



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
1222 Woodward Street
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AQUACULTURE

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

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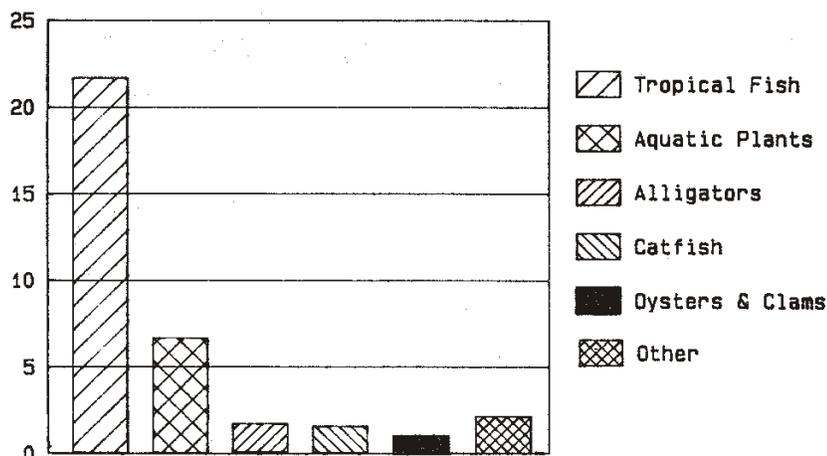
FLORIDA AQUACULTURE SALES TOTAL \$35 MILLION IN 1987

Results of a recent survey conducted by the Florida Department of Agriculture revealed that Florida growers sold \$35 million in aquacultural products during 1987. There were 8,425 acres of total land, including water surface area, used for aquacultural production. Of this total, 3,735 acres were used in producing tropical fish and aquatic plants in 1987 and 4,690 acres of land were devoted to all other aquaculture. Major species included in the survey were tropical (ornamental) fish, catfish, alligators, oysters, clams, sport and game fish, crawfish, eels, tilapia, other shellfish, aquatic plants, and other minor aquatics. The value is based on farm gate sales of aquatics produced by Florida growers and excludes harvest from open waters or the wild. Growers sold another \$6.9 million worth of tropical fish which they imported for immediate resale. Statistics shown in the tables of this release are for net Florida production and value and exclude imports.

There were 342 active producers with sales in 1987. The tropical fish segment, with 193 active growers and \$21.7 million in 1987 sales, dominated the aquaculture industry. Aquatic plants, with 33 growers and \$6.7 million net sales was second in value. Alligators, with 13 active growers contributed \$1.7 million. Fifty-five catfish growers contributed \$1.6 million. Oysters and clams valued at \$1.1 million were sold by 28 growers. All other aquatic sales totaled \$2.2 million from 20 growers.

Aquaculture Value of Sales Florida, 1987

Million \$



The survey also identified 293 others expecting to produce aquacultural products for sale in 1988 or later. The largest increase is expected in catfish with 74 new growers, followed by oysters with 62 additional growers. There are 24 new tropical fish growers with intentions to produce in 1988. Alligator producers are expecting to more than double with 15 new growers to be added in 1988 or 1989. There are 31 other aquatic operations expected to produce for the first time this year.

Based on survey findings, it appears that production of catfish, alligators, oysters, and clams will more than double in sales during 1988. Processing plants and markets are being established to handle this expected growth. The tropical fish market is already well established in Florida, with orderly growth expected to continue this year. Overall, the aquaculture industry has a tremendous potential for growth and development in Florida, with its mild climate and vast amounts of waterways, lakes, and shore lines.

1988 JUL

TROPICAL FISH SALES REACH \$21.7 MILLION IN 1987

Net sales from both egg layers and livebearers totaled nearly \$21.7 million from 193 growers during 1987. Egg layers contributed \$15.1 million in net value while livebearers totaled \$6.5 million. Egg layers imported for immediate resale were valued at \$5.1 million, while the value of livebearer imports was \$1.8 million. Net values above do not include value of imports or value of purchases from other growers. Producers used 50.4 million square feet of water surface area. Fifty-four percent of the water surface was used for growing livebearers and the remaining 46 percent was for egg layers.

Tropical fish includes both egg layers and livebearers sold commercially for ornamental use. Some of the more prominent species are guppies, mollies, swordtails, variatus, platies, tetras, gouramies, goldfish, cichlids, barbs, tropical catfish, and many others. Fish harvested from the wild are not included in this survey.

Tropical fish production is centered in Hillsborough and Polk counties with smaller concentrations in Dade and Palm Beach counties. Current growers expect to use 3 percent more water surface this year than they used in 1987. In addition there are 24 new growers expecting to produce tropical fish this year or later.

