



## Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service

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N E W S

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### First Aquaculture Census Catches Nearly \$1 Billion in Sales Over \$53 Million from Louisiana

The Nation's first census of aquaculture revealed interesting facts—and confirmed some expectations—about one of agriculture's fastest growing sectors. The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), provides a wide variety of data relating to methods of production, sources of water, sales and sale outlets, cooperative agreements and contracts, sizes of operation based on sales, and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes.

This special census provided the first detailed picture of the aquaculture industry and revealed that:

- Mississippi topped the sales charts, capturing nearly 30 percent of the \$978 million dollars of domestic aquaculture produced in 1998. **Louisiana** captured over 5 percent with \$53.2 million.
- Arkansas, Florida, Maine, Alabama, Washington and **Louisiana** came in second through seventh, respectively, in sales.
- Food fish (e.g., catfish, trout, salmon, tilapia, hybrid striped bass, etc.) accounted for about two-thirds of the aquaculture sales and just under half of the farms producing aquaculture. **Louisiana** was fifth in number of food and food/sport fish farms. Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and North Carolina were first through fourth.
- The value of aquacultural products sold continues to grow, jumping over twenty percent in the last year: sales totaled \$807 million in 1997, then rose to \$978 million in 1998.
- Food fish growers showed average sales of \$387 thousand dollars per farm in 1998. **Louisiana** farmers had average sales of \$284 thousand dollars per farm in 1998.

The census of aquaculture contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusks, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, algae and sea vegetables, and other fish and aquacultural products.

**Table of Highlights**

State	Total Aquaculture			Food and food/sport fish <sup>1/</sup>		Baitfish		Crustaceans		Other animal aquaculture <sup>2/</sup>	
	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Percent of U.S.	Farms	Sales (1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)
Top Producing	Mississippi			Mississippi		Arkansas		Louisiana		Louisiana	
Alabama	259	59,694	6.1%	254	58,565	2	(D)	5	20	1	(D)
Arkansas	222	84,120	8.6%	164	59,202	62	22,973	1	(D)	2	(D)
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>53,220</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>30,135</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>9,129</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>13,251</b>
Mississippi	419	290,382	29.7%	412	288,996	5	1,017	3	(D)	3	313
United States	4,028	978,012	—	2,168	686,329	275	37,482	837	36,318	216	52,119

<sup>1/</sup> e.g. catfish, hybrid striped bass, etc.; <sup>2/</sup> e.g. turtles, alligators, etc.; (D) = not published to protect confidentiality.

To discover the wealth of aquaculture and other agricultural statistics available from NASS, including hundreds of commodity production and price reports, or to review a full catalog of NASS products and services, visit the NASS Home Page at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, 1997 Census of Agriculture reports, State and County Profiles, Highlights, and a slide show presenting *Quick Facts* are accessible by clicking "Census of Agriculture." For other information, e-mail [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov) or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.