



# News Release

National  
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In Cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture

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On: Texas January 1 Catfish Sales Up

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AUSTIN . . . The number of Texas catfish producers remained the same as last year, but catfish sales were up 30 percent according to the January 1, 2007, Catfish Growers Survey.

State Director, David Abbe, of the Texas Field Office reported that there were 57 commercial catfish operators in Texas January 1, 2007. Total surface water in production was 1,700 acres, up 200 acres from the previous year.

Total sales of all catfish in 2006 totaled 5.91 million dollars, up 30 percent from 4.55 million dollars in 2005.

The growers' inventory of foodsize catfish totaled 8.99 million pounds on January 1, 2007, an increase of 92 percent from the 2006 total of 4.68 million pounds. Large foodsize catfish accounted for 1.12 million pounds; medium foodsize catfish, 6.15 million pounds; and small foodsize catfish, 1.72 million pounds.

The growers' inventory also included 140,000 pounds of large stockers and 131,000 pounds of small stockers.

Hatchery inventory included 158,000 pounds of broodfish, up 1,580 percent from a year ago.

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 fish, 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 163 thousand acres, down 5 percent from January 1, 2006. The total number of operations on January 1, 2007 in the U.S. was 1,023, down 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

In the 11 selected states, catfish growers had sales of 481 million dollars during 2006, down slightly from last year. Nationwide there were 311.2 million foodsize fish on hand January 1, 2007, down 5 percent from last year's 327.7 million fish. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 8.35 million were large foodsize, 97.8 million were medium foodsize and 205 million were small foodsize. Growers had a total of 572 million stockers on hand, down 8 percent from last year. There were also 959 million fingerlings on hand, down 8 percent from last year.