AQUATIC PLANTS TOTAL \$6.7 MILLION IN 1987

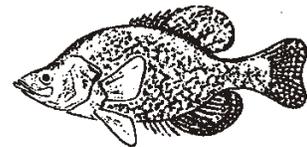
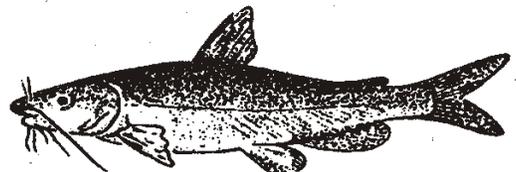
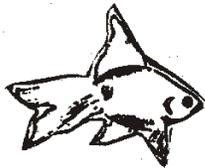
Sales from aquatic plants reached \$6.7 million during 1987. These sales were made by 33 growers. Aquatic plants include plants for aquariums, watercress for food, and wetland restoration with farm produced plants. Sales do not include harvest from the wild.

In Florida the cultivation and harvesting of aquatic plants is a well established industry. There is also a demand and ready market for certain aquatic food plants. The climate, the vast wetland areas, and market demand interact to create an optimistic outlook. Restoration of wetland areas is relatively new and rapidly increasing in Florida.

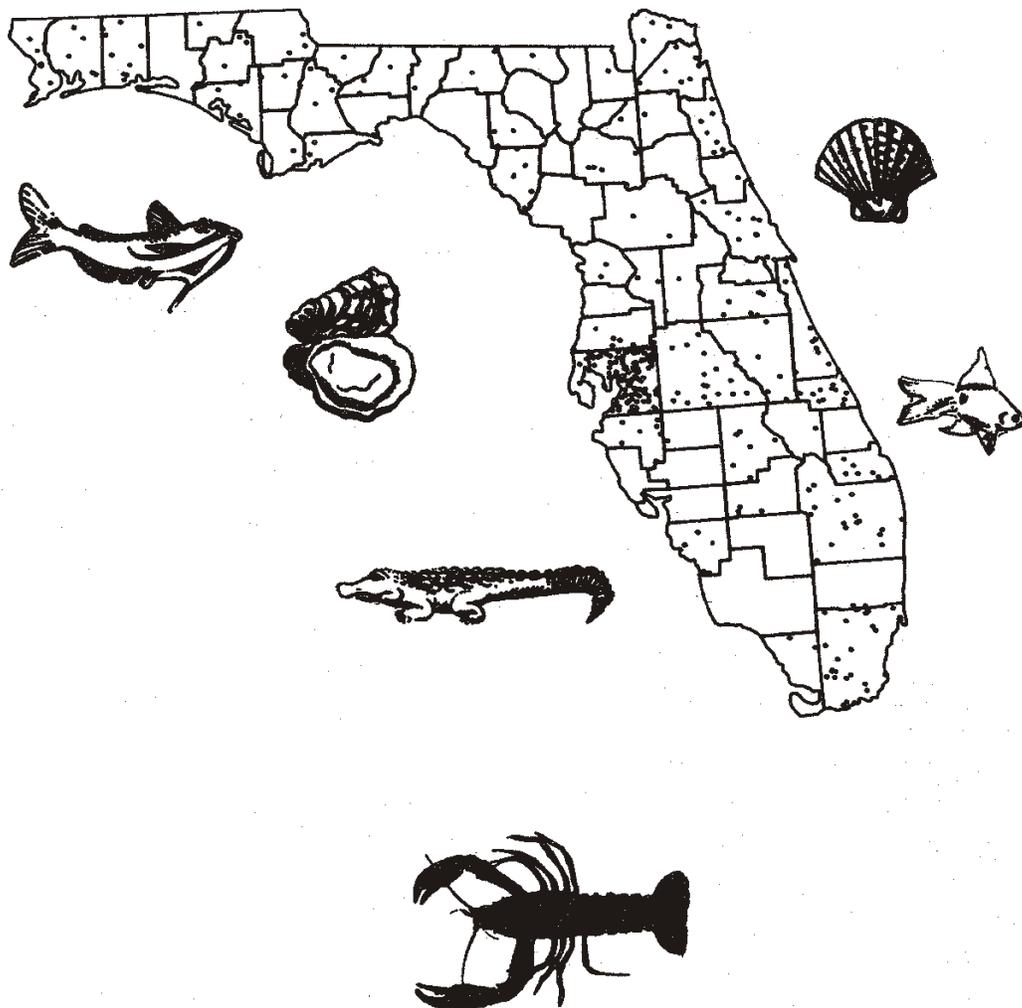
TROPICAL FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS, FLORIDA, 1987

Specie	Number : of : growers	Water surface		Value of : sales : 1987
		1987	1988 ^{1/}	
	Number	1,000 sq. feet		1,000 dollars
Egg Layers	120	23,374	24,875	15,112
Livebearers	105	27,048	26,945	6,541
Total Tropical Fish	193 ^{2/}	50,422	51,820	21,653
Aquatic Plants	33	11,227	11,324	6,715

1/ Includes area only for growers having sales in 1987.
2/ Total reflects some growers with both egg layers and livebearers.



