



# Aquaculture

ACH12-21/February 2015

## Results from the 2013 Census of Aquaculture

### Three states . . .

. . . accounted for 40 percent of aquaculture sales in 2013.

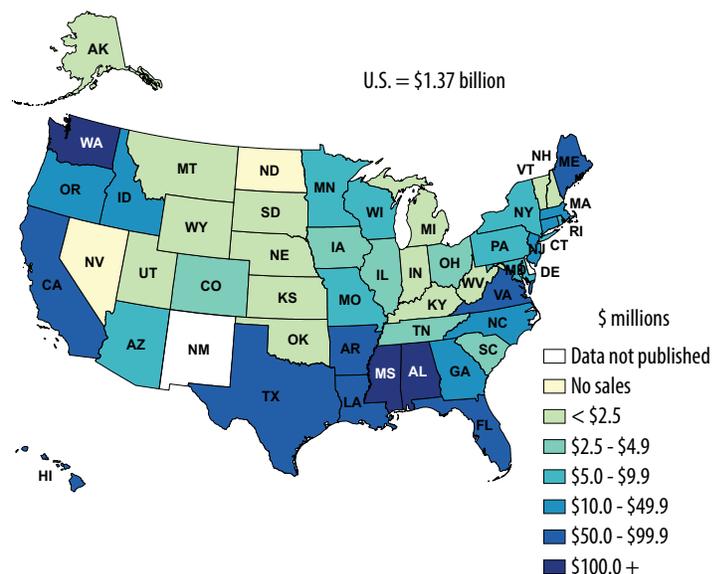
#### Top States in Sales (\$ millions)

Washington	233.0
Mississippi	203.6
Alabama	111.2
Louisiana	90.6
California	83.6
Florida	77.9
Texas	69.8
Arkansas	61.0
Hawaii	58.7
Maine	57.3

In 2013, sales of aquaculture products in the United States totaled \$1.4 billion, up 26 percent since 2005, the last time the aquaculture census was conducted. Forty-eight states produce and sell aquaculture products, but Washington, Mississippi, and Alabama accounted for 40 percent of sales in the United States in 2013. The top ten states accounted for over three fourths of sales. The 2013

Census of Aquaculture provides a comprehensive picture of the aquaculture sector at national and state levels. (Figure 1)

Figure 1  
Aquaculture Sales, by State, 2013



Source: USDA NASS, 2013 Census of Aquaculture.

## Aquaculture Farms

The aquaculture census defines an aquaculture farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of aquaculture products were produced and sold, or distributed for conservation, recreation, enhancement, or restoration purposes, during the census year. The number of farms with aquaculture sales in 2013 was

3,093, down 28 percent from 4,309 farms in 2005.

Water sources for aquaculture farms include:

- groundwater
- on-farm surface water
- off-farm surface water
- saltwater.

## Sales by Product Type

Food fish is the largest category of aquaculture product, accounting for more than half of aquaculture sales. Food fish includes fish raised primarily for food, as well as eggs from food fish. (Table 1)

In 2013, food fish totaled \$732 million, an increase of 9 percent from 2005. Mississippi led the country in food fish, with \$202.8 million in 2013 sales. Catfish sales, valued at \$375.9 million, accounted for 51 percent of all food fish sales. The sales value of 12.5 million market-sized tilapia, with a total live weight of 18.4 million pounds, was \$40.0 million; their average live weight was 1.5 pounds.

Mollusks was the second largest aquaculture category, with 2013 sales of \$329 million, up 62 percent from 2005. Oysters accounted for 55 percent of mollusk sales. Washington, with \$149.3 million in mollusk sales, was the leading state. Crustacean sales totaled \$85 million, up 59 percent from 2005, with saltwater shrimp accounting for just over half of 2013 crustacean sales. Louisiana, with 42 percent of crustacean sales, was the largest seller.

According to point-of-first-sale data (the first point at which money is exchanged), 64 percent of food fish sales went to processors, and 13 percent went directly to retail outlets. For mollusks, the largest outlets were live haulers/brokers (33 percent) and wholesale sales to other producers (17 percent).

Table 1  
Aquaculture Sales by Type of Product, 2005 and 2013

	2005	2013	% Change
	\$ millions		
Food fish	672.4	732.1	+ 9
Mollusks	203.2	328.6	+ 62
Crustaceans	53.4	84.9	+ 59
Ornamental fish	51.3	41.5	-19
Baitfish	38.0	29.4	-23
Sport fish	18.1	23.8	+32
Miscellaneous	56.0	131.4	+135
Total	1,092.4	1,371.7	+ 26

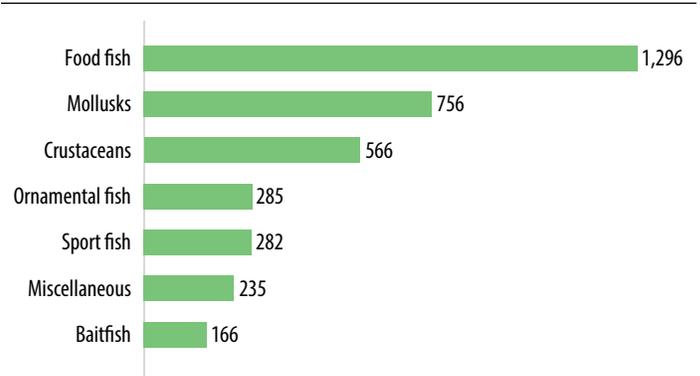
Source: USDA NASS, 2013 Census of Aquaculture.

## Miscellaneous Aquaculture

Of the total number of farms identified in the 2013 agriculture census, 235 engaged in miscellaneous aquaculture, a category that includes algae, alligators, caviar, eels, frogs, sea urchins, snails, tadpoles, turtles, and live rock (Figure 2). The largest item in this category was

alligators; 33 farms raised and sold \$62.6 million of alligators. Algae consists of microalgae and sea vegetables. Sales of algae produced in an aquaculture environment totaled \$47.7 million in 2013.

Figure 2  
Number of Aquaculture Farms, by Type, 2013



Source: USDA NASS, 2013 Census of Aquaculture.

## Aquaculture Methods

Farms use a variety of methods in aquaculture production. One method is aquaponics, in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically. The census identified 71 aquaponics farms with 839,622 gallons of water in 650 tanks.

## Distributed Aquaculture

In addition to aquaculture produced and sold, there is aquaculture produced and distributed for conservation, recreation, enhancement, or restoration purposes. In 2013, for example, 110 farms distributed 2.5 billion salmon of various sizes, with a live weight of 18 million pounds, for these purposes.

### About the Census of Aquaculture

The 2013 Census of Aquaculture was a follow-on to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. It collected detailed information related to production methods, surface water acres and sources, production, sales, point of first sale, and distributed aquaculture.

To learn more about the 2013 Census of Aquaculture, the 2012 Census of Agriculture, and how to access census data, go to:

**[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)**