



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**National Agricultural Statistics Service**  
**Arkansas Catfish Production Report**  
 Released July 23, 2019



**Delta Region – Arkansas Field Office**

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**Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture**

This report contains the results from the **2019 July Catfish Growers Survey**. The data are posted on our web site at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at <https://www.nass.usda.gov>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

**July 1 All Foodsize Inventory Up 1 Percent**

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 6.73 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2019. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2019, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 210,000, down 47 percent; medium foodsize, 2.00 million, down 16 percent; and small foodsize, 4.52 million, up 16 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2019. Total stockers, at 16.2 million, were down 42 percent from a year ago.

**Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size – Arkansas: January 1, 2019, July 1, 2018 and 2019**

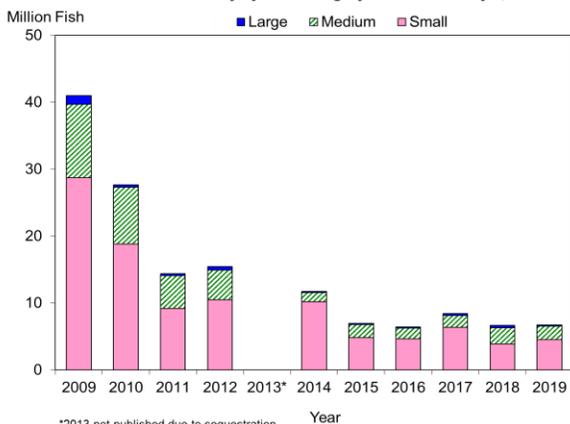
Size category	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	July 2018 (1,000 fish)	January 2019 (1,000 fish)	July 2019 (1,000 fish)	July 2018 (1,000 pounds)	January 2019 (1,000 pounds)	July 2019 (1,000 pounds)	January 1 (pounds per fish)	July 1 (pounds per fish)
<b>Broodfish</b>	45	(D)	(D)	197	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>All foodsize</b>	6,680	10,620	6,730	9,670	14,950	9,056	(NA)	(NA)
Large	400	(D)	210	1,370	(D)	756	(D)	3.6
Medium	2,390	(D)	2,000	4,500	(D)	3,800	(D)	1.9
Small	3,890	6,370	4,520	3,800	6,150	4,500	1.0 (pounds per 1,000 fish)	1.0 (pounds per 1,000 fish)
<b>All stockers</b>	28,100	36,650	16,240	4,920	4,850	3,445	(NA)	(NA)
Large	12,700	(D)	10,600	3,400	(D)	2,950	(D)	278.0
Small	15,400	(D)	5,640	1,520	(D)	495	(D)	87.0
<b>Fingerlings and fry</b>	66,700	13,300	(D)	1,070	521	(D)	39.2	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.  
 (NA) Not available.

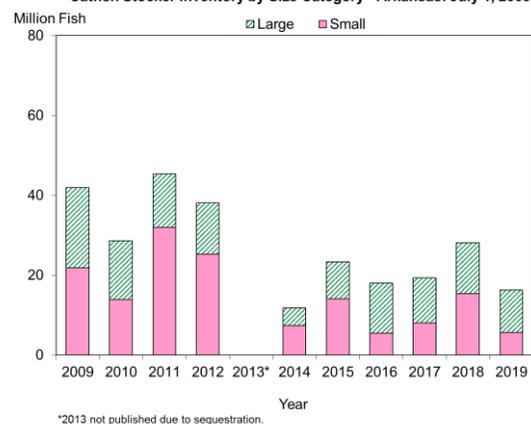
**Definitions Used for Catfish Production**

- 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.

**Catfish Foodsize Inventory by Size Category - Arkansas: July 1, 2009-2019**



**Catfish Stocker Inventory by Size Category - Arkansas: July 1, 2009-2019**



## Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 4,700 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, totaled 4,700 acres. During July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 3,000 acres. A total of 680 acres were taken out of production during the January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 period.

### Water Surface Acres Used for Production – Major States: 2018 and 2019

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 – December 31	
	2018	2019
	(acres)	(acres)
AL	17,000	16,900
<b>AR</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,700</b>
MS	36,400	36,300
Total	58,100	57,900

### Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2018 and 2019

State	Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for										Acres taken out of production January 1 - June 30	
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for					
							Renovation		New construction			
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
AL	16,500	16,400	210	210	45	(D)	340	300	(D)	(D)	(D)	680
<b>AR</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>(D)</b>	<b>(D)</b>	-
MS	27,000	26,900	6,000	6,000	1,500	1,500	2,500	1,100	700	500	225	430
Total	46,500	46,300	7,410	7,410	1,740	1,740	3,180	1,555	1,160	820	455	1,110

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Water Surface Acres and Foodsize Acres - Arkansas: July 1, 2009-2019