Active Aquaculture Producers Florida, 1987



TROPICAL FISH

There were 193 active growers in Florida during 1987. An additional 24 new growers are expected to come into production in 1988. Growers are centered in Hillsborough and Polk counties with other concentrations in Dade and Palm Beach counties.

CATFISH

During 1987 there were 55 active growers in Florida. In 1988 or later the number of growers are expected to more than double with 74 new growers coming into production. Catfish production is concentrated in north Florida and the Panhandle.

OYSTERS AND CLAMS

The 28 oyster and clam producers are scattered along the mid-and-upper East Coast and the Apalachicola area of the Gulf. There are 134 growers expecting to come into production in 1988 or later.

OTHER AQUATICS

The 66 growers of aquatic plants, alligators, crawfish, sport fish, and other aquatics are scattered throughout the State.

CATFISH PRODUCTION IS GAINING—TOTAL \$1.6 MILLION

During 1987, catfish sales totaled \$1.6 million from 55 growers. Catfish were produced from 737 acres of water surface. These same growers are expecting to increase to 1,026 acres in 1988. In addition, there are 74 other growers with intentions to produce catfish in 1988 including several coming into production later. Growth potential is good. There are several processing plants coming on line this year. These plants will enable growers to have a ready outlet for their product. Catfish sold for food in 1987 totaled 695,000 pounds, valued at over \$1.0 million. This gives an average price of \$1.48 per pound. The remaining \$545,000 was received from sales of fingerling and stocker size fish.



ALLIGATOR SALES REACH \$1.7 MILLION

Sales of alligators during 1987 totaled \$1.7 million from both hides and meat. Thirteen growers sold nearly 8,000 hides for an average price of \$166 per hide or a total of \$1.3 million. Producers also sold 91,000 pounds of meat, about 12 pounds per gator, for an average of \$5.23 per pound or a total of \$476,000. Averages are based on unrounded data. There are 15 new operators, more than double last year's number, who expect to produce alligators in 1988 or later. This expected growth will increase sales significantly. The potential for orderly growth in alligator production is good.



OYSTER SALES TOTAL \$672,000

During 1987, Florida growers sold oysters valued at \$672,000. There were 49,000 bushels of oysters sold by 15 producers. The average price was \$13.71 per bushel. In addition, 62 other producers were expecting to begin production in 1988 or later. This will significantly increase oyster production in Florida. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, \$9.1 million worth of oysters were harvested from open or public waters off the coast of Florida in 1987. Growers are making a strong comeback from hurricane damage that greatly reduced production in 1986. Franklin County and the warm Gulf waters is the center of oyster production in Florida.



CLAM PRODUCTION AMOUNTS TO \$431,000

During 1987, sales of clams produced by Florida growers totaled \$431,000. The 13 growers sold 2,356,000 clams for an average of 18.3 cents per clam. There are 72 additional growers expecting to produce clams in 1988 or later. The National Marine Fisheries Service reports sales, including both grower produced and open water harvest, of \$4.1 million in 1987. Production is centered along the east central and northeast coastal counties.



OTHER AQUATICS TOTAL \$2.2 MILLION

During 1987, sales of other aquatics totaled \$2.2 million. Other aquatics include crawfish, sport or game fish, fresh water shrimp, eels, tilapia, and other minor aquatics. Production came from 1,485 acres of water surface used by 20 growers. There are 31 new growers expecting to produce some of the above items in 1988 or later.

CATFISH, ALLIGATORS, OYSTERS, CLAMS AND OTHER AQUATICS, FLORIDA, 1987

Species	Number of growers	Water surface		Value of sales 1987
		1987	1988 ^{1/}	
				1,000 dollars
Catfish:				
Food	41	629	915	1,030
Other	14	108	111	545
Total	55	737	1,026	1,575
Alligators:				
Hides	--	--	--	1,258
Meat	--	--	--	476
Total^{2/}	13	102	114	1,734
Oysters	15	1,364	1,371	672
Clams	13	294	313	431
Other Aquatics	20	1,485	2,598	2,159
Total	116	3,982	5,422	6,571

1/ Includes area only for growers having sales in 1987.
2/ Hides and meat were sold by all growers.