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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
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Released: October 2, 2006

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USDA Releases the 2005 Census of Aquaculture

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has released the 2005 Census of Aquaculture which provides a comprehensive picture of the aquaculture sector at the State and national level. The aquaculture census collected detailed information relating to production methods, surface water acres and sources, production, sales, point of first sale outlets, aquaculture distributed for restoration, conservation, or recreational purposes, and farm labor. The 2005 count was the second nationwide aquaculture census conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The first took place in 1998.

Idaho Highlights

Idaho aquaculture sales during 2005 totaled \$37.7 million, up 4.9 percent from \$35.9 million in 1998, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Foodsize trout production totaled 43.6 million pounds from 23 operations. The average price per pound for foodsize trout was \$0.81, totaling \$35.3 million for 2005. Foodsize tilapia production totaled 996,000 pounds from 7 operations. The average price per pound for tilapia for foodsize tilapia was \$1.55, totaling \$1.5 million for 2005. Trout distribution for conservation, recreation or restoration purposes for Idaho totaled 14.7 million fish, 2.1 million pounds. Total salmon distributed for 2005 was 136.5 million fish, 607,000 pounds.

U.S. Highlights

U.S. aquaculture sales during 2005 totaled \$1.09 billion, up 11.7 percent from \$978.0 million in 1998. Foodsize trout production totaled 60.6 million pounds from 336 operations. The average price per pound for foodsize trout was \$1.08, totaling \$65.5 million for 2005. Foodsize tilapia production totaled 17.2 million pounds from 128 operations. The average price per pound for foodsize tilapia was \$1.72, totaling \$29.6 million for 2005. Trout distribution for conservation, recreation or restoration purposes for the U.S. totaled 153.3 million fish, 30.6 million pounds. Total salmon distributed for 2005 was 1.7 billion fish, 26.4 million pounds. Foodsize catfish production was the largest sector of the U.S. aquaculture industry, with sales of \$429.3 million during 2005.

The full Census of Aquaculture release can be found on the internet at: www.nass.usda.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.