



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



Cooperating with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
PO Box 980 · Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 965-4575 · (601) 965-5622 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

This report contains the results from the *2015 July Catfish Growers Survey*. The data are posted on our Web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms> 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 Continues Downward Trend

Commercial catfish operations in Mississippi had 52.4 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, 850,000, down 60 percent; medium foodsize, 16.0 million, down 32 percent; and small foodsize, 35.5 million, down 41 percent.

Mississippi was ranked first in the nation, ahead of Alabama and Arkansas, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2015. Broodfish on hand totaled 370,000, down 14 percent from the January 1, 2015 number; total stockers, at 162 million, were up 10 percent; and fingerlings and fry, at 355 million, were up 4 percent from earlier this year.

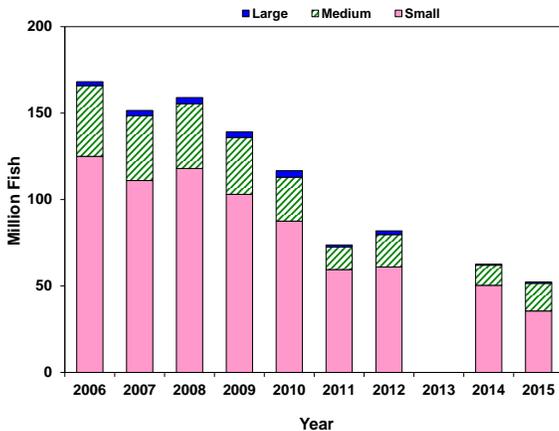
Catfish: Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, Mississippi, January 1, 2015 and July 1, 2014-2015

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	360	430	370	1,810	2,200	1,980	5.1	5.4
All Foodsize	62,650	85,620	52,350	73,150	113,200	68,700	-	-
Large	650	2,120	850	2,150	6,800	3,000	3.2	3.5
Medium	11,600	23,700	16,000	21,200	44,400	29,700	1.9	1.9
Small	50,400	59,800	35,500	49,800	62,000	36,000	1.0	1.0
							<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>	
All Stockers	181,200	147,800	162,200	47,750	31,800	42,400	-	-
Large	95,500	61,400	80,100	37,900	23,800	32,400	388	405
Small	85,700	86,400	82,100	9,850	8,000	10,000	92.6	122
Fingerlings and fry	407,000	342,000	355,000	4,350	11,600	6,400	33.9	18.0

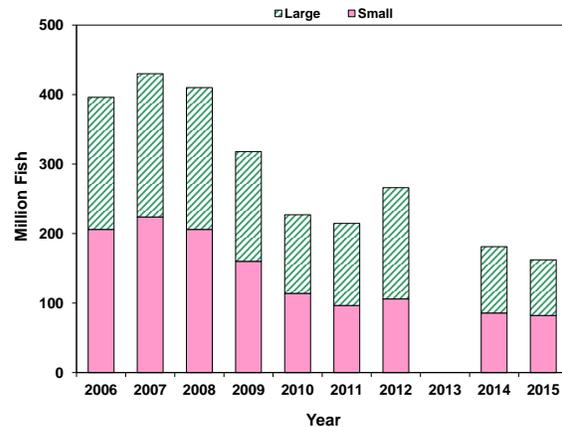
Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- 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.

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



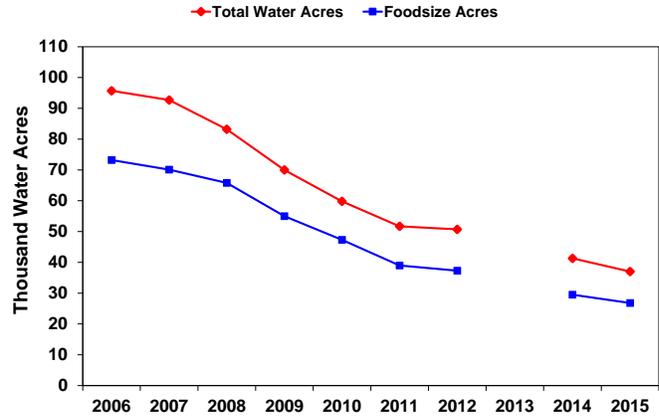
Mississippi Stocker Inventory by Size, July 1, 2006-2015



Mississippi Water Surface Area Set at 37,000 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Mississippi during July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, totaled 37,000 acres. During July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 26,800 acres. A total of 1,500 acres were taken out of production during the January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 period.

Mississippi 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>	
MS	41,300	37,000
AL	16,300	15,200
AR	6,100	4,800
Total	63,700	57,000

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>												
MS	29,500	26,800	7,000	6,600	1,100	1,400	3,300	2,700	*	*	870	1,500
AL	15,700	14,600	430	480	75	55	*	*	*	*	770	200
AR	4,600	3,400	1,100	1,200	175	180	*	*	*	*	700	570
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.