



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Arkansas Catfish Production Report
 Released July 24, 2015



Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains the results from the **2014 July Catfish Growers Survey**. The data are posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

July 1 Inventory Continue Downward Trend

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 7.0 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2015. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change from January 1, 2015 are: large foodsize, 190,000, down 69 percent; medium foodsize, 1.96 million, down 25 percent; and small foodsize, 4.82 million, down 16 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2015. Broodfish on hand totaled 50,000, down 29 percent from the January 1, 2015 number; total stockers, at 23.4 million, were down 47 percent; and fingerlings and fry, at 46.0 million, were up 67 percent from earlier this year.

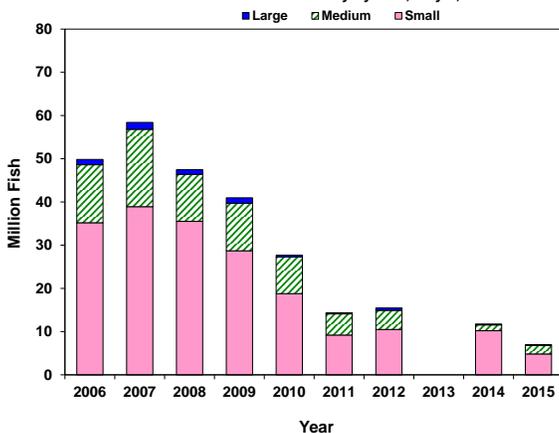
Catfish: Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, Arkansas, January 1, 2015 and July 1, 2014-2015

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	July 2014	Jan. 2015	July 2015	July 2014	Jan. 2015	July 2015	January 1	July 1
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	60	70	50	285	253	252	3.6	5.0
All Foodsize	11,740	9,020	6,970	13,895	13,600	9,075	-	-
Large	200	620	190	745	2,400	675	3.9	3.6
Medium	1,340	2,630	1,960	2,650	5,100	3,500	1.9	1.8
Small	10,200	5,770	4,820	10,500	6,100	4,900	1.1	1.0
							<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
All Stockers	11,730	44,430	23,390	2,126	5,550	4,130	-	-
Large	4,370	4,430	9,290	1,430	2,300	2,900	519	312
Small	7,360	40,000	14,100	696	3,250	1,230	81.3	87.2
Fingerlings and fry	59,900	27,500	46,000	655	957	1,080	34.8	23.5

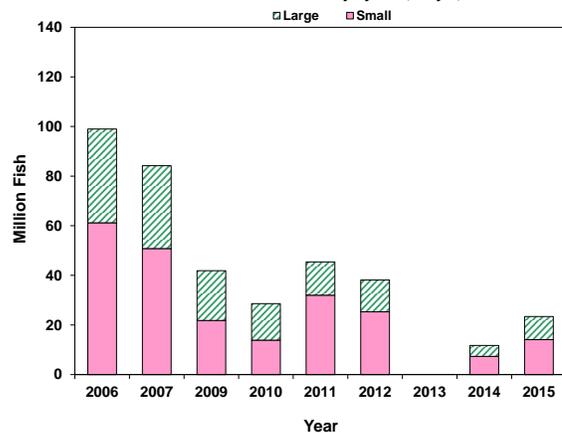
Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, July 1, 2006-2015



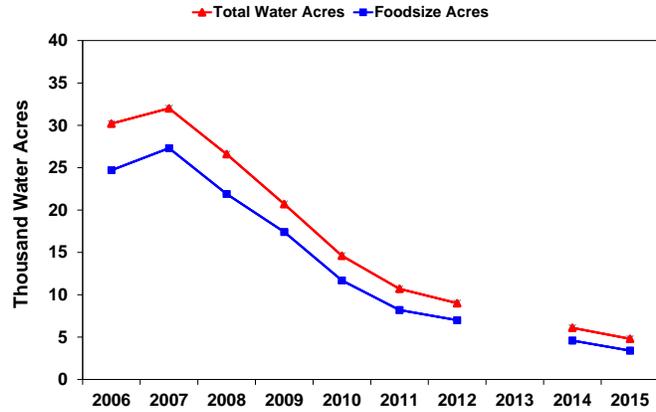
Arkansas Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 2006-2015



Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 4,800 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, totaled 4,800 acres. During July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 3,400 acres. A total of 570 acres were taken out of production during the January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015, period.

Arkansas Total Water and Foodsize Acreage, July 1, 2006-2015



Water Surface Acres Used for Production, During July 1 - Dec. 31

State	2014	2015
	<i>Acres</i>	
AR	6,100	4,800
AL	16,300	15,200
MS	41,300	37,000
Total	63,700	57,100

Water Surface Acre Usage by State, 2014-2015

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1 - December 31										Acres Taken Out of Production Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New Construction		2014	2015
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015		
<i>Acres</i>												
AR	4,600	3,400	1,100	1,200	175	180	*	*	*	*	700	570
AL	15,700	14,600	430	480	75	55	*	*	*	*	770	200
MS	29,500	26,800	7,000	6,600	1,100	1,400	3,300	2,700	*	*	870	1,500
Total	49,800	44,800	8,530	8,280	1,350	1,635	4,160	2,930	20	25	2,340	2,270

*Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.