



News Release

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Texas January 1 Catfish Sales Up 3 Percent

The value of catfish sales by Texas catfish producers increased 3 percent from last year according to the January 1, 2011, Catfish Growers Survey. Total sales of all catfish in 2010 were 13 million dollars compared to 12.6 million dollars in 2009.

State Director, Doug Rundle, of the Texas Field Office reported that there were 2,900 acres of surface water used for commercial catfish production in Texas January 1, 2011, unchanged from January 1, 2010.

The growers' inventory of foodsize catfish totaled 9.8 million pounds on January 1, 2011, a decrease of 24 percent from the 2010 total of 12.9 million pounds. Large foodsize catfish accounted for 1.6 million pounds; medium foodsize catfish, 6.1 million pounds; and small foodsize catfish, 2.2 million pounds.

Stockers totaled 70,000 pounds, 50 percent below January 1, 2010, and fingerlings at 80,000 pounds were 84 percent below last year.

Fingerlings are 2 to 6 inches in length and weigh 2 to 60 lbs. per thousand fish; stockers are over 60 lbs. to 750 lbs. per thousand fish; small foodsize catfish, over three-fourths pound to one and one-half pounds per fish; medium food size catfish, over one and one-half to three pounds per fish; and large foodsize catfish, over three pounds per fish.

The water surface area being used for catfish production in the United States totaled 99.6 thousand acres, down 13 percent from January 1, 2010. The total number of operations on January 1, 2011 in the U.S. was 909, down 9 percent from January 1, 2010.

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 403 million dollars during 2010, up 8 percent from last year. Nationwide there were 176.5 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2011, down 34 percent from last year's 269.4 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 6.2 million were large foodsize, 54.3 million were medium foodsize and 116 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 381.4 million stockers on hand, up 4 percent from last year. There were also 569 million fingerlings on hand, up 32 percent from last year.