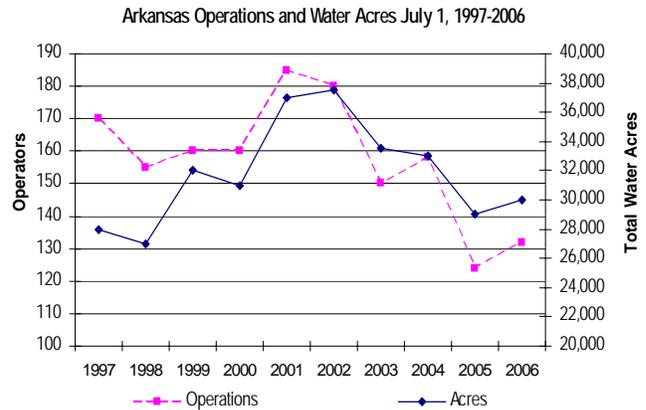
Water Acres Up 3 Percent

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2006, totaled 30,000 acres, up 1,000 acres, or 3 percent, from a year ago. The total number of catfish operations on July 1, 2006 was 132, an increase of 8 from the 124 last year.

During July 1 through December 31, 2006, water surface acres intended for foodsize fish production totaled 24,500 acres, while 630 acres of the total in catfish production were scheduled to be renovated. A total of 670 acres were taken out of production during the January 1 through June 30, 2006 period

**Catfish Operations and Water Surface Acres
Four Major Production States, 2005-2006**

State	Number of Operations July 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production July 1 - Dec. 31	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Acres</i>	
AL	210	217	23,700	24,300
AR	124	132	29,000	30,000
LA	32	24	6,900	5,700
MS	400	380	98,000	96,000
Total	766	753	157,600	156,000



Water Surface Acre Usage by Four Major Production States, 2005-2006

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1-December 31										Acres Taken out of Production During Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for					
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	Renovation		New Construction		2005	2006
	<i>Acres</i>											
AL	21,600	21,800	1,100	1,200	330	400	660	950	95	330	450	410
AR	23,500	24,500	4,500	4,100	570	560	560	630	330	*	670	940
LA	5,600	4,900	1,100	600	125	100	670	140	*	*	420	730
MS	76,300	73,000	16,000	17,500	2,800	2,800	3,600	4,000	400	200	4,400	2,400
Total	127,000	124,200	22,700	23,400	3,825	3,860	5,490	5,720	*	*	5,940	4,480

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.