

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 **Catfish Growers Survey** conducted during the first half of July 2007. All known Arkansas catfish producers were contacted to provide July 1 inventory and acreage data. These estimates are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and a more detailed national report is available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and/or interview for the survey.

July 1 Foodsize Catfish Inventory Up 13 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 55.7 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2007, up 13 percent from July 1, 2006. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from a year ago are: large foodsize, 1.5 million, up 24 percent; medium foodsize, 17.1 million, up 30 percent; and small foodsize, 37.1 million, up 6 percent.

Arkansas was ranked second in the nation, behind Mississippi, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2007, up 13 percent from July last year. Broodfish on hand totaled 108,000 fish, down 17 percent; total stockers at 80.2 million, were down 18 percent; and fingerlings, at 239 million, were down 20 percent from a year earlier.

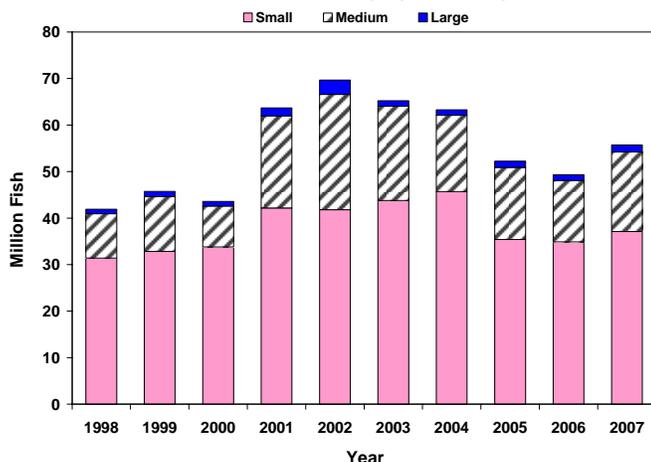
Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2006-2007

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	% Change from '06	2006	2007	% Change from '06	2006	2007
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	130	108	- 17	590	489	- 17	4.5	4.5
All Foodsize	49,330	55,720	+ 13	64,900	76,400	+ 18		
Large	1,230	1,520	+ 24	4,500	5,200	+ 16	3.7	3.4
Medium	13,200	17,100	+ 30	25,600	34,000	+ 33	1.9	2.0
Small	34,900	37,100	+ 6	34,800	37,200	+ 7	1.0	1.0
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	98,200	80,200	- 18	17,830	15,200	- 15		
Large	37,500	31,800	- 15	12,000	10,700	- 11	320	337
Small	60,700	48,400	- 20	5,830	4,500	- 23	96.0	93.0
Fingerlings	299,000	239,000	- 20	5,000	3,700	- 26	16.7	15.5

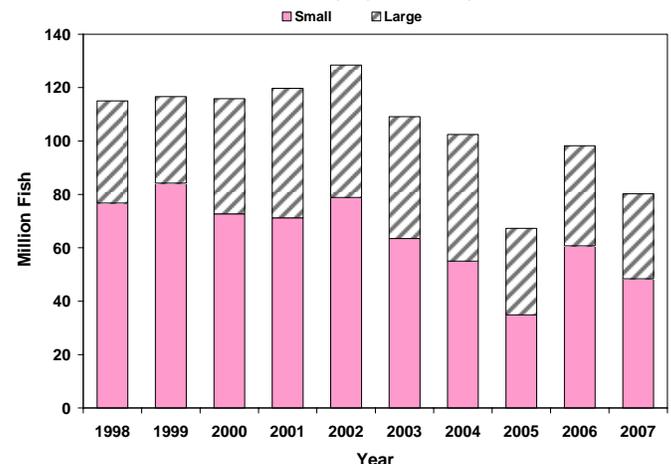
Definitions of Terms Used in Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, July 1, 1998-2007



Arkansas Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 1998-2007



Water Acres Up 3 Percent

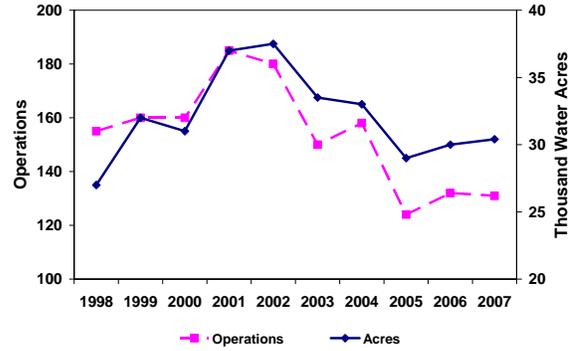
The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2007, totaled 30,400 acres, up 400 acres, or 1 percent, from a year ago. The total number of catfish operations on July 1, 2007, was 131, one operation less than July 1, 2006.

During July 1 through December 31, 2007, water surface acres intended for foodsize fish production is expected to total 26,000 acres, while 280 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, 2007, period.

Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres by State, 2006-2007

State	Number of Operations on July 1		Water Surface Acres Used for Production July 1 - Dec. 31	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Number		Acres	
AR	132	131	30,000	30,400
AL	217	203	24,300	23,000
LA	24	19	5,700	5,500
MS	380	360	96,000	92,500
Total	753	713	156,000	151,400

Arkansas Operations and Water Acres July 1, 1998-2007



Water Surface Acre Usage by State, 2006-2007

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31										Acres Taken Out of Production Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
<i>Acres</i>												
AR	24,500	26,000	4,100	3,800	560	*	630	280	*	*	940	670
AL	21,800	21,700	1,200	680	400	420	950	380	330	115	410	750
LA	4,900	4,800	600	610	100	*	140	370		*	730	140
MS	73,000	69,700	17,500	16,000	2,800	2,600	4,000	3,100	200	300	2,400	2,300
Total	124,200	122,200	23,400	21,090	3,860	3,640	5,720	4,130	*	495	4,480	3,860

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